

2014

# Iditarod

## MEDIA GUIDE



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

INTRODUCTION	3
IDITAROD BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF, & COORDINATORS	7
2014 IDITAROD SPONSORS	8
MEDIA INFORMATION	9
2014 CREDENTIAL AND MEDIA GUIDELINES	10
IDITAROD FACTS	13
IDITAROD RACE HEADQUARTERS PHONE NUMBERS	15
ALASKA VISITOR INFORMATION	15
IDITAROD HISTORY	16
JR. IDITAROD	18
2014 TEACHER ON THE TRAIL™ -JENNIFER REITER	19
2014 HONORARY MUSHER-DEBY TROSPER	20
IDITAROD INSIDER-GPS TRACKING PROGRAM	22
IDITAROD MUSHER AUCTION & BIB AUCTION	23
MAPS, MILEAGES & CHECKPOINTS	24
DIRECTIONS FROM DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE TO CAMPBELL AIRSTRIP/BLM	25
OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT MILEAGES	26
RACE START COORDINATOR MESSAGE TO THE MEDIA	27
ANCHORAGE STARTING CHUTE LAYOUT MAP	28
IDITAROD TRAIL COMMUNICATIONS	29
CHECKPOINT ETIQUETTE	29
TRAIL ETIQUETTE	29
PACKING FOR THE IDITAROD TRAIL	30
NORTHERN ROUTE CHECKPOINT DESCRIPTIONS	31
DESCRIPTION OF THE IDITAROD TRAIL BETWEEN CHECKPOINTS	33
2014 ALPHABETICAL MUSHERS LISTING	38
1973-2013 CHAMPIONS & RED LANTERN WINNERS	40
2014 ALPHABETICAL MUSHER BIOGRAPHIES & PHOTOS	41
FAMOUS MUSHERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IDITAROD	73
DICTIONARY OF MUSHING TERMINOLOGY	74
ANIMAL WELFARE	76
SPECIAL AWARDS	77
2014 OFFICIAL RACE RULES	80

## INTRODUCTION

### **The Iditarod**

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

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

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

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

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

### **"THE LAST GREAT RACE ON EARTH "**

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

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

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

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

### **AN EVENT FOR ALL ALASKA**

Anchorage is the ceremonial starting line a city of over 290,000 people, street lights, freeways and traffic. From there the field of dog teams, which varies in number each year, runs to Campbell Airstrip, approximately 20 miles. After a restart the following day in the Matanuska Valley at Willow, the mushers leave the land of highways and bustling

activity and head out to the Yentna Station Roadhouse and Skwentna and then up through Finger Lake, Rainy Pass, over the Alaska Range and down the other side to the Kuskokwim River, Rohn Roadhouse, Nikolai, McGrath, Takotna, Ophir, Cripple, and on to the mighty Yukon at Ruby a river highway that takes the teams west through the arctic tundra.

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

Finally, they're on the coast Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Elim, Golovin, White Mountain, and into Nome where a hero's welcome awaits.

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

## **THE BEGINNING**

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

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

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

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

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

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

The Aurora Dog Mushers Club, along with men from the Adult Camp in Sutton helped clear years of over-growth from the first nine miles of the Iditarod Trail in time to put on the first short Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in 1967. A \$25,000 purse was offered in that race, with Joe and Vi Redington donating one acre of their land at Flat Horn Lake adjacent to

the Iditarod Trail to help raise the funds. (The land was subdivided into one square foot lots and sold with a deed and special certificate of ownership, raising \$10,000 toward the purse.) Contestants from all over Alaska and even two contestants from Massachusetts entered that first Iditarod Race, but a new comer, Isaac Okleasik, from Teller, Alaska, won the race with his team of large working dogs. The short race (approximately 27 miles) was put on again in 1969.

The goal was to have the race go all the way to the ghost town of Iditarod in 1973. However, in 1972, the US Army reopened the trail as a winter exercise and in 1973, the decision was made to take the race the 1,000 plus miles to Nome. Redington and Page were instrumental in getting the first long Iditarod on its way to Nome in 1973, amidst comments that it couldn't be done. There were many that believed it was crazy to send a bunch of mushers out into the vast uninhabited Alaskan wilderness. But the race went! Twenty-two mushers finished that year. There have been 718 finishers (grand total of 2,008 to cross the finish line) as of 2013. Mushers have come from 23 states, five continents (North America, South America, Europe, Asia, & Australia) and 21 foreign countries (Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) have finished the Iditarod since 1973 including 120 women.

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

#### **IDITAROD TODAY**

The race has started in downtown Anchorage since 1983. The 42st Annual Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race will begin on Saturday, March 1, 2014. The teams will leave the start line at the corner of 4th and "D" at two minute intervals, starting at 10 a.m. About 72 teams are expected.

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

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

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

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

#### **BEHIND THE SCENES**

It takes so much more than a field of willing mushers and anxious sled dogs to run the Iditarod Trail Race. With the annual race budget of over 2.5 million dollars, the Iditarod Trail Committee depends on a hard working force of volunteers and supporters to raise the necessary money all year around. Our race sponsors supply over two million dollars in cash donations and/or goods and services. A semi-annual raffle is held as well as an Idita-Rider

Musher Auction where bidders place bids of \$500-\$7,500 on entered mushers to ride in their sled at the Anchorage Ceremonial Start for the first 11 miles. Iditarod gift shops in the Anchorage/Wasilla area sell Iditarod merchandise year round. Merchandise is also sold at the Alaska State Fair and on other special occasions during the year. Banquets are planned in both Anchorage and Nome. This volunteer force and the loyal supporters from both the private and business sectors make the race possible each year.

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

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

### **ON THE TRAIL**

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

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

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

# IDITAROD BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF & COORDINATORS

## BOARD OF DIRECTORS

President - Andy Baker Vice-President - Danny Seybert Secretary - Mike Jonrowe Treasurer - Aaron Burmeister Director - Stan Foo	Director - John Handeland Director - Mike Owens Director - Rick Swenson Director - Aliy Zirkle Director - Emeritus Joe Redington, Sr.
---	---

## STAFF & VOLUNTEER RACE COORDINATORS

Executive Director - Stan Hooley Race Director / Race Marshal - Mark Nordman Education Director - Diane Johnson Development Director - Greg Bill Finance Director/Membership - Don Patterson Media Coordinator - Julie Busch Chief Veterinarian - Stuart Nelson, Jr., DVM Chief Pilot - Bert Hanson Start Coordinator - Karl Heidelbach Re-Start Coordinator - Darrell Davis Millennium HQ Coordinator - Cheryl Zachary	Assistant to Executive Director / Merchandise Manager - Starre Szelag Assistant to the Race Director - Joanne Potts Race Coordinator - Andy Willis Trail Communications Coordinator - Molly Farr Idita-Rider Musher Auction / Volunteer Coordinator - Diane Johnson Nome Coordinator - Mike Owens Iditarod Insider Crew - Greg Heister Iditarod Website - Art Aldrich
---	--

## RACE OFFICIALS

Race Marshal - Mark Nordman	
-----------------------------	--

## RACE JUDGES

Rhodi Karella Davidson Jim Gallea Mike Madden Larry Westlake	Warren Palfrey Curtis Arhart Kevin Saiki Greg Parvin
---	---

# Principal Partners



# Lead Dog Partners



# Team Dog Partners



# Wheel Dog Partners



## MEDIA INFORMATION

Media Credential Applications Due by **FEBRUARY 14, 2014**

Applications can be found at [www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com) – Information – Press & Media – 2014  
Application

**Wednesday, February 26, 2013 @ 2:00 PM**

### **MILLENNIUM ALASKAN HOTEL**

- Pick up media credentials – this is the **ONLY** time you can pick up your credentials for Anchorage or Willow.
- Get information needed for covering the Start, Re-Start and trail.

**Important: If you plan to take a laptop on the trail, please bring it to the media briefing where GCI technicians will be available to configure your laptop for use on the trail.**

### **NOME MEDIA BRIEFING**

Projected Finish Date - on or about March 11, 2014

### **MINI-CONVENTION CENTER**

- **SEVERAL HOURS BEFORE THE PROJECTED FINISH**

- Information about activity at the finish line
- Distribution of finish line badges **(The same badges that have been used along the trail and in Anchorage will not allow media into the finish chute in Nome, Alaska.)**
- Signs will be posted in the Mini-Convention Center once the time and date of meeting has been determined.

## 2014 CREDENTIAL AND MEDIA GUIDELINES

### 2014 Iditarod Credential Guidelines

When applying for Iditarod Media Credentials for the 2014 race, please read the Credential and Media Guidelines before filling out application to ensure you have met eligibility requirements.

Receiving credentials in the past does not guarantee future approvals.

Media Credentials can be picked up at the Media Briefing held on **Feb.26, 2014** at 2pm at the Millennium Alaskan Hotel in Anchorage. Credentials cannot be picked up prior to briefing.

Media Credentials issued are not transferable and may be revoked at any time. There is a charge for a lost Media Credential.

#### 2014 Iditarod Credentialing Guidelines

Some of the criteria Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. also known as ITC will be looking at when reviewing applications:

1. Previous journalistic experience.
2. The commercial nature of any website, including the applicant's website advertisers.
3. The amount of content produced that has been published
4. How the content will be used. (Purpose)
5. How long the website has been in existence and the annual number of unique visitors.
6. Media credentials will not be issued if supporting documentation is not emailed at the time of application. Send to [jbusch@iditarod.com](mailto:jbusch@iditarod.com) Partial applications will not be approved. **Freelance Journalists, Bloggers, Photographers, Videographers, and Others:** If interested in receiving credentials for the 2014 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race you must be on assignment from a media outlet. Specialty photography and personal website photography and blogs are not valid assignments.

1. Use of non-text content shall not have any sponsorship or advertising integrated with or around the content in such a way that implies an endorsement or sponsorship relationship between Iditarod and another third party, unless otherwise approved by Iditarod.
2. Media applicant agrees and acknowledges that non-text content shall not be sold or licensed by anyone other than the ITC without approval by ITC in writing and shall not include live or tape delayed transmissions of any portion of any Iditarod Race or related event except for taped highlights used for news coverage.

## 2014 Iditarod Media Guidelines

1. Only approved media are allowed media credentials. Receiving credentials in the past does not guarantee you will receive them for 2014. Media credentials must be worn in all checkpoints and specified media areas.
2. Media using a credential represents that they are on assignment for a newspaper or for a press, news, or photographic service.
3. Freelance media must explain what they are on assignment for, and submit proof of assignment when submitting credential application. Send to [jbusch@iditarod.com](mailto:jbusch@iditarod.com)
4. The Iditarod is exclusive owner of any and all of its intellectual property rights, including, but not limited to trademarks, copyrights, and other proprietary rights. Each credential authorizes the media the right to use Iditarod trademarks in its news coverage of the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Media is not authorized to use trademarks in non-news contexts, specifically for commercial purposes unless a separate license or permission is obtained from the Iditarod
5. The media applicant assumes all risk and danger incidental to the race, as well as any risk or danger reasonably foreseeable while covering the race and assumes the risk and releases the ITC, its employees, members, directors, officers, volunteers, sponsors, mushers, and all agents thereof from any and all liabilities resulting from injuries or personal property loss occurring during or after the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.
6. The media applicant jointly and severally indemnify, defend and hold the ITC harmless from and against any and all claims, actions, damages, liabilities, costs or expenses arising out of or in connection with any act or omission done, or alleged to have been done by media, including without limitation, media applicant(s) breach of any term of this credential. In case of any dispute regarding the terms and conditions of this agreement Alaska law will apply, without regard to choice of law principles.
7. Iditarod Official Media for 2014- Iditarod Insider Productions, Sportsman Channel, Denali Media (KTVA-TV), Ohana Media Group, and any other sanctioned Official Media members have preferential access and are identified by a credential that indicates they are "Official Media".
8. Dog teams always have the right-of-way, no exceptions.
9. Do not touch sled dogs without musher approval.
10. Do not help mushers unless they ask for your help. Strict rules are in place against mushers receiving outside assistance.
11. Do not intrude on a musher if he/she indicates they do not wish to be disturbed. This includes taking photos of the musher and their dogs.
12. Do not ask to interview a musher during any medical exam of the dogs and/or musher.
13. Media must stay clear of a team upon its arrival into a checkpoint. Race Personnel require immediate access to the musher and dog team. When the check-in process is completed, and the dogs have been taken care of, mushers can then give consent to be interviewed.
14. Media are not allowed inside the dog parking/staging area (where dogs are fed and rested) without prior approval of the Race Judge or Race Marshal. Media in these areas must be escorted by the musher and/or Race Judge or

Race Marshal. Drop Dog Areas are restricted to mushers and race personnel only. Media are permitted to take photos of mushers and dogs from outside the dog staging area.

15. Media are expected to research and ensure they have appropriate escorts or expertise for trail travel.
16. Food, equipment, and shelter provided by the Iditarod are for race personnel only.
17. Flash photography or the use of artificial lighting is only permissible in the immediate vicinity of the checkpoints. Flash photography is forbidden on the trail unless arrangements have been made beforehand.
18. Mushers may register a protest against any media personnel considered detrimental or obstructive to their race effort. Current and future media credentials could be revoked or denied.
19. Nome Finish-There will be a pre-finish media briefing which all credentialed media traveling to Nome should attend. Information regarding access to the winning musher, and timing of such access will be communicated at that time.

**Media who violate any of these rules risk having their current and possible future media credentials revoked.**

Need Assistance in applying for credentials. Contact Julie Busch, Media Coordinator at [jbusch@iditarod.com](mailto:jbusch@iditarod.com)  
Phone assistance-907-352-2206 or 907- 355-2378.

## IDITAROD FACTS

- The Iditarod starts in downtown Anchorage, Alaska, on Saturday, March 1st (10 AM)
- The Iditarod Re-Starts in Willow Alaska, Sunday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> (2 PM)
- As of January 15<sup>th</sup> there are 72 mushers signed up for the 2014 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, including 56 veterans, 16 rookies and 19 women. To date one musher has withdrawn for various reasons. Entrants hail from 7 states Alaska, California, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, and Washington, as well as from Alaska and from 7 countries – United States, Canada, Jamaica, Australia, Norway, Sweden, and New Zealand. The record number of mushers starting the race was 96 in 2008.
- The Iditarod traditionally pays the highest purse in sled dog racing. In 41 Iditarod races, Iditarod has paid out a total of \$14,384,350. The 2014 purse is \$650,000.00 distributed between the top 30 finishers. \$1,049.00 paid to each additional finisher
- The team's average 16 dogs, which over 1,000 dogs will leave the starting line in 2014. Each musher can start with a maximum of 16 dogs down to a minimum of 12 dogs and can finish with as few as 6 dogs.
- Six Iditarod champions will be attempting to regain the title. Many of the past champions from other long distance races are also racing including Yukon Quest champions, Kusko 300 champions and Beargrease champions. The champions are John Baker, Martin Buser, Jeff King, Robert Sorlie, Mitch Seavey and Dallas Seavey.
- The race crosses two mountain ranges (including North America's largest mountain range, Alaska Range)
- It runs along the Yukon River and over the frozen Norton Sound
- The route alternates every year. This year's route, the Northern Route, will run from Ophir through Cripple, Ruby, Galena, Nulato, Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Elim, \*Golovin, White Mountain, and Safety before ending in Nome. NOTE: Golovin is (not a checkpoint) but the race goes thru this village. ITC appreciates the villager's support and willingness to help the Last Great Race.
- There are twenty-three checkpoints (counting Anchorage & Nome), three of which are uninhabited during the rest of the year.
- There are six teams signed-up as of Jan. 3rd, for the 2014 Iditarod that have also signed up for the 2014 Yukon Quest – Ken Anderson, Mike Ellis, Hugh Neff, Curt Perano, Allen Moore, and Brent Sass.
- Volunteers are an integral part of the Iditarod. As of January 28, 2014 there were over 1,000 volunteers registered. This number does not include those who volunteer in communities along the trail or the locals in Nome. The number of volunteers will continue to grow over the weeks to come and by the end of Iditarod 2014 there will be over 1,500 volunteers involved in some way or another.
- In 2013 there are a total of 52 veterinarians – 3 for dropped dogs in Anchorage, 2 for dropped dogs in both McGrath and Unalakleet, 42 veterinarians dispersed along the trail and 3 consultants.
- There have been 718 finishers which includes 11 rookies who finished (grand total of 2,008 to cross the finish line) as of 2013. Mushers hail from 23 states, five continents (North America, South America, Europe, Asia, & Australia) and 22 foreign countries (Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, France, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom) have finished the Iditarod since 1973 including 120 women.

- Two generations of Seavey's, are running again this year as well as the Berington twins and the Smyth brothers.
- Rookie Cindy Abbott has a rare disease, Wegener's Granulomatosis. She is hoping to be the first female and second person to complete both the summiting of Mt. Everest (which she did in 2010) and the Iditarod. Website [www.reachingbeyondtheclouds.com](http://www.reachingbeyondtheclouds.com)
- Mushers can be shy about talking about themselves; however, they will usually talk your ear off about their dogs.
- Checkpoints are staffed by volunteers, who can be locals or someone who has traveled hundreds of miles to be there. Volunteers may provide interesting stories about their communities and/or volunteer work. Some volunteers are actually on their vacation and return year after year. Ask them how long they have been a volunteer and you will be surprised to find that many have more than 20 years' experience.
- The biggest misconception is that Joe Redington, Sr., who founded the race, did so to commemorate the 1925 Diphtheria Serum Run. If that were the case the race would begin in Nenana and end in Nome. He founded the race to commemorate the history of sled dogs in Alaska, and to bring them back to the villages where they were disappearing with the advent of snowmachines.
- The first Iditarod Race began on March 3, 1973 with 34 teams—22 teams finished 32 days later.
- The slowest winning time of 20 days, 15 hours, two minutes and seven seconds was recorded in 1974 by Carl Huntington. The fastest winning time was recorded in 2011 by John Baker in 8 days, 18 hours, 46 minutes and 39 seconds, this broke Martin Buser's 1992 record by approximately 4 minutes.
- The closest finish was in 1978—Dick Mackey beat Rick Swenson by one second, finishing in 14 days, 18 hours, 52 minutes and 24 seconds.
- The most finishers in one year occurred in 2008 when 78 teams crossed the finish line.
- Rick Swenson is the only five time winner, the only musher to win in three decades, and only musher to complete 35 of 41 Iditarod's.
- Susan Butcher, Martin Buser, Doug Swingley, Jeff King & Lance Mackey have each won four Iditarod championships. Mackey is the only musher to have won four consecutive races with Butcher and Swingley both winning three consecutive races.
- Dick Mackey, Rick Mackey & Lance Mackey (father and two sons) have won the Iditarod. All three won wearing bib #13 in their sixth race.
- Lance Mackey is the first 4 time Iditarod Champion to win all four races consecutively in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010. He also won the Yukon Quest in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008, making him the first musher to win both of Alaska's premier long distance races back to back in 2007 and 2008 within weeks of each other.
- There are 23 checkpoints on the northern route and 24 on the southern route, including Anchorage and Nome.
- Four-time winner, Susan Butcher, claimed Iditarod victories in 1986, 1987, 1988, and again in 1990. Doug Swingley became the second four-time winner in 2001. His victories were in 1995, 1999, 2000 and 2001. Butcher and Swingley have the distinction of being the only Iditarod champions who have three consecutive victories. Lance Mackey has four consecutive victories. His victories were in 2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010.

- The youngest musher to ever compete in the Iditarod was Dallas Seavey. Dallas turned 18 on March 4, 2005. He is the youngest musher to have run the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog race (2005) as well as the youngest to have ever won in 2012. The oldest musher to ever compete is Col. Norman D. Vaughan who last competed in 1992 at the age of 86.
- Rick Mackey won the race in 1983 to become the first son of an Iditarod champion to match his father's accomplishment. To further set a record, both father and son were wearing bib #13 when they crossed the finish line in first position. (Emmitt Peters was also wearing bib #13 when he won in 1975.)
- The Iditarod traditionally pays the highest purse in sled dog racing

## IDITAROD RACE HEADQUARTERS PHONE NUMBERS

The Iditarod Trail Committee operates its primary race headquarters in Anchorage at the Millennium Hotel, 4800 Spenard Road. Another headquarters operates in Nome to make accurate information available at the end of the race. You are invited to drop in to either headquarter location for the latest race information and to purchase Iditarod memorabilia. Visit [www.iditarod.com](http://www.iditarod.com).

General Information, Updates & Race Business Anchorage Race Headquarters Millennium Hotel Rm #1004 – 4800 Spenard Road	(907)248-MUSH (6874)	Open throughout the business day Feb 24 - 28, 2014. Open 24/7 Mar 1–17 2014.
General Information & Updates Nome Race Headquarters – Mini-Convention Center	(907)443-MUSH (6874)	Open Mar 9, 2014
Iditarod Media Coordinator- Julie Busch	(907)352-2206 or (907)351-2378	<a href="mailto:jbusch@iditarod.com">jbusch@iditarod.com</a>

## ALASKA VISITOR INFORMATION

Alaska Travel Industry Association  
Telephone: 907-929-2200 [www.travelalaska.com](http://www.travelalaska.com)  
Visit Anchorage  
[www.Anchorage.net](http://www.Anchorage.net)  
524 W Fourth Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501  
Telephone: 907-276-4118 Toll free: 800-476-1255

Downtown Log Cabin & Visitors Information Center  
4<sup>th</sup> Avenue & E Street

Visitor Information Center  
Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport

Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau  
[www.alaskavisit.com](http://www.alaskavisit.com)  
HC01 Box 6166J-21, Palmer AK 99645  
Telephone: 907-746-5400

Nome Convention & Visitors Bureau  
[www.nomealaska.org/vc/](http://www.nomealaska.org/vc/)  
PO Box 240 H-P, Nome AK 99762  
Telephone: 907-443-6624 E-mail: [tourinfo@ci.nome.ak.us](mailto:tourinfo@ci.nome.ak.us)

## IDITAROD HISTORY

### WHAT DOES THE WORD “IDITAROD” MEAN?

The following is from an article in the Anchorage Times following the 1973 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, written by Gordon Fowler, Times Sports writer: Iditarod means clear water and was named by the Shageluk Indians for the Iditarod River.

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

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

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

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

### HISTORY OF THE “WIDOW’S LAMP”

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

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

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

### HISTORY OF THE “RED LANTERN”

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

### 1925 SERUM RUN TO NOME

The Serum Run ended in Nome on February 2, 1925, when Gunner Kaasen drove his tired dog team down an almost deserted First Avenue.

At stake were the lives of countless Nome children who had been exposed to the dread disease, diphtheria. Kaasen was one of the 20 drivers who took part in the record 674 mile relay race from Nenana to Nome. He delivered 300,000 units of

antitoxin serum to Dr. Curtis Welch. The serum arrived in Nome in just one week from Anchorage and 127 1/2 hours from Nenana.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Leonhard Seppala left Nome intending to rest at Nulato and return with the serum. But Seppala met Ivanoff outside of Shaktoolik where he took the serum and turned around, heading back for Nome. He carried the serum back over Norton Sound with the thermometer 30 degrees below zero. Seppala had to face into a merciless gale and in the darkness retraced his route across the uncertain ice. When Seppala turned the serum over to Charlie Olson in Golovin, after carrying it 91 miles, he had traveled a total of 260 miles. Olson turned the serum over to Gunnar Kaasen at Bluff. Kaasen took it the remaining 53 miles to Nome.

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

## JR. IDITAROD

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

The 2014 Jr. Iditarod begins on Saturday, February 25th at 10 a.m. on Knik Lake, Mile 13, Knik Goose Bay Road, Wasilla.

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



Jennifer Reiter is currently a teacher at Gilman School, an independent boys' school in Baltimore, Maryland. She began her teaching career in 1993 in public schools and moved to the independent schools in 2000. Jen holds an undergraduate degree from Towson University with dual majors in Early Childhood Education and Dance Performance, Education, and Choreography and a Masters from Johns Hopkins University in Gifted Education.

Jen began using the Iditarod as a teaching tool as soon as she began teaching. Initially it was a way to introduce her students to a place and pastime different from anything they would ever experience in their urban lifestyles. As she began to see the benefits to her students, her passion, interest, and dedication to the race grew and developed. Through changes in grade levels and schools, the Iditarod has remained one constant in her teaching. In the winter of 2012, Jen and her teaching partner, Ellen Rizzuto, were awarded a grant from Gilman School to travel to the Wintergreen Lodge in Minnesota to learn the art of mushing. They also traveled to Alaska to attend the Iditarod Winter Conference for Teachers and experience the

start of the race. That trip planted the seed that became her desire to serve as the Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™.

Currently teaching third grade, the Iditarod is deeply infused in her curriculum and reaches its apex in a nearly three month math curriculum centered on the sport of mushing and the Iditarod. The Iditarod is a natural fit for her boys and all students – dogs, adventure, and racing – what else could anyone ask for? From January to March, the math concepts of area and perimeter, probability, graphing and data collection, measuring and creating angles, counting money and making change, telling time and calculating elapsed time, calculating mean, median, mode and range, are taught with the Iditarod as a central focus. Problem solving strategies run throughout the unit as the students are challenged to analyze and interpret Iditarod related data, stories, and content. Conversations with park rangers at Denali and several mushers via Skype teach the students the “science” behind the race. From the adaptations of the sled dogs to changes in technology in the mushers' gear, the Iditarod is content rich in math and science the students can't get enough of! It is also the perfect way for her students to be exposed to the character development ideals of honor, integrity, respect, humility and excellence. For the boys to realize men and women of all ages can compete equally in a physically and mentally demanding sport is priceless gift. It helps them realize that setting goals and planning the steps to help you get to that goal is the key to success and is a lesson they are applying to their own lives.

Jen theme for the year is “Tales (and Tails) from the Trail” and she has been collecting Iditarod related stories to share with students and to be used as mentor texts for writing classes. Stories are a wonderful motivator for kids, who doesn't like to hear a story? No doubt while on the trail she will be able to add many more stories to her collection to be shared via <http://itteacheronthetrail.com/>.

Jen hopes that while she is out on the trail this year she will be able to, “bring the value, joy, and energy I have found in using the Iditarod in my classroom to teachers, students, and their families around the world while submersing myself in the trail experience of a lifetime!” Serving as the “eyes and ears” on the trail for students and teachers around the world, Jen will be posting articles and Skyping with students from various checkpoints along the trail. She is grateful to the Iditarod Trail Committee and the Education Department for allowing her to travel the trail of this wild dream. “I am forever thankful, especially, for the people this experience has brought into my life. The willingness of the authors, mushers, teachers, historians, and race fans to share their stories and knowledge with me has been nothing short of miraculous.”

Jennifer Reiter is the 16<sup>th</sup> teacher to serve as Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™. This program began in 1999, when the program's creator, Andrea “Finney” Aufder Hyde, journeyed along the Iditarod Trail as the First Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™. This nationally acclaimed teaching adventure provides content curriculum and educational stories to schools around the globe.

## DEBY TROSPER – 2014 HONORARY MUSHER



The Honorary Musher for 2014 was chosen by the Iditarod's Board of Directors in December 2013. The Honorary Musher was chosen based on her contributions to the Iditarod and to the sport of mushing.

2014 Iditarod Honorary Musher Deby Trospers...

By Diane Johnson

Think positive. For every obstacle you face, the more your strength and faith grows. ~ Deby Trospers, June, 2013

Find the humor. Do your best. Always love what you are doing or stop doing it. Think positive. When times are tough, just keep breathing. Those phrases come to mind when recalling Deby. In everything she did, she did so with a sense of urgency to get it done, with great nonstop energy to the task yet the understanding that you must take time to enjoy the day, with deep passion towards the people and 'things' she loved and cared for or about, and always with an amazing sense of humor. Deby had a keen way of giving advice to others and showing support and encouragement to those that needed it. She was often finding ways to simply pay it forward.

It is recalled by many that Deby had a way of taking chaos and organizing it – and if not getting it quite organized, it was all pulled together in an acceptable way and at least there'd been a lot of laughter, fun, and great conversation during the process. From sorrow or troubles, Deby led others to laughter. Her sense of humor was how she dealt with life and she set an example to others, that by looking for a bright side, there was hope, good times, and music.

From her Facebook page this comment is powerful and sums up what many remember. "She was a tremendous and wonderful person. I live in New York and have been a volunteer at the Iditarod ReStart since 2004 and remember going to the headquarters in Wasilla and inquiring on how to become a volunteer at the ReStart. She was the first person I saw and talked to. She gave me all the info on what to do. I didn't make it to last year's race but every other year since 2004, I would especially look for Deby, either at the Millennium Hotel during volunteer registration or see her at the ReStart, just to say hi and talk for a few minutes. When I think of volunteering at the Iditarod, I think of her because she seemed to put it all together and make it fun. I will really miss her."

Deby (Deborah) was born on June 11, 1952, in Corpus Christi, Texas. In 1974, she moved to Fairbanks, Alaska, where she met the love of her life, her husband, Steve Trospers. From 1974 to 1982 the Trospers worked as musicians in Alaska, California, and Texas. In 1984 the family moved to Wasilla, Alaska, where Deby became associated with the Iditarod Sled Dog Race, first as a volunteer and later as a staff member. She loved her family most of all, and loved her friends, music, and the time she spent with her co-workers, volunteers, and the friends she made while traveling along the Iditarod Trail and in Nome.

Deby was blessed to spend the last years of her life near her children and grandchildren in Washington. She loved her grandbabies with all her heart and treasured every moment with them. After her second battle with cancer, she passed away on August 22, 2013 in Olympia, Washington. Like the words in one of her family's favorite comforting songs, with her family beside her and friends from a far thinking of her, "To a land where joys will never end" Deby did "Fly Away..."

Leaving behind to celebrate her memory are her husband, Steve; three children, Ezekiel (Zeke) Trospers and wife, Melanie, Sarah Simpson and Zachary Trospers, two granddaughters, Charlotte "Charlie" and Vera Belle "Vivi" Simpson, all of Washington, her brother and sister, other family members, and the Iditarod Trail Committee family. Several celebrations of her life were held including one at the Wasilla Christian Church on September 21. At her request, some of her ashes were scattered on the Iditarod Trail at Rainy Pass. She rests in the spot where the mushers drop from the trail on to

Puntilla Lake near Rainy Pass Lodge.

Deby's first involvement with the race began when she volunteered to help with the ReStart. While at church one day, she had heard about volunteering to help at the race. She thought it would be fun to get involved. Julie Grizzel, a past ReStart coordinator said, "She helped me way back in 1989 when I did the ReStart the first time. She was the only one of my volunteers that stayed late and helped clean up. She was always the most dedicated volunteer I had so that's why I recommended her when I left Alaska." In 1997, Deby was the ReStart Coordinator. The ReStart remained a favorite area of work and she had a special bond with the 'real start crew'. In 2001, Deby began her first paid job with Iditarod as the IditaRider coordinator. From Iditarod membership, to volunteer coordinator, to the IditaRider program, to the ReStart, and to other areas of the race, Deby's involvement with Iditarod grew. She worked hard for the race and impacted it in many ways, always doing so with her sense of humor and a smile.

One of the Iditarod projects dearest to her heart was the IditaRider Auction. If you've been an IditaRider, then Deby was one of your best friends. With a song in her heart, her goal was to make sure that each IditaRider had an incredible experience. Each individual involved in the auction was not a bidder, but a part of her IditaRider family. Each rider knew her not just by her voice and her smile, but as their own very best friend. Deby proved that the old saying by John Leonard, "It takes a long time to grow an old friend," just didn't apply to her. With Deby, friendships came quickly and were long lasting. She had more 'best friends' than one can imagine because she always took time for others and would do anything to help her family and friends.

Deby's valiant battle with cancer may have ended this past August, but she will always be remembered as a member of the Iditarod Trail Committee family. She didn't want to leave her beloved family and her good friends, but cancer has a way of dictating where one continues their passion. During this year's race, she'll be singing the Star Spangled Banner at the Start and the ReStart from her newly found spot in the heavenly choir. When mushers follow the trail nearing Rainy Pass Lodge and drop onto Puntilla Lake, at the exact spot where some of Deby's ashes are scattered, a sense of 'good job, keep going, you can make it' will linger in the air. As the Aurora Borealis dances above the mushers on the trail and those in the villages and checkpoints, she'll be dancing with those lights. When the lights of Nome are finally visible to each musher as they approach the finish line, Deby will be remembered in that twinkle of the lights in that place that she loved. A life well lived, Deby Trosper... You are missed and you will be remembered.

## IDITAROD INSIDER – GPS TRACKING PROGRAM

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

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

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

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

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

### **Iditarod Insider GPS Tracker School**

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

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

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

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

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

## IDITAROD MUSER AUCTION & BIB AUCTION

### IDITARIDER MUSER AUCTION

#### ONE OF A KIND EXPERIENCE

Not only is the IditaRider Musher Auction one of the largest fund raisers for the Iditarod, but it is definitely one of the most adventurous! The IditaRider Musher Auction, which opens on December 1st each year, offers the opportunity for fans to bid to ride in a sled as it leaves the Start Line in downtown Anchorage on Saturday. Riders from all over the world have been in sleds as well as famous people such as comedian Joan Rivers, actress Susan Lucci, astronaut Bernard Harris, Jr., Olympic Gold Medalist skater Dorothy Hamil, and many more. The ride goes 11 miles along some of Anchorage's beautiful trails through parks and snow covered woods and ends at the BLM Science Center. Being an IditaRider is the next best thing to being on the runners of a sled. Bidding opens at \$500. The bids are generally over \$1300 with many sleds selling for the maximum, \$7500 per sled. The auction closes on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday in January each year. Remember: Bid! Win! Ride!

#### 2013 MUSER BIB AUCTION

After the Race begins, an autographed bib worn by each musher from the Start line goes on auction until the end of March. Bids start at \$100. Take a chance and bid to win so you can own the bib of your favorite musher, a champion, or a rookie of the year. This is a great way to have your own piece of the Iditarod history. Visit the auction site [www.iditarodauction.com](http://www.iditarodauction.com).

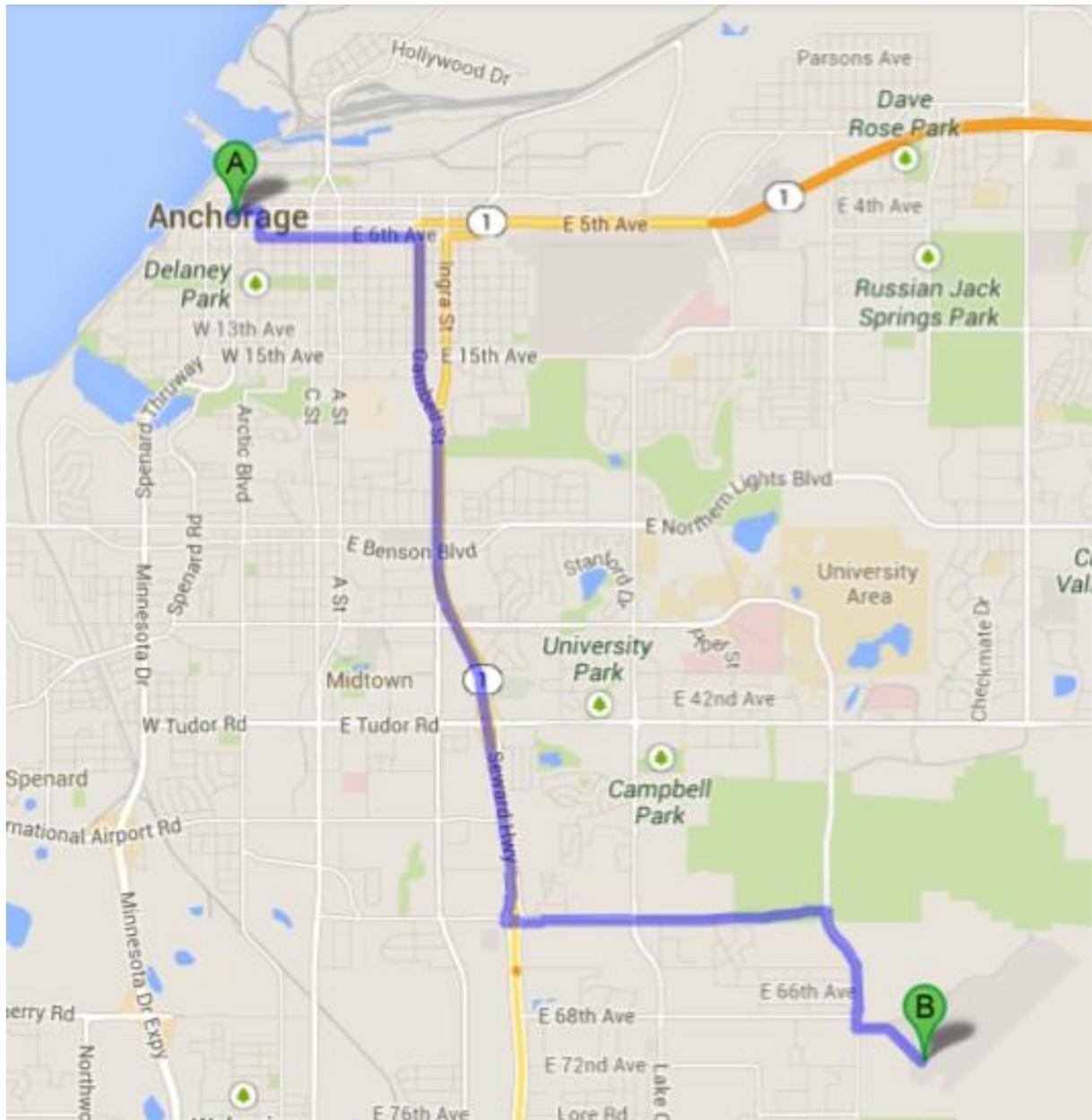
The Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization. Winning bids may use as a portion as a tax deduction. A contribution report is sent with the credit card receipt once the auction has closed.

# MAPS, MILEAGES & CHECKPOINTS

## 2014 OFFICIAL IDITAROD TRAIL MAP – Northern Route



## DIRECTIONS FROM DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE TO CAMPBELL AIRSTRIP/BLM



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

## OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT MILEAGES

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

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

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

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

## RACE START COORDINATOR MESSAGE TO MEDIA

### IDITAROD 42

Saturday, March 1, 2014

#### ANCHORAGE START INFORMATION

Welcome to the 42<sup>nd</sup> Iditarod! This portion of your Media Packet includes a brief event time-line for Anchorage, and Maps depicting 4<sup>th</sup> Ave. and the Trail through Anchorage to the Bureau of Land Management complex.

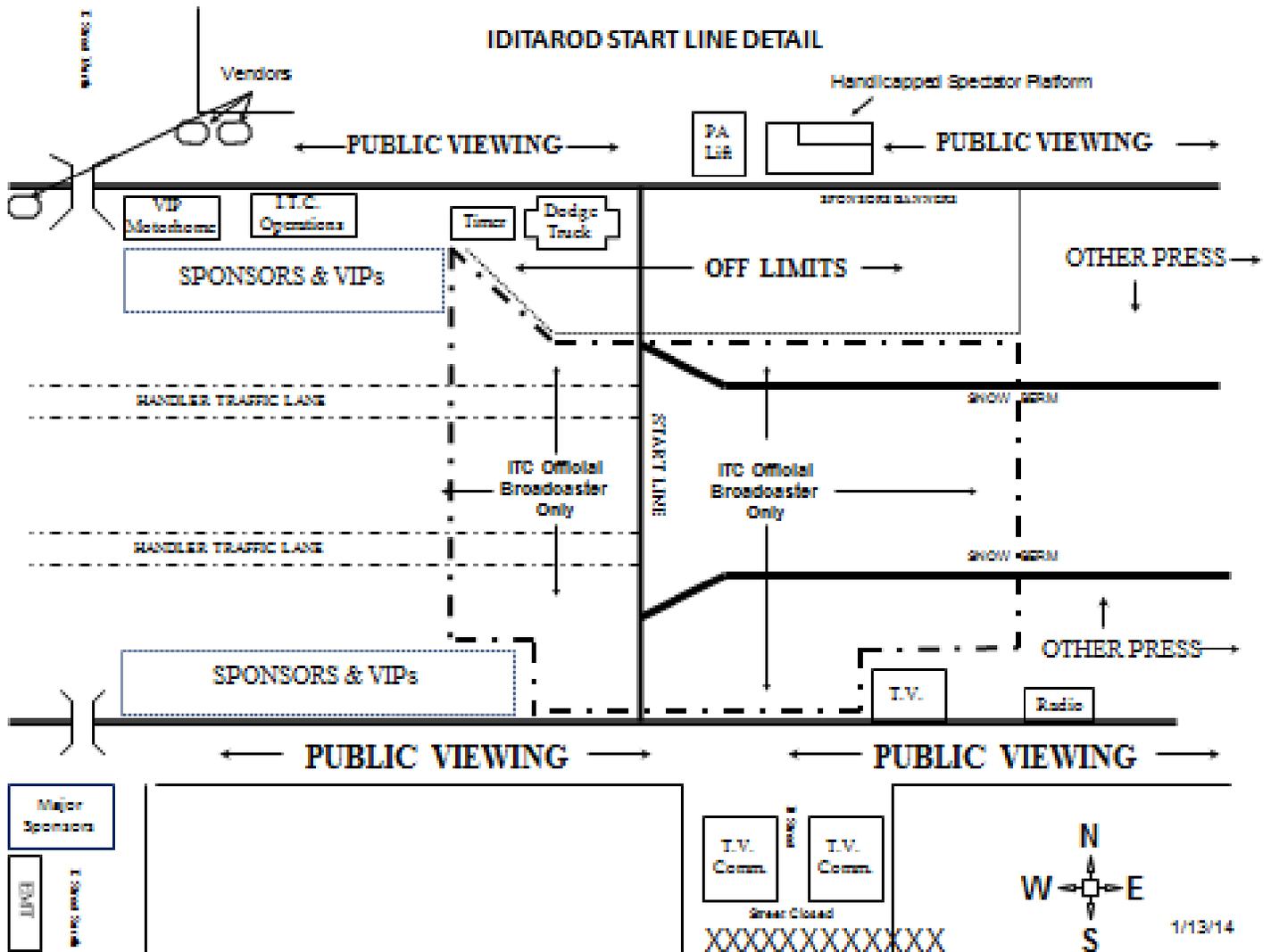
There are four guidelines that concern Media at the Start:

- (1) It is imperative that the Media not impede the activities of the Musher & dog teams, handlers, Officials, or any other volunteer. The Media is asked to make way for these people, as well as the teams, and to comply with Security requests.
- (2) **PRESS AND MEDIA CREDENTIALS MUST BE VISIBLE AT ALL TIMES.** Security will repeatedly ask you to produce these credentials if they are not visibly displayed. Anyone who cannot produce and display proper credentials will be asked to leave the Avenue. Personnel who have concerns regarding credentials may inquire with the I.T.C. representative at the Iditarod Operations Motorhome.
- (3) Priority positions for Start Line coverage will be reserved exclusively for the Official Media, KTVA-TV, Iditarod Productions and the other production crews on contract with Iditarod. **NO OTHER MEDIA WILL BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE AREA BETWEEN THE IDITAROD PRODUCTIONS CAMERA PLATFORM AND FRONT OF THE OPERATIONS MOTORHOME.**
- (4) No person, nor any equipment, will be allowed on or over the snow berms between the Start Line and C St. **The first 75 feet on the north side of 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., running east from the Start Line, is Off-Limits to ALL, including Media.**

The primary purpose and responsibility of ALL Start Volunteers is to provide for the safety and wellbeing of the Musher and their dogs. We ask simply that you respect their efforts. We sincerely hope that you enjoy this year's race. Good Luck with your stories, and if there is anything we can do to assist you please don't hesitate to call.

Karl Heidelbah  
Iditarod Start Coordinator, Anchorage  
(907) 223-4189 cell  
[ITC\\_start@hotmail.com](mailto:ITC_start@hotmail.com)

# ANCHORAGE STARTING CHUTE LAYOUT MAP



## IDITAROD TRAIL COMMUNICATIONS

**IMPORTANT: Media access to communications methods varies from checkpoint to checkpoint.**

While the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC) does not have the ability to provide checkpoint internet access for the media between Anchorage and Nome, each year there are improvements in communities along the trail for public internet access. GCI, Inc., our official communications partner, has cellular coverage in many communities along the trail. Contact your local GCI representative to discuss cellular service availability and how it can be accessed.

ITC strongly advises journalists to have their laptop computers configured by GCI immediately following the Media Briefing on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup> at The Millennium Hotel, Anchorage, in the 3<sup>rd</sup> floor foyer in order to allow for greater success with internet connections when public internet access points are available along the trail. The Iditarod Trail Committee has wireless internet access available for media in Nome at Iditarod Race Headquarters in the Nome Mini Convention Center.

## CHECKPOINT ETIQUETTE

**Please do not attempt any interviews with mushers at checkpoints until they have fed and strawed their dogs!** This is a crucial time for each sled dog team, and members of the press are asked not to approach any musher until this process is completed. (This may take anywhere from 1/2 hour to an hour.)

2014 race rules require that mushers stay in a central location in every checkpoint, rather than scatter throughout the villages. There will be specific checkpoint areas in each checkpoint. Each area will have a designated mushers' sleeping area and we ask the cooperation of reporters, photographers and camera crews in not interrupting the mushers during their chosen rest times. Mushers will be available in other areas of the checkpoints for interviews and pictures.

Please understand that this is a race and the first priority for the mushers is the care of their dogs and their race. They will be much more apt to be cooperative if you cooperate with them from the beginning.

## TRAIL ETIQUETTE

The following is a list of recommendations for those of you traveling up the trail. The main thing to remember is that you are traveling through *RURAL ALASKA*, so come prepared to provide your OWN food and shelter.

- **We recommend you:**
- Offer to pay if invited to sleep in village school or community hall.
- Offer to pay for food that may be offered by villagers.
- Consider purchasing the beautiful Native works of art while in villages.
- Take the time to find out about the many wonderful folks in the villages along the trail who will make great human interest stories.
- Remember and respect the cultural differences you experience along the trail.
- Help the local economy by patronizing local restaurants and grocery stores.
- Stop in and visit at local schools. (It's a great way to learn more about the village you're in, and the students enjoy the interaction.)
- Use a telephoto lens to get close up still and video shots.
- Ask for permission from musher to take pictures of dog teams.
- Wait for interviews until mushers have had time to feed their dogs and to rest.

- Look for official race information from the checkpoints. The Media Coordinator is available to answer any questions you might have. Call anytime at 907-355-2378.
- **Please do not:**
- Take alcohol to any of the village checkpoints. (It is against the law in most communities along the trail)
- Rely on someone else to take care of you, or avail yourself of the Iditarod food at checkpoint.
- Try to get lengthy interview as soon as musher pulls into checkpoint, or disturb a resting dog team.
- Let your story be influenced by “rumors.” Please take time to verify the story you’re working on.

## PACKING FOR THE IDITAROD TRAIL

Clothing choices and comfort are very important, but be aware that the logistics of traveling on the trail can be very labor intensive. Knowing how to pack and transport your gear to and from the airplane will save a tremendous amount of effort and will assist with everyone’s logistics. Try packing so you can haul your gear in one trip. Here’s how!

- **Baggage:**
- One large duffel bag (preferably with ‘U’ shaped zipper)
- Daypack and/or fanny pack
- Camera bag
- Short plastic sled
- Cinch sleeping bag and pad down between the handles of the duffel with snaps. Strap bundle down to the sled using bungees. Keep heavy clothing handy by snapping it under the bungees. This arrangement should be easy to drag around and stows well in an airplane. Rigid frame packs do not stow well in aircraft.
- **Clothing:**
- Choose clothing that can all be worn together.
- Use layering in everything.
- Wear insulated boots such as “Bunny Boots” or open cell neoprene.
- Have a pair of “snow sneakers” for use in checkpoints.
- 40 above to 40 below selection (depending on combination):
- Polypropylene or cotton long underwear
- Musher style insulated hat
- Polar fleece shirt and pants
- Face mask
- Insulated scarf or cowl
- Windproof jacket and snow pants (bibs)
- Felt gloves with insulated over mitts
- Oversized heavy parka with hood
- **Other:**
- Any good quality sleeping bag rated from -10 to -20 degrees
- Foam pad or Therma-Rest type mattress
- Avoid extra heavy duty weight bag unless you’re at a tent checkpoint
- Small bag of high energy snack food
- Sunglasses
- Flashlight
- Camera gear
- We suggest you don’t bring:
- Hair dryers, curling irons, electric razors, etc.
- Large frame backpacks

## NORTHERN ROUTE CHECKPOINT DESCRIPTIONS

(Pronunciation, Population and Facts of Interest)

- 1. Anchorage** (ang-ker-ij) – (ANC) Lat 61.12 Long 149.55 -- Population 291,826 makes it Alaska's largest city with a full range of transportation and hotel accommodations. The race starts downtown on Fourth Avenue. Interesting side trips during March include Portage Glacier or downhill skiing at Mt. Alyeska, both less than an hour's drive South, or head North to Hatcher Pass for cross country skiing and to explore the remains of Independence Mine.
- 2. Willow** (wil-oh) – Lat 61.45.25N Long 150.03.10W Population 1,658 and is the where the restart takes place on Willow Lake at Mile Marker .
- 3. Yentna Station Roadhouse** -- (YENT-na) -- (YENT) Lat 61.46 N Long 150.41W -- Population 8 .This checkpoint is at the home of the Dan & Jean Gabryzack family.
- 4. Skwentna** (SKWENT-nuh) - (SKW) Lat 61.55 Long 151.11 -- Population 30 -- Located near the confluence of the Skwentna and Yentna Rivers. The checkpoint is located at Joe and Norma Delia's log house, also known as the Post Office. There is a store and limited lodging nearby.
- 5. Finger Lake** -- (FL) Lat 61.59 Long 152.40 -- Population 2 -- In the heart of the snow country, here it is not uncommon to have 10 feet of snow on the ground. The checkpoint is at Winter Lake Lodge.
- 6. Rainy Pass** -- (RP) Lat 62.10 Long 152.43 -- Population 2 -- This area represents the highest point on the Iditarod Trail as it passes over the majestic Alaska Range. Located on Puntilla Lake is Vern Humble's guiding operation. Known as Rainy Pass Lodge, it is closed down at this time of year. Iditarod uses one of their cabins for a checkpoint and another for mushers to rest in.
- 7. Rohn** (RONE) -- (ROH) Lat 62.35 Long 153.21 -- Population 0 -- This area is tied with Rainy Pass as having the most spectacular scenery. The gateway to the interior, Rohn Roadhouse marks the transition point where the mushers start to venture into the flatlands of the interior, along with dropping temperatures. Situated near the confluence of the South Fork of the Kuskokwim and Tatina Rivers, the area served as one of the original Iditarod Trail Roadhouses for the dog teams carrying mail, etc. The actual roadhouse is gone, so the checkpoint is a cabin built in the 1930's. **Note:** Most press mistakenly refer to this as Rohn River checkpoint, but there is no Rohn River. It's Rohn Roadhouse. Many mushers take their mandatory 24-hour layover here, before heading across the bleak but treacherous Farewell Burn area. **No facilities or lodging are available at Rohn.**
- 8. Nikolai** (NIK-o-lye) -- (NIK) Lat 63.02 Long 154.22 -- Population 101 -- This is the first of many Native villages along the Iditarod Trail. There is a village store at the far end of town across the airstrip, and limited lodging is available through advance booking. The checkpoint is located in the Community Hall.
- 9. McGrath** (muh-GRATH) -- (McG) Lat 62.57 Long 155.36 -- Population 341-- Located near the confluence of the Kuskokwim and Takotna Rivers, this thriving community has two stores, a bar and a restaurant. It's the last chance to buy aviation gas, except for Galena, until you reach the coast at Unalakleet. Lodging is also available with advance booking.
- 10. Takotna** (Ta-COT-na) -- (TAK) Lat 63.00 Long 156.04 -- Population 49 -- Situated on the banks of the Takotna River, this town has a store and restaurant. This is one of the smallest towns with one of the biggest welcomes.
- 11. Ophir** (OH-fur) -- (OPH) Lat 63.08 Long 156.31 -- Population 0 -- Now a ghost town, it took its name in 1908 from a nearby placer creek, one of a dozen streams in Alaska to be named by Bible-reading prospectors, for the lost country of Ophir, the source of King Solomon's gold. Many items and artifacts still remain untouched. The

checkpoint is at Dick and Audra Forsgren's cabin.

12. **Cripple** (krip-uhl) -- Lat. 63.41 N Long 156.20W -- Population 0 -- Part of the famous Iditarod Mining District, which saw \$35 million in gold taken out of the area between 1908 and 1925. Not bad when you figure that gold was only worth \$20 an ounce in those days. This checkpoint marks the “official” halfway point in the race on the northern route
13. **Ruby** (ROO-bee) -- Lat. 64.44 N Long 155.29W -- Population 173 -- The first checkpoint on the famous Yukon River, the longest river in Alaska, stretching 1,875 miles from its headwaters in the Yukon Territory of Canada to the Bering Sea. Gold was discovered here in 1907, but no town was established until 1911 when additional gold deposits were discovered on Long Creek, causing a rush of prospectors to the area. This is the home of 1975 Iditarod champion Emmitt Peters. Ruby was home for many of the mushers who carried mail for the Northern Commercial Company from Tanana to Ruby. The trip took four days and paid \$5 a day. Dog team mail ended here in 1931. The checkpoint is in the community hall.
14. **Galena** (gull-LEE-na) -- Lat.64.44 Long 156.56 -- Population 487 -- Galena derived its name from lead sulfate ore found in the area, known chemically as galena. The town was founded in 1920 when Natives moved down river from the old town site of Louden because of the availability of firewood. A man could cut 250 cords a winter and sell it for \$8 a cord to the stern-wheelers that worked the rivers in the summer. This was the home of Edgar Nollner, the last living musher who carried the lifesaving diphtheria serum along this trail to Nome in 1925. The checkpoint is at the “old” community hall downtown.
15. **Nulato** (nu-LAH-toe) -- Lat. 64.43 Long 158.05 -- Population 275 -- Originally founded in 1838 at the confluence of the Nulato and Yukon Rivers, Nulato was a Russian trading post. Without a stockade, the Indians promptly burned it down. In 1841, the Russian American Company rebuilt the trading post consisting of seven log buildings, but again without a stockade. In 1851, the Koyukan Indians again burned it down and killed most of the inhabitants. In 1853 the trading post was rebuilt at the present town site, two miles upriver from the old site. The checkpoint is the community hall.
16. **Kaltag** -- (KAL-tag) -- (KAL) Lat 64.19 Long 158.45 -- Population 205 -- This town signals a brief respite from the driving winds as the trail from here leads overland through Kaltag Portage to the coast of Norton Sound where the winds take on new meaning. Kaltag is the home of Virginia Kalland, widow of Edgar Kalland who was one of the original mushers who helped carry lifesaving diphtheria serum along this trail 60 years ago. She also owns one of Kaltag’s three stores. **Note:** The location for mushers check-in is at Rich Burnham's house, but the official checkpoint and gathering spot is the community hall about a block away. Please don't treat the Burnham home as a checkpoint.
17. **Unalakleet** (YOU-na-la-kleet) -- (UNK) Lat 63.53 Long 160.42 -- Population 692 -- Situated on the coast of Norton Sound, just north of the Unalakleet River, this village is the largest community on the Iditarod Trail between Willow and Nome. Two well-stocked stores as well as two restaurants can be found here along with limited lodging by advance booking. The trail is now entering the gateway to the Bering Sea and from here on the mushers can expect sudden storms and an ample supply of wind. The checkpoint is in front of the A.C. store.
18. **Shaktoolik** (Shak-TOO-lick) -- (SHAK) Lat 64.20 Long 161.10 --Population 258 -- One look down the street at the snowdrifts will tell you this is one of the windiest stretches of the trail. From here the trail continues overland for a short distance, then leads the mushers out onto the ice of Norton Bay, one of the most treacherous segments of trail that the musher may have to contend with. The checkpoint is at the armory.
19. **Koyuk** (Koy-uk) -- (KOY) Lat 64.56 Long 161.10 --- Population 347 -- Once this checkpoint is reached, the mushers can breathe a sigh of relief as almost all of the rest of the trail is at least over land. The checkpoint is the City Rec Center.

20. **Elim** (EE-lim) -- (ELM) Lat 64.37 Long 162.15 -- Population 332 -- The checkpoint (at least at the time this went to press) is at the fire hall (check at the store for directions). From here the trail heads over the hills of the Kwiktalik Mountains inland a little ways to the next checkpoint on Golovin Bay. The checkpoint is at the fire hall. Ask at the village store.
21. **Golovin** (GULL-uh-vin) -- (GOL) Lat 64.32 Long 163.50 -- Population 171 -- Not an official checkpoint, but a community with a large welcome. Golovin has one store. From here the trail heads across Golovin Bay, then overland to the next checkpoint.
22. **White Mountain** --(WT MT) Lat 64.41 Long 163.24 -- Population 199 -- Just 77 miles from Nome, this village is located on the banks of the Fish River. It takes its name from that of a picturesque nearby mountain. Checkpoint is located in the community hall building up the hill from the store.
23. **Safety** -- (SAF) Lat 64.27 Long 164.49 -- The last checkpoint before Nome, just 22 miles away. Here the mushers are on the coast of the Bering Sea and travel on the beach most of the way to Nome.
24. **Nome** -- (OME) Lat 64.30 Long 165.24 -- Population 3,695 -- The end of the Iditarod Trail! Prospectors established this Seward Peninsula city as Anvil City after adjacent Anvil Creek in 1898. A year later gold was discovered in beach sand, and it became a boomtown, home of 30,000 gold seekers. The city was renamed Nome in 1899 after a nearby point on Norton Sound, which got its name in 1853 when a British Navy cartographer misinterpreted a chart notation of "? Name" and recorded it as Nome. The gold rush atmosphere still abounds, especially when "Iditarod Fever" hits town with the entire community turning out to welcome the mushers and visitors alike to their community. Numerous stores, restaurants and bars line Nome's infamous "Front Street", but lodging is at a premium. If the Nugget Inn and Polaris Hotel are full, check with the Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau for the availability of "bed and breakfast" accommodations.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE IDITAROD TRAIL

(Between checkpoints)

<b>Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip</b>	<b>11 miles</b>
---------------------------------------	-----------------

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

<b>Willow to Yentna Station</b>	<b>42 miles</b>
---------------------------------	-----------------

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

<b>Yentna Station to Skwentna</b>	<b>30 miles</b>
-----------------------------------	-----------------

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

can be a very real problem in some conditions.

<b>Skwentna to Finger Lake</b>
--------------------------------

<b>40 miles</b>
-----------------

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

<b>Finger Lake to Puntilla Lake (Rainy Pass Lodge)</b>
--

<b>30 miles</b>
-----------------

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

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

<b>Puntilla Lake to Rohn</b>
------------------------------

<b>35 miles</b>
-----------------

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

<b>Rohn to Nikolai</b>
------------------------

<b>75 miles</b>
-----------------

The trail leaves Rohn and crosses the South Fork of the Kuskokwim River and turns sharply left (inland) about 3/4 mile below the Rohn checkpoint. From here to Farewell Lake the trail crosses sharp hills with moderate and steep grades, both up and down. Some of the grades are up to 1/2 - 1 3/4 miles long. The trail is very narrow in places and in some of the denser stands of spruce is a tunnel. The worst area is the Tin Creek with a steep side hill drop to the canyon floor and a climb up the other side. This climb is to the right of the gorge (100-150 yards) and should be well marked. The trail from

Tin Creek to Farewell Lake continues through spruce and alder. In the open areas the trail is but a rut when the snow is light. It crosses several "wallows" which are very rough. Approaching Farewell Lake the terrain levels out somewhat and crosses a small lake a couple of miles prior to dropping onto Farewell. This is bison (buffalo) country!

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

<b>Nikolai to McGrath</b>
---------------------------

<b>48 miles</b>
-----------------

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

<b>McGrath to Takotna</b>
---------------------------

<b>18 miles</b>
-----------------

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

<b>Takotna to Ophir</b>
-------------------------

<b>23 miles</b>
-----------------

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

<b>Ophir to Cripple</b>
-------------------------

<b>73 miles</b>
-----------------

Out of the Ophir checkpoint the trail follows a cat trail along the Innoko River into the old village site about a mile further along. It crosses the river again six miles out of the checkpoint. From the crossing, the trail heads northeast. The terrain is flat with sparse scrub spruce with a few rolling hills as it approaches Cripple.

<b>Cripple to Ruby</b>
------------------------

<b>70 miles</b>
-----------------

Leaving Cripple, the country stays the same for 15 to 20 miles. Then the trees get larger and thicker, with larger rolling hills. At Bear Creek, the trail enters a cat trail that should be easy to follow. At Sulatna Crossing (steel bridge), most of the mushers stop to rest and feed their dogs. (Sulatna Crossing is not a checkpoint.) There is a small lake on the left. Immediately after the bridge, the trailbreakers will punch out 15 to 20 parking spots for dog teams. The trail follows this road all the way to Ruby Hills. There are many long grades and much side hill to travel.

**Ruby to Galena****50 miles**

From Ruby to Kaltag, the next 134 miles is on the Yukon River, passing through Galena and Nulato. In most years the local traffic keeps the river trail hard and fast. This section is well marked because wind and snow can cover the trail very quickly. Checkpoint is usually in the Galena Community Center.

**Galena to Nulato****37 miles**

About 10 miles outside of Galena is the picturesque Bishop's Rock, where some of the most famous photographs of mushers are taken. In most years the local traffic keeps the river trail hard and fast. This section is well marked because wind and snow can cover the trail very quickly.

**Nulato to Kaltag****47 miles**

The final stretch on the Yukon River before turning inland for the Kaltag Portage headed towards the coast. Kaltag always offers a warm welcome. Checkpoint is at Kaltag Community Center.

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

From Kaltag, the trail exits from the northwest end of the runway. The next 15 miles run through spruce forest and open areas along the Kaltag River, climbing gently to the summit of the Portage. Continuing through similar terrain, it starts down the Unalakleet drainage to Old Woman Cabin at the base of Old Woman Mountain. This mountain is an excellent landmark. The trail continues past the mountain and runs along the left side of the Unalakleet drainage. The terrain is gentle rolling hills. Little or no vegetation can be seen along the trail until near Unalakleet. Approximately five miles out of town the trail hits the river. With the exception of a few short portages across horseshoe bends, the trail follows the river into Unalakleet. The last 32 miles (from Old Woman Mountain) is often windy and the snow is usually wind packed and crusty. In fact, the entire coast is often very windy.

**Unalakleet to Shaktoolik****40 miles**

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

**Shaktoolik to Koyuk****50 miles**

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

**Koyuk to Elim****48 miles**

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

**Elim to Golovin (not an official checkpoint, but an integral part of the race)****28 miles**

The trail leaves Elim, following the ice along the coast for 10-11 miles to a cabin just north-northeast of the limestone cliffs, and here it turns right (inland) and crosses the Kwiktalik Mountains. This range is a low series of hills (1,000 to 1,500 ft.) with moderate grades. Vegetation ranges from small spruce to barren ground. Some of the grades are long (1 mile) but none are excessively steep. The barren sections are often windblown and icy. The last descent to Golovin Bay is long and sometimes runs side hill. At the Shelter Cabin on the coast, the trail turns sharply right and crosses the ice to Golovin. The village is located on a spit and is easily seen. (Counting the cabin below Elim where the trail leaves the ice, there are three shelter cabins on the trail, one of them being nine miles from the coast where the trail intersects McKinley Creek.)

**Golovin to White Mountain****18 miles**

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

**White Mountain to Safety****55 miles**

The trail from White Mountain continues up the Fish River for another 2-2.5 miles to a large island. It makes a sharp left turn and starts overland. This turn should be well marked, since a trail continues up the river to Council also. One-fourth mile after leaving the river, a trail comes in from the right (also from Council) and this intersection should be well marked but can be confusing if snow machiners or mushers have departed from the trail. The Iditarod Trail crosses a series of low hills with moderate grades and starts through the Klokeblok River drainage. There is a little vegetation (willow) along some of the creeks.

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

**Safety to Nome****22 miles**

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

## 2014 ALPHABETICAL MUSHERS LISTING

FIRST	LAST	CITY		COUNTRY	STATUS
Cindy	Abbott	Irvine	CA		rookie
Elliot	Anderson	Big Lake	AK		rookie
Ken	Anderson	Fairbanks	AK		
John	Baker	Kotzebue	AK		
Travis	Beals	Seward	AK		
Charley	Bejna	Addison	IL		rookie
Anna	Berington	Anchorage	AK		
Kristy	Berington	Kasilof	AK		
Jake	Berkowitz	Big Lake	AK		
Alex	Buetow	Big Lake	AK		rookie
Robert	Bundtzen	Anchorage	AK		
Aaron	Burmeister	Nenana	AK		
Martin	Buser	Big Lake	AK		
Rick	Casillo	Palmer	AK		
Yvonne	Dåbakk	Oslo		NORWAY	rookie
Richie	Dielh	Aniak	AK		
John	Dixon	Fairbanks	AK		
Paige	Drobny	Fairbanks	AK		
Mike	Ellis	Fairbanks	AK		
Matthew	Failor	Willow	AK		
Linwood	Fiedler	Willow	AK		
Marcelle	Fressineau	Whitehorse	YT	CANADA	rookie
Cindy	Gallea	Wykoff	MN		
Hans	Gatt	Whitehorse	YT	CANADA	
Paul F	Gebhardt	Kasilof	AK		
Gus	Guenther	Clam Gulch	AK		
Ellen	Halverson	Wasilla	AK		
Karin	Hendrickson	Wasilla	AK		
Scott	Janssen	Anchorage	AK		
Ralph	Johannessen	Dagali		NORWAY	rookie
DeeDee	Jonrowe	Willow	AK		
Tommy Pedersen	Jordbrudal	Longyearbyen		NORWAY	rookie
Dan	Kaduce	Fairbanks	AK		
Peter	Kaiser	Bethel	AK		
Katherine	Keith	Kotzebue	AK		rookie
Jeff	King	Denali	AK		

Jim	Lanier	Chugiak	AK		
Joar	Leifseth	Moi I Rana		NORWAY	
Sonny	Lindner	Two Rivers	AK		
Jason	Mackey	Wasilla	AK		
Kelly	Maixner	Big Lake	AK		
Wade	Marrs	Wasilla	AK		
Newton	Marshall	Wasilla	AK		
Allen	Moore	Two Rivers	AK		
Hugh	Neff	Tok	AK		
Lisbet	Norris	Willow	AK		rookie
Curt	Perano	Willow	AK		
Nick	Petit	Girdwood	AK		
Matts	Pettersson	Kiruna		SWEDEN	rookie
Michelle	Phillips	Tagish	YT	CANADA	
Karen	Ramstead	Perryvale	AB	CANADA	
Ray	Redington, Jr.	Wasilla	AK		
Jessie	Royer	Darby	MT		
Mike	Santos	Cantwell	AK		
Justin	Savidis	Willow	AK		
Nathan	Schroeder	Chisholm	MN		rookie
Dallas	Seavey	Willow	AK		
Danny	Seavey				
Mitch	Seavey	Sterling	AK		
Lev	Shvarts	Willow	AK		rookie
Cim	Smyth	Big Lake	AK		
Ramey	Smyth	Willow	AK		
Robert	Sorlie	2090 Hurdal		NORWAY	
Jan	Steves	Edmonds	WA		
Christian	Turner	Willow	AK		rookie
Abbie	West	Ft. Yukon	AK		rookie
Mike	Williams, Jr.	Akiak	AK		

## 1973-2013 CHAMPIONS & RED LANTERN WINNERS

### Champions

<u>Year</u>	<u>Musher</u>	<u>D:H:M:S</u>
1973	Dick Wilmarth	20:00:49:41
1974	Carl Huntington	20:15:02:07
1975	Emmitt Peters	14:14:43:45
1976	Gerald Riley	18:22:58:17
1977	Rick Swenson	16:16:27:13
1978	Dick Mackey	14:18:52:24
1979	Rick Swenson	15:10:37:47
1980	Joe May	14:07:11:51
1981	Rick Swenson	12:08:45:02
1982	Rick Swenson	16:04:40:10
1983	Rick Mackey	12:14:10:44
1984	Dean Osmar	12:15:07:33
1985	Libby Riddles	18:00:20:17
1986	Susan Butcher	11:15:06:00
1987	Susan Butcher	11:02:05:13
1988	Susan Butcher	11:11:41:40
1989	Joe Runyan	11:05:24:34
1990	Susan Butcher	11:01:53:23
1991	Rick Swenson	12:16:34:39
1992	Martin Buser	10:19:17:15
1993	Jeff King	10:15:38:15
1994	Martin Buser	10:13:02:39
1995	Doug Swingley	09:02:42:19
1996	Jeff King	09:05:43:13
1997	Martin Buser	09:08:30:15
1998	Jeff King	09:05:52:26
1999	Doug Swingley	09:14:31:07
2000	Doug Swingley	09:00:58:06
2001	Doug Swingley	09:19:55:50
2002	Martin Buser	08:22:46:02
2003	Robert Sørлие	09:15:47:36
2004	Mitch Seavey	09:12:20:22
2005	Robert Sørлие	09:18:39:31
2006	Jeff King	09:14:11:36
2007	Lance Mackey	09:05:08:41
2008	Lance Mackey	09:11:46:48
2009	Lance Mackey	09:21:38:46
2010	Lance Mackey	08:23:59:09
2011	John Baker**	08:18:46:39
2012	Dallas Seavey	09:04:29:26
2013	Mitch Seavey	09:07:39:56

### Red Lantern Winners

<u>Musher</u>	<u>D:H:M:S</u>
John Schultz	32:05:09:01
Red Olson	29:06:36:10
Steve Fee	29:08:37:13
Dennis Corrington	26:08:42:51
Vasily Zamitkyn	22:09:06:06
Andrew Foxie	22:03:29:44
Gene Leonard	24:09:02:22
Barbara Moore	24:09:25:45
Jim Strong	18:06:30:30
Ralph Bradley	26:13:59:59
Scott Cameron	21:04:36:41
Bill Mackey	19:09:43:33
Monique Bene	22:03:45:45
Mike Peterson	20:13:42:21
Rhodi Karella	19:09:01:01
Lesley Monk	19:13:22:55
Bob Hoyt	17:11:19:19
Steve Haver	21:10:26:26
Brian O'Donoghue	22:05:55:55
Vern Cherneski	18:13:05:02
Lloyd Gilbertson	18:04:19:19
Mark Chapoton	16:16:17:35
Ben Jacobson	17:06:02:05
Andy Sterns	15:23:48:22
Ken Chase	15:09:07:44
Brad Pozarnsky	14:05:42:04
Jeremy Gebauer	15:03:18:44
Fedor Konykhov	15:05:44:44
Karen Ramstead	14:23:53:16
David Straub	14:05:38:12
Russell Bybee	15:05:30:53
Perry Solmonson	15:02:50:36
Phil Morgan	15:06:02:57
Glenn Lockwood	15:18:08:56
Ellen Halverson	16:11:56:20
Deborah Bicknell	15:05:36:12
Tim Hunt	15:14:06:22
Celeste Davis	13:05:06:40
Ellen Halverson	13:19:45:49
Jan Steves	14:11:57:03
Christine Roalofs	14:13:36:08

\*\* Fastest winning time

\* Fastest Red Lantern time

## 2014 ALPHABETICAL MUSHER BIOGRAPHIES & PHOTOS



### **Cindy Abbott – Irvine, CA**

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

Cindy Abbott, 55, was born and raised in Nebraska. After graduation from California State University, Fullerton, with a Master's Degree in Kinesiology in 1996, she became a professor there. She currently lives with her husband Larry and daughter Teshia in Irvine, California. She teaches Health Science at California State University, Fullerton. Cindy has always been drawn to the world of extreme sports. Already an extreme scuba diver and underwater videographer, in 2007, at the age of 48, she took up mountain climbing with the single goal of standing on the top of the world. A few months after she began training, Cindy was diagnosed with a serious and rare disease (Wegener's Granulomatosis), but she was determined to achieve her dream and on May 23, 2010, after 54 days of working her way up the mountain, Cindy stepped onto the summit of Mt. Everest.

Cindy learned about the Iditarod in the early 1990's, while taking an Environmental Exercise Physiology course. But it wasn't until 2004, that she came to Alaska and took her first ride on a dog sled. In 2011, she began working under the guidance of Lance Mackey's Comeback Kennel. She immediately fell in love with the sport, the Alaskan people and culture, but most of all, she fell in love with the world's most amazing athletes – the dogs!

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.

"Knowing that was the end of my race, I went to my sled, pulled out the NORD (National Organization of Rare Disorders) banner (which I had held on the summit of Mt. Everest in 2010), walked to the front of my team, put the banner on the ground near my dogs' feet, and took a picture of the banner at MY finish line. When I got back to Anchorage, I was told that I hadn't injured my leg; my pelvis was broken in two places! My race ended sooner than I would have liked but I had a fantastic time, a truly amazing experience!"

Now running under Vern Halter's kennel, Cindy is back. This time she plans of getting her NORD banner photo standing under the Burred Arch in Nome.

Everest or the Iditarod: Cindy admits that, for her, long distance sled dog racing is much more difficult than summiting Mt. Everest – something she never thought that she would say.

Since her diagnosis, Cindy has become a very active rare disease awareness advocate for the National Organization of Rare Disorders and the Vasculitis Foundation. She also enjoys mountain climbing, SCUBA diving and international travel.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	Scratch	

### **Elliot Anderson-Big Lake, AK**



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

Elliot Anderson, 22, was born and raised in Wisconsin. After high school graduation in 2010, Elliot was a wrangler and hunting guide for antelope, deer and elk at a ranch in Wyoming. He says he always loved animals and the outdoors. He came to Alaska in the summer of 2012 and worked in Juneau on a glacier doing dog sled tours. That fall, he started working for Martin Buser. "I've

always wanted to come to Alaska from hearing my father's stories of when he gold mined in the 1970's. After finding the job with Alaska Icefield Expeditions on Mendenhall Glacier, I met James Volek. That contact resulted in my working for Martin Buser. I am running his yearling team that I have raised and trained." He lists his hobbies as hunting, trapping and



**Ken Anderson – Fairbanks, AK**  
 Website: [www.windycreekkennel.com](http://www.windycreekkennel.com)

Ken Anderson, 42, was born in Minnesota. He says he began mushing at age 3 as his parents had a recreational team. When he was in third grade, his father bought him a book on the Iditarod and he decided to someday compete in the Race. Before moving to Alaska, he attended the University of Minnesota and was a dog handler. He came to Alaska in 1993 to learn more about mushing and study biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He's been running the Iditarod since 1999. Ken is married to Gwen Holdman, also an Iditarod veteran. Ken says "Running dogs and racing the Iditarod has been a dream come true for me. I feel very fortunate to be able to be able to run the Race and live our mushing lifestyle." He lists his occupation as

dog musher and says his hobbies are sailing, carpentry and writing. Ken and Gwen are the parents of twins, Marais and Leif, age 5 and Lael "Lilly", age 3.

Total prize money: \$328,585.67

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1999	26	12:10:43:01	2008	4	9:18:11:06
2002	18	09:22:29:49	2009	14	11:01:34:14
2003	5	10:06:12:17	2010	4	9:06:25:23
2004	17	10:10:10:26	2011	9	09:09:23:16
2005	17	10:09:25:54	2012	12	09:18:56:03
2006	15	10:01:02:30	2013	12	09:16:09:20
2007	7	9:18:28:48			

**Award**

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



**John Baker – Kotzebue, AK**  
 Website: NONE

John Baker, 51, was born and raised in Kotzebue, Alaska. He began mushing in 1995 and was interested in the Iditarod after watching the Race in its early years. He ran his first Iditarod in 1996 and has been in every race since. He has 13 top ten Iditarod finishes, and became the first Iditarod champion from Northwest Alaska when he won the 2011 Iditarod, and the first Inupiat champion as well. Baker is self-employed and enjoys the rural Alaska life. He has a son, Alex, 24, a veteran of the Jr. Iditarod and a daughter, Tahayla, 10. A commercial pilot, he says that his hobby is flying.

Total Prize Money: \$543,332.78

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1996	22	10:23:26:00	2005	6	09:21:41:00
1997	11	09:23:09:36	2006	5	9:17:37:45
1998	5	08:21:43:09	2007	8	9:18:36:22
1999	5	10:10:10:54	2008	23	10:10:17:50
2000	22	10:05:48:29	2009	3	10:06:18:51

2001	6	10:21:00:30	2010	5	09:07:07:54
2002	3	09:05:46:30	<b>2011</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>08:17:46:39</b>
2003	8	10:07:33:07	2012	9	09:13:25:47
2004	9	10:00:43:00	2013	21	09:21:49:16

**Awards**

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



**Travis Beals – Seward, AK**

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

Travis Beals, 22, was born and raised in Seward, Alaska. "I ran my first sled dog race at four years old," he says. "I've always wanted to run Iditarod." In 2013 that dream came true, and he's back for his second trip to Nome. In Seward, he runs dog cart tours and says he enjoys hunting and fishing.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	37	11:01:10:51



**Charley Bejna ( ben' ya)– Addison, IL**

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

Charley Bejna, self-described adventurer, was born and raised in Addison, Illinois. Charley has owned and operated Charley's Landscaping Company for 22 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 Idita-Rider 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. Now, at age 40, he is coming back after scratching in last year's Iditarod to finish what he gas started and looking to spend another fun winter with his dogs!!!! Charley lists his other interests as working and spending time outdoors.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	Scratched	



**Anna Berington -- Kasilof, AK**

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

Anna Berington, 30, was born and raised in northern Wisconsin. She became interested in dog sledding at an early age when she worked for a neighbor who raced sled dogs. After graduating from high school, Anna joined the National Guard during which time she did a lot of traveling. She ended up in California working for a dog sled touring company. After some time there, she decided "giving tourists rides wasn't enough, so moving to Alaska was an easy choice." She and her twin sister, Iditarod veteran, Kirsty, worked for a lot of mushers and started calling Alaska home. "I love dogs and endurance sports so what could be better than combining the two?" She

lists her occupation as a dog handler and commercial fisherman, and her hobbies as running as running and all other athletics.

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



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

Kristy Berington, age 30, says, "No, you're not seeing double! This will be the third year the twins are running. With almost matching biographies, both girls grew up in Northern Wisconsin and graduated from South Shore High School, joined the National Guard, and wrangled horses in the Sierra Nevada Mountains. "I'm a bit of a drifter," Kristi says, "I lived in Wisconsin most of my life, spent a deployment in Washington and worked on a ranch in California." The twins' first dog team consisted of a Great Pyrenees and a Border collie, pulling a sled they built out of a pair of downhill skis and a milk crate. Kristy said after she started sprint mushing, she wanted to go farther and farther. She came to Alaska about seven years ago to run dogs. Kristy is a carpenter and lists her hobbies as running, swimming, hiking and adventure.

Total prize money: \$2,400

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	39	11:06:44:02	2012	44	12:02:17:13
2011	29	10:20:02:47	2013		

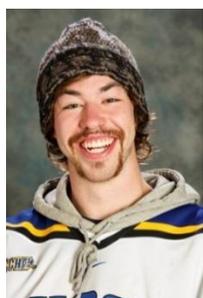


**Jake Berkowitz – Anchorage, AK**  
 Website: [www.JakeBerkowitz.com](http://www.JakeBerkowitz.com)

Jake Berkowitz, 27, was born and raised in Minnesota. He attended a local community college and then studied to be an EMT at the University of Colorado. He is currently getting his paramedic degree at the University of Alaska. Jake started mushing when he moved to Michigan in the fall of 2005 to work with Ed & Tasha Stielstra at Nature's Kennel and raced Stielstra's B team in the 2008 Iditarod. He remembers learning about the Iditarod at a young age but says, "It was one of those childhood dreams, like being a fireman or a cowboy; I just never thought it would happen." He moved to Alaska after the 2008 Iditarod to pursue his mushing career. In 2011, he won the Copper Basin Sled Dog Race. In 2012, he placed fourth in the Yukon Quest and was the "Rookie of the Year." He had to scratch from the 2012 Iditarod because a severely injured hand during the race. He lists his hobby (other than dogs and mushing) as "playing with my labs." Jake is married to Robin Simms.

Prize money: \$30,800

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	65	13:03:41:32	2012	Scratched	
2009	31	12:06:01:40	2013	8	09:12:34:16



**Alex Buetow (Byoo Tow') – Fairbanks, AK**  
 Website: none

Alex Buetow, 25, was born and raised in Fairbanks. He graduated from Montana State University in Environmental Studies. He began mushing in 2012. He'd been interested in running the Iditarod after growing up in a dog mushing family. Both his father and uncle have run the Iditarod. He recently moved to Big Lake to run dogs with Jake Berkowitz. For the last two years,

he's worked as a puppy wrangler. He lists his hobbies as birding, shredding POW and paddle sports such as canoeing and ping pong.



**Robert Bundtzen (Bun' son) – Anchorage, AK**

Website: None

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

fans. When not mushing, Robert enjoys hunting, fishing, hiking and the outdoors in general!

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



**Aaron Burmeister– Nenana, AK**

Website: NONE

Aaron Burmeister, 38, was born and raised in Nome, Alaska and is married to Mandy. He graduated from the University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1998 and is a certified teacher. However, he is currently the General Manager of Tumet Industries based in Nome, AK. Aaron says, "I have been raising dogs and racing my entire life. (He is the son of Iditarod veteran Richard Burmeister.) Over the last 16 years our kennel and breeding program have been focused on building a winning Iditarod team. We are excited to be entered in the 2014 Iditarod after a great race in 2013 with young talented team that is now experienced and ready to take it up a notch. "We are very grateful for the many supporters that help get us to the starting line every

year as well as the many volunteers who donate their time to put on this great event. Iditarod is the ultimate proving ground for our dogs, gear and outdoor skills." Aaron is a member of the IUOE Local 302, the IOFC, AOPA, and ITC. He lists his hobbies and interests as hunting, fishing, boating, flying, and family activities. Mandy and Aaron are the parents of Hunter, 5, and Kiana, 1.

Total Prize Money: \$207,570.56

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1994	37	14:10:33:23	2005	24	10:19:09:39
1996	43	14:04:48:00	2006	16	10:01:21:52
1999	39	13:03:26:41	2007	13	10:06:12:20
2000	30	11:03:35:04	2008	19	10:06:05:20
2001	29	12:10:39:10	2009	7	10:14:56:15
2003	16	10:20:20:15	2012	4	09:10:04:07
2004	13	10:05:34:10	2013	11	09:14:19:02

## Awards

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



**Martin Buser (Boo' zer)– Big Lake, AK**

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

Born in Winterthur, Switzerland in 1958, Martin became fascinated with sled dogs while still a teen. He came to Alaska in 1979 to enhance his knowledge of care and training of sled dogs. He began working and training with long-time Alaskan mushers Earl and Natalie Norris and ran his first Iditarod in 1980. Martin and wife Kathy Chapoton, 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. Nikolai currently resides in Seattle. Rohn lives near the kennel and is currently an integral part of the kennel operation Rohn completed his first Iditarod in 2008, as a senior in high school.

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

Martin runs the race each year with his dogs to test the success of their breeding, training and physical endurance. He regards his racers as true competitive athletes and prides his team on their longevity and spirit of competition. Says Martin, "I run the Iditarod to prove that my dogs, bred, trained and raced by Happy Trails Kennels, are the best amongst the world's long distance athletes." For nine years, Martin's 2002 team held the record for the Fastest Iditarod by completing the race in 8 days, 22 hours, 46 minutes and 2 seconds.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Martin is currently the musher with the most consecutive Iditarod finishes, **28 races completed in row**, 29 total finishes. We are looking forward to many more and working diligently toward a fifth Iditarod win. While the race is always the final exam, the year round interaction and relationship with the dogs is the most valuable aspect of this lifestyle. On a daily basis, we are amazed by the stamina, loyalty, honesty, and joy of our dogs. Author Brian Jacques went on a ride with Martin and the team many years ago and described the dogs as "eternal children." We couldn't agree more. It is our good fortune to be able to take care of them.

Total prize money: \$765,919.89

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1980	22	17:06:50:05	1999	2	09:23:10:59
1981	19	14:02:47:23	2000	7	09:14:55:15
1986	25	15:00:53:56	2001	24	12:07:43:59
1987	10	12:02:26:28	<b>2002</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>08:22:46:02</b>
1988	3	12:04:21:46	2003	4	10:03:40:19
1989	6	12:02:06:05	2004	11	10:02:41:24
1990	10	12:02:33:44	2005	13	10:02:32:40
1991	2	12:18:41:49	2006	23	10:12:04:35
<b>1992</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12:18:41:49</b>	2007	4	09:14:07:04
1993	6	11:00:47:39	2008	5	09:19:11:50
<b>1994</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10:13:02:39</b>	2009	18	11:02:43:00
1995	2	09:08:47:44	2010	14	09:15:33:58
1996	3	09:17:58:00	2011	18	10:01:03:38
<b>1997</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:08:30:45</b>	2012	19	10:18:10:13
1998	7	09:21:47:58	2013	17	09:20:01:33

#### Awards

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



**Rick Casillo, (Ca see' lo) Palmer, AK**  
Website: [www.battledawgsracing.com](http://www.battledawgsracing.com)

Rick Casillo, 40, grew up in a small country town of Alder, outside of Buffalo, NY. He worked in Alder as a sub-contractor before moving to Alaska in 1999 to become a fly fishing guide. He began mushing in 2002. He says as he watched the Race go by he began to get interested in actually running it. He first ran in 2004. He is back in 2014, after a five year break and says, "This year is very special. We have teamed up both our racing kennel, 'Battle Dogs Racing' and our summer glacier tour business with 'Alaska Healing Hearts', an organization serving the battle wounded and battle weary. We are able to provide 12 months of healing grounds for our nation's wounded warriors. During the summer, we fly the veterans up to our glacier dog camp and take them mushing. For the winter, the warriors are playing a key part in helping us train and prepare for the Iditarod. This hits home with us because, my wife has served in both Iraq and Afghanistan wars. Both my wife, Jennifer, and I operate Battle Dawgs Racing and are committed to helping our nation's true heroes." Rick says his hobbies are fly fishing, shooting and helping veterans.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2004	57	12:06:53:14	2008	32	11:02:33:55
2006	34	10:23:32:00			
2007	37	11:20:48:39			



**Yvonne Dåbakk, (Daw' back) Oslo, NORWAY**  
Website: <http://siberiansleddogs.com>

Yvonne Dåbakk, 31, was born and raised in Mainz, Germany. She moved to Oslo, Norway, in 2001 to study physics. She received her PhD in Plasma and Space Physics at the University of Oslo, Norway in 2010. She worked at the University of Oslo and her husband, Kenneth, worked as a self-employed carpenter. She says, "Since I've always been fascinated by the Arctic and dog mushing, I went to live in Svalbard to do some of my research in Northern Lights physics as part of my Master and PhD program and the University Centre in Svalbard. I got introduced to do mushing and got hooked. Just love to be out there with our dogs. We build up our own team and decided to enter the 2012 Finnmarksløpet. We had a great time and are here now. All our dogs are NKC registered Siberian huskies that we joined us to Alaska from Norway. Together we will go as far and fast as they want to go, always with a happy, healthy team as our first priority!" Yvonne and Kenneth have recently moved to Fairbanks where she will be working for two years as a postdoctoral researcher and the University of Fairbanks. When she has time, she enjoys Arctic travel, hunting, photography and enjoying life.



**Richie Diehl (Deal)– Aniak, AK**  
Website: None

Richie Diehl, 28, was born and raised in Aniak, Alaska. He graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2008 with a Bachelor of Science degree in Aviation Technology. He's been working as a carpenter in Aniak the last five years. He says he began mushing as a kid and has been racing competitively in Alaska since 2010, having completed the Kusko 300 several times as well as the Paul Johnson Memorial 450 in its inaugural year, 2012 and the the Iditarod in 2013. He lists his hobbies as flying, boating, fishing and hunting.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	36	10:22:32:06



**John Dixon – Fairbanks, AK**

Website – None

John Dixon, 40, was born and raised in Garland, Texas. Growing up in Texas, he enjoyed hunting and fishing and always dreamed of living in Alaska. He moved to Fairbanks in 1995 to attend UAF and received his B.S. from there in Wildlife Biology. He has worked the last seven years as an operations supervisor for BP on the slope. "I'm ready to come back and race the Iditarod again after a 14 year break. I have continued to train and breed sled dogs since my rookie year in 2000 while I have also been raising a family and building a career with BP Alaska on the North Slope. I want to get back on the trail because I feel like the dogs are ready and so am I. So with a lot of help and support from my family and friends, we hope to have a successful return to the Iditarod." John and Lisa are the parents of Justin, 24, John Jr. 15, Jessica, 9, and Jack, 6. John says he enjoys spending time with his wife, raising his family and hunting, fishing and rafting.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2000	48	12:08:38:06



**Paige Drobny (Drob' knee) – Fairbanks, AK**

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

Paige Drobny, 39, was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, says she moved all over growing up. She graduated from Virginia Tech in 1997 with her B.S. in Biology and from UAF in 2008 with her M.S. in Fisheries Oceanography. Before moving to Fairbanks in 2005 for graduate school, she lived in Vermont and was a fisheries biologist. "I enjoy the outdoor lifestyle. I work as a fishery biologist and help my husband, Cody Strathe, build dogsleds for our company, DogPaddle Designs, during the summer. Our mushing started in 2006 as a way to explore the wilds of Alaska with no plan to ever do any racing. We spent several years camping and travelling with our dogs. In 2010, Cody and I decided to give it a whirl and entered the GinGin 200 together...we had a blast, and suddenly we were on the slippery slope. After finishing the Yukon Quest last year with a happy and health team, Iditarod seemed like the next logical step for someone with an addiction to travelling by dog team. In my rookie year of Iditarod my dogs did an amazing job. I am coming back because the trail is beautiful and I want to see how this veteran team can do this year. I am also running the 2014 Iditarod in remembrance of my dog, Dorado." Paige lists her hobby as "fish."

YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	34	10:18:15:54



**Mike Ellis – Two Rivers, AK**

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

Mike Ellis, 43, was born in Massachusetts and raised in New York and came to Alaska in 2007 after living 25 years in New Hampshire. He received a B.S. in Geography from Plymouth State College in New Hampshire. He began mushing in 1993 and says he'd been interested in the Iditarod since watching Rick Swenson and Susan Butcher on Wide World of Sports when he was a little kid. He raced in New England and Ontario from 1994 to 2007 and then moved north to begin racing in Alaska. He has since run the Yukon Quest since 2008, his highest finish being eighth in 2011. He has won the Vet's Choice award in the GinGin 200, the Copper Basin 300, The Two Rivers 200 and the Yukon Quest. "I am a musher and feel it's what I was born to do. My wife, Sue, has supported me and put up with centering our lives on our dogs and this sport. Last year, we did our first Iditarod and now we want to do it better! Over 20 years in the 'sport' of mushing, and we still learn every day. Respect Your Dogs!" He lists his occupation as "musher" and when asks "for how long", he says, "Not long enough!" His hobby is "filling the freezer."

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	30	10:16:35:13			



**Matthew Failor – Willow, AK**

Website: [www.17th-dog.com](http://www.17th-dog.com)

Matthew Failor, 31, was born and raised in Ohio. He says, "My family taught me a love of the outdoors; camping, fishing, canoeing, backpacking, hunting, were all things we did on family vacations. My mom and dad and brothers and sister all enjoy an active outdoor lifestyle. My three brothers and I are Eagle Scouts." He moved to Alaska in 2006 for a summer college job, dog handler at Gold Rush Sled Dog Tours. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Photography in 2007. He began mushing in 2008 and became interested in the Iditarod when Martin Buser offered him a chance to run his yearlings. He has worked for various mushers over the years gaining experience and knowledge. He recently moved to Willow to run dogs under his

own name. Matthew is currently a dog trainer as well as manager at Gold Rush Sled Dog Tours. He says he is a sports enthusiast and enjoys keeping in touch with family and friends back in Ohio.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	48	12:18:10:20	2013		



**Linwood Fiedler (FEED' ler) – Willow, AK**

Website: None

Linwood Fiedler, 60, was born in Vermont. He received his BSW at Carroll College and his MSW at University 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." For the last 14 summers he has operated a glacier tour business in the Juneau area. Linwood says, "Running to Nome is now a celebration of life and fulfilling personal goals. It's not cheap therapy but it seems to do the trick. At least it keeps me out of

most trouble and my wife knows where I am." Linwood and his wife Kathleen are the parents of Justin and Dalton.

Total Prize Money: \$195,693

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1989	26	13:13:37:37	1999	13	10:18:30:40
1990	8	12:01:19:16	2000	19	10:04:01:31
1991	25	15:23:45:15	2001	2	10:03:58:57
1992	25	12:21:59:50	2002	Scratched	
1993	17	12:21:02:50	2003	6	10:07:02:55
1994	18	11:15:57:30	2007	Scratched	
1995	13	10:08:27:00	2009	23	11:13:44:45
1996	17	10:07:25:00	2010	Scratched	
1997	17	10:14:58:20	2013	29	10:15:00:52
1998	8	09:22:29:32			

**Awards**

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



**Marcelle Fressineau – (Frë ssï nah) Whitehorse, YT CANADA**

Website: marcelle-fressineau.com

Marcelle Fressineau, 59, was born in Switzerland. She attended college in Switzerland and worked there as an adventure outfitter for 12 years. She began mushing in 1988 and starting thinking about the Iditarod when she saw a video in 1991 “with these beautiful Alaskan Huskies.” She moved to Whitehorse in 2007 because it was “a good place for dog mushing. She has since run mid distance races in Canada and Alaska including the 2012 Yukon Quest. Marcelle says, “I will race the Iditarod for the challenge and the adventure. I raised and trained myself all the dogs in my team and I will share this experience with them. She currently continues business of guiding dog sledding trips into the wilderness. She is married to Gilles

Proteau and lists her hobbies as hiking and outdoor activities.



**Cindy Gallea (Gal’ Lee)– Wykoff, MN**

Website: None

Cindy Gallea, 62, grew up on a farm in Minnesota where she experienced the pleasure of the outdoors and the good feeling of interacting with animals. Cindy says, “When I moved to Northern Minnesota as an adult, my love of the outdoors and outdoor adventures really grew. It was there that I was introduced to dog musing in the 1980’s, and it has been a very important part of my life since.” After seeing the 1996 finish of the Iditarod, she knew she wanted to run the Race. A graduate of St. Olaf College with a BS in Nursing in 1973 and from the University of Washington with a Master’s in nursing in 1990; she now has been a nurse practitioner for 23 years. In 2010, Cindy returned to Minnesota to be close to her family. “I have been running sled

dogs for 26 years. “My sons, my work as a nurse practitioner, and sled dogs and mushing fill my life with joy and satisfaction. For me, Iditarod is an opportunity to be fully immersed in life with my dogs while enjoying the beauty of Alaska, the camaraderie of the Iditarod family and responding to the ‘call of the wild’.” She enjoys all outdoor activities – bicycling, hiking, canoeing – and politics. Her sons are Jim, 33 (also an Iditarod veteran) and Brian, 29.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1998	48	14:00:48:36	2007	45	12:16:50:17
2000	Scratched		2008	39	11:07:56:2000
2001	38	12:21:46:53	2009	41	12:19:15:05
2003	33	12:07:48:52	2010	40	11:08:12:01
2004	41	11:07:58:10	2013	51	13:02:24:13
2006	54	12:07:20:02			



**Hans Gatt (Häns Gätt) – Whitehorse, YT CANADA**

Website: gattsled.com

Hans Gatt, 55, grew up on a farm in Austria. His passion for sled dog racing began when he attended a dog sled race in Europe. After winning all eight races entered in his first year of racing, including the European championship, Hans moved to Canada in 1990 to race in North America. He now lives three km south of Whitehorse, Yukon, with Susie Rogan and 47 dogs, including 24 race dogs, seven pups and 16 retired dogs.

Hans builds a line of high performance dog sleds for mid-distance, stage, and ultra-long distance racing. As of 2013, Gattsled is now also building sleds for the dog sled tourism industry with the same eye on quality and job—specific performance.

Aside from running dogs, Hans enjoys endure, motorcross and trials dirt bike riding on the vast existing trail system in the Yukon, cross country skiing, live local music, local plays, dinners with friends, mountain biking, and exploring the wilderness on foot via creek beds and game trails.

Hans retired from competitive dog sled racing in 2011. He is now providing fully equipped leased teams, coaching and race expediting to international clients to run the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest and/or shorter races including qualifying races. Hans is enjoying this new endeavor very much and has been especially enjoying the company of the truly adventurous and interesting people he has been working with.

After two years of not racing Hans is looking forward to getting back on the runners. He is running the 2014 Iditarod to run his dog team and to see the trail and all the Iditarod people again. Hans' goal for the 2014 Iditarod is to see his younger dogs race for the first time and to enjoy the entire Iditarod experience. He is also developing a team for mushers he is coaching for future Iditarods.



**Paul Gebhardt – Kasilof, AK**

Website: none

Paul, 57, 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 & a contractor since he was 18 years old and is currently a general contractor in Kasilof Alaska now. Paul has been raising and racing sled dogs since moving to Alaska in 1989. He has run many of the mid distance races in the state and has run the Iditarod 17 times, and has placed in the top 20 fourteen times. He has placed as high as 2<sup>nd</sup> twice. He currently has 65 dogs in his Morning View Kennel in Kasilof and together with his girlfriend Kristy, they are training and racing 44 dogs. Paul enjoys hunting, fishing, and raising birds in his spare time.

Total prize money: \$416,520.78

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1996	26	11:08:08:00	2006	3	09:15:23:20
1997	14	10:08:59:25	2007	2	09:07:28:12
1998	13	10:04:54:40	2008	6	09:20:20:36
1999	6	10:09:37:10	2009	16	11:02:26:30
2000	2	09:06:04:23	2010	19	09:20:31:01
2001	5	10:20:37:05	2011	Scratched	
2003	23	11:08:51:32	2012	15	10:03:35:48
2004	19	10:12:26:22	2013	16	09:19:09:32
2005	9	10:01:24:20			

**Awards**

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



**Gus Guenther (Gun’ ther) – Clam Gulch, AK**

Website: None

Gus Guenther, 45, was born and raised in Prospect, Pennsylvania. Before coming to Alaska, he received his B.A. in Journalism from the University of Pennsylvania and became a journeyman carpenter. He says he came to Alaska in 1991 because “I couldn’t drive any further and ended up in Clam Gulch to “try and disappear completely.” He began mushing in 1992. A member of Anchorage Local 1261, he has worked as a carpenter in Alaska since 2003. Gus says, “I’ve found running dogs to be one of the few things that can be purely beautiful.” He lists his hobbies as “chopping firewood and hauling water.”

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1994	32	13:06:20:53	1998	40	12:05:53:39



**Ellen Halverson – Wasilla, AK**

Website: None

Ellen Halverson, 53, 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 love being out on the Iditarod Trail. This will be my fifth attempt in the Iditarod. I have failed to finish twice and come in last twice, so I would like to do better. Sled dogs are the most amazing athletes. They are so much happier when they have been training. My goal with Iditarod for this year is to inspire people to move their bodies and become fit, eat well and exercise with the same dedication that mushers provide for their sled dogs.” Ellen has a son, Peter, age 10. She says her hobby is horseback riding.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2002	Scratched		2007	58	16:11:56:20
2003	Scratched		2011	47	13:19:45:49

**Awards**

- 2007 ..... Wells Fargo Red Lantern
- 2011 ..... Wells Fargo Red Lantern



**Karin Hendrickson (CAR’ in Hendrickson) – Willow, AK**

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

Karin Hendrickson, 43, was raised in the small mountain town of Mt. Baldy, California. She has a BA in Environmental Conservation from the University of Colorado at Boulder and has worked in environmental regulation since 1998. She now works in environmental regulation her in Alaska and lives north of Willow.

“I saw my first sled dog in March, 2002, when I came up to volunteer for Iditarod. By 2003, I had sold everything I owned, quit my job, and moved to Alaska to become a handler. 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. 2014 will be my sixth time in a row to leave the starting line of ‘The Last Great Race.’

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.”

Before dogs, she says she used to telemark ski, rock climb, white water kayak, train horses, hike and all kinds of other outdoor sports. Now she spends so much time with her dogs that she doesn't have time for other hobbies.

Karin is married to Varin Hoyt.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2009	40	12:18:31:12	2012	36	11:18:32:36
2010	Scratched		2013	40	11:01:44:48
2011	Scratched				



**Scott W Janssen – Anchorage, AK**

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

Scott Janssen, the “Mushing Mortician,” 52, was born and raised in Crookston, Minnesota. He married his high school sweetheart, Debbie, in 1980. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1985 with a B.S. degree with a major in Mortuary Science. Scott and Debbie moved to Alaska in June of that year for Scott to work as a funeral director at Evergreen Memorial Chapel. He has been a mortician and funeral home owner for the last 27 years. They now, along with their friend, Jordan Eastman, own 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 14 years and began mushing in 2007. He finished the Iditarod in 2011 with a team of Gebhardt dogs and in 2012, he had a blend of his own dogs and dogs from 1984 champion, Dean Osmar. His 2012 race went national when the story of the mouth to snout resuscitation of his dog, Marshall, was on Diane Sawyer’s World News Tonight, during the 2012 Race. Marshall fully recovered and is retired, living in the house with “full benefits” befitting an Iditarod veteran. 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, 8, 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 he enjoys anything outdoors, including landscaping, hiking, hunting, fishing, ridin’ Harleys, skiing on both water and snow....

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	42	12:20:28:28	2013	Scratched	
2012	39	11:21:38:31			



**Ralph Johannessen (Jo Hǎn’ Sun) – Dagali, NORWAY**

Website: none

Ralph Johannessen, 56, was born and raised in Bergan, Norway. He began mushing in 1973 and became interested in someday running the Iditarod after Robert Sørliie won the Iditarod in 2003. He has run both the Femundsløpet and Finnmarksløpet races many times and is a two time champion of the Finnmarksløpet. He is the father of two, Marte and Sondre. He lists his hobby as “outdoor life.”



**DeeDee Jonrowe – Willow, AK**  
 Website: [www.DeeDeeJonrowe.com](http://www.DeeDeeJonrowe.com)

DeeDee Jonrowe, 60, was born in Frankfort Germany while her father was in the military. The family moved to Alaska in 1971 where her dad was stationed at Ft. Richardson. DeeDee has a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences and Renewable Resources and now lists her occupation as kennel owner and dog racer. She began mushing in 1979 when she was living in Bethel and her mother was excited about the early Iditarod races. She says, "Participating in the Iditarod has become my life's passion. I begin training the day my pups are born, with my focus to provide each of my dogs a long, safe and successful career. I have helped to develop state-of-the-art nutrition, sports therapy, and training plans, working year around to develop a well-rounded life style for my dogs. In addition, it is my desire to honor God in my racing and daily life, encouraging young people to follow after their dreams." DeeDee is a member of the Big Lake Baptist Church and the Willow Running Club. She says in her spare time she enjoys trail running, mountain biking, triathlons, pure bred Labradors, Pekingese rescue and gardening. DeeDee is married to Mike, secretary of the Iditarod's Board of Directors.

Total prize money: \$\$541,348.44

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1980	24	17:07:59:24	1999	Scratched	
1981	31	16:05:05:43	2000	20	10:04:24:04
1983	15	13:18:10:25	2001	10	11:14:33:15
1984	30	15:19:18:13	2002	16	09:22:07:20
1987	22	13:02:58:15	2003	18	10:23:45:39
1988	9	13:16:29:06	2004	15	10:08:40:49
1989	4	11:37:14:16	2005	10	10:01:42:55
1990	5	11:14:41:31	2006	4	09:16:25:50
1991	7	13:13:44:10	2007	Scratched	
1992	5	11:09:05:00	2008	15	10:01:07:46
1993	2	10:16:10:50	2009	13	10:22:56:10
1994	9	11:04:25:15	2010	22	10:02:47:44
1995	4	09:11:24:07	2011	12	09:10:24:17
1996	5	09:20:18:00	2012	10	09:14:43:15
1997	4	09:18:26:10	2013	10	09:13:24:39
1998	2	09:08:49:42			

**Awards**

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



**Tommy Pedersen Jordbrudal –(Yourd'-brew-doll) Longyearbyen, NORWAY**  
 Website: None

Tommy Jordbrudal, 44, was born and raised in Kragero, Norway. He first began mushing in Juneau in 1990 and immediately began dreaming about the Iditarod. He and his family have lived in the northern most society in the world (78 N), Longyearbyen, Norway, since 2007. Before moving to Longyearbyen, they did long distance racing. He has run the major distance races in Norway multiple times. But there were no opportunities so far North. They live two days by boat from mainland Norway. They have enjoyed the Arctic wilderness and starting long dog sledge expeditions from their doorstep. He also guides dog sledge trips from day trips to longer

expeditions over weeks to such places as the North Pole. Their dream came true this winter when Janne got the opportunity to stay almost a year in Fairbanks because of her job as a visiting researcher at the University of Fairbanks. In the fall they will be bringing the family and eight dogs to Alaska, with the plan of buying eight to ten more dogs when they get here so he can run the 2014 Iditarod. Tommy and Janne are the parents of Gaute, 4, and Tril, 2. He says he enjoys outdoor life and hunting.



**Dan Kaduce** – Fairbanks, AK  
 Website: [www.dewclawkennel.com](http://www.dewclawkennel.com)

Dan Kaduce, 44, was born and raised in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin. He moved to Alaska in 1993 “for fun.” He began mushing in 1994 and did many races in Alaska and Canada, including multiple Yukon Quests, before he just “ended up running the Iditarod.” He and his wife, Jodi Bailey, also an Iditarod veteran, own Dew Claw Kennel in Chatanika, Alaska. Dan says that where they are now is the “perfect place for training dogs.” In his first Iditarod in 2010, Dan was the Rookie of the Year. For the last eight years he has been an equipment operator and says he enjoys construction and woodworking as well as hunting.

Prize money: \$8,200

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	21	10:00:05:00			

**Awards**

2010 .....Jerry Austin Rookie of the Year



**Peter Kaiser** – Bethel, AK  
 Website: [www.kaiserracing.com](http://www.kaiserracing.com)

Peter Kaiser, 26, was born and raised in Bethel, Alaska. He graduated from Bethel High School in 2005 and has worked for Knik Construction/Bering Marine for the last five years. He says, “Our family has always had dogs, and I’ve been mushing since I was a kid. Watching the Kuskokwim 300 every January sparked my interest in long distance racing, and a few years ago, I decided that I would give the Iditarod a try.” Peter says he enjoys boats, hunting and fishing. Pete and his girlfriend, Bethany, are the parents of one year old Ari.

Total prize money: \$87,300

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	28	10:11:13:59	2012	5	09:11:06:23
2011	8	09:07:06:06	2013	13	09:17:36:34



**Katherine Keith** – Kotzebue AK  
 Website: [www.akphoenixracing.com](http://www.akphoenixracing.com)

Katherine, 35, 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 University 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 10 years old.



**Jeff King – Denali Park, AK**

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

Jeff King, 58, was born in California. He came to Alaska in 1975 to "seek adventure." He began mushing in 1976 after he heard Jerry Riley's race finish while listening to the radio. Jeff has an outstanding race record including a Yukon Quest victory in 1981 and four Iditarod victories. He has three adult daughters, Cali, Tessa and Ellen. All the girls have run the Jr. Iditarod and Cali finished the Iditarod.

Total prize money: \$852,719.78

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1981	28	15:07:02:47	2002	6	09:10:42:19
1991	12	13:14:24:40	2003	3	09:23:17:
1992	6	11:10:40:35	2004	2	09:14:40:59
<b>1993</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10:15:38:15</b>	2005	12	10:02:21:21
1994	3	10:21:46:09	<b>2006</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:11:11:36</b>
1995	7	09:18:52:10	2007	5	09:15:05:17
<b>1996</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:05:43:00</b>	2008	2	09:13:05:51
1997	3	09:15:35:15	2009	12	10:21:06:06
<b>1998</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:05:52:26</b>	2010	3	0:02:22:17
1999	7	10:10:10:32	2012	Scratched	
2000	3	09:08:44:41	2013	3	09:09:21:56
2001	3	10:07:19:43			

**Awards**

- 1991 ..... Regal Alaskan First to the Yukon
- 1993 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Winners Truck
- 1993 ..... Halfway
- 1993 ..... Regal Alaskan First to the Yukon
- 1993 ..... Golden Harness Award for Lead Dogs
- 1993 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome
- 1996 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Winners Truck
- 1996 ..... National Bank of Alaska Gold Coast
- 1997 ..... GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
- 1998 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Winners Truck
- 1998 ..... National Bank of Alaska Gold Coast
- 1998 ..... Lead Dog – Golden Harness
- 1999 ..... Joe Redington Sr.
- 2003 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 2004 ..... PenAir Spirit of Iditarod
- 2004 ..... Millennium Hotel First to the Yukon
- 2006 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Winners Truck

2006 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast  
 2006 ..... Lead Dog – Golden Harness  
 2007 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast Award  
 2008 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast  
 2008 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian  
 2010 ..... PenAir Spirit of Iditarod  
 2010 ..... Millennium Hotel First to the Yukon



**Jim Lanier (La Near)– Chugiak, AK**  
 Website: northernwhites.com

Jim Lanier, 73, was born in Washington, DC and raised in Fargo, North Dakota, where his family moved when he was six years old. After receiving his medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, he moved to Alaska in 1967 to serve at the Native Hospital with the US Public Health Service. A pathologist at Providence Hospital for thirty-some years, Jim is now retired. He began mushing in 1977 and says he got the bug from Iditarod mushers Ron Gould, Dinah Knight and Jerry Riley. Jim ran his first Iditarod in 1979. Never having scratched, he has now entered and completed sixteen Iditarods, including at least one in all five calendar decades the race has been in existence. His goal is to make it six decades, and in a competitive fashion.

He says, "After that, who knows? Health aside, it's a matter of continued enjoyment of the dreaming, the planning, the training, the support of family, friends and sponsors, and of going head-to-head with people half his age and younger." 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" (2000). He is the father of four (Margaret 45, Kim 44, Willy 35 and Jimmy 16) and also the grandfather of five (Annie, Ethan, Ollie, Logan and Jessie). His hobbies include singing, hunting, commercial fishing, reading, writing and raising kids. He is the author of the book *Beyond Ophir*.

Total prize money: \$49,138

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1979	43	24:06:44:18	2005	40	12:00:07:50
1984	40	17:05:49:22	2006	41	11:07:59:30
1998	42	12:06:09:35	2007	27	10:19:01:56
1999	42	13:13:55:00	2008	20	10:06:35:40
2001	49	13:15:35:40	2009	35	12:13:24:35
2002	25	10:12:43:00	2010	24	10:05:21:10
2003	24	11:11:11:10	2012	33	11:02:58:18
2004	18	10:11:01:10	2013	35	10:21:08:46



**Sonny Lindner (LIND' ner) – Two Rivers, AK**  
 Website: NONE

Sonny Lindner, 64, was born in Michigan on Christmas Eve. He came to Alaska in 1970 and attended the University of Alaska at Fairbanks where he graduated in 1972. He began mushing in the early 70's and became interested in the Iditarod in 1976 when he had friends having fun running the race. He was the winner of the first Yukon Quest. He finished fourth in the All Alaska Sweepstakes in 2008. Sonny lists his occupation as "farming, dogs and construction." He has four adult children, Erika, R.T., Chad and Ava, and two young children, Sarah, 12, and Sam, 10. His partner is Gina. He is also a grandfather. He says, "I enjoy spending the year training and working with sled dogs. I go in the race to see if they have learned well. "

Total prize money: \$219,497.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1978	11	15:12:03:03	2003	10	10:12:18:06

1979	3	15:14:17:32	2004	Scratched	
1980	Scratched		2005	Scratched	
1981	2	12:09:33:22	2006	13	09:23:44:18
1983	8	13:05:28:20	2007	24	10:18:28:05
1985	9	18:18:33:33	2009	11	10:20:19:24
1992	22	12:08:06:08	2010	18	09:19:00:00
1993	18	11:23:49:40	2011	15	09:13:02:59
1999	24	12:10:01:50	2012	14	09:21:28:02
2001	21	12:06:11:28	2013	9	09:13:11:02
2002	13	09:19:08:29			

**Awards**

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



**Joar Leifseth Ulsom (U are' Life'seth Ool'some) – Willow, AK**

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

2013 Iditarod Rookie of the Year, Joar Leifseth Ulsom, is the fastest rookie to have ever run the Iditarod. Joar, 27, is born and raised in Mo i Rana, Norway, 50 miles south of the Arctic Circle. He and all but one of his dogs came to Alaska from Norway in 2011 to be part of Racing Beringia at [RacingBeringia.com](http://www.RacingBeringia.com) – a free online education program used by millions of students in K-12 classrooms around the world. Fueled by the adventure of the sled dogs, students learn natural and social science as they explore the region from Alaska to Chukotka, Russia, known as Beringia. Joar went live with the program in 2012 from the Yukon Quest where he placed sixth, and then went to Russia for what is considered the toughest race in Eurasia: The Nasdezhdza

Hope Race. Joan became the first non-native champion of that race in 20 years, with the fastest time ever. He and his team also claimed victory in the 2012 Chukotka Sprint Championship. With this second Iditarod, the run for Racing Beringia continues in 2014. Joar now works full-time with his very small kennel of dogs. Back in Norway, he worked as a cowboy while he ran the great races of Scandinavia: Finnmarksløpet, Femundløpet and the Amundsen Race. He is a member of Rana Trekkt-og Brukshundklubb. He lists his hobbies as hunting, fishing, camping and “the North.”

Prize Money: \$33,200

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	7	09:12:34:00			

**Award**

- 2013 .....Jerry Austin Rookie of the Year



**Jason Mackey – Wasilla, AK**

Website: None

Jason Mackey, 41, was born in Alaska and raised in the Mat Valley and at Coldfoot. He says he’s been mushing “since 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, ultimately running the Iditarod in 2004 and 2008. The first Iditarod he remembers was the 1978 Race. “Dad won in 1978.” “I love Iditarod and racing dogs. It’s been part of my life since birth. My goal is to be the next Mackey champion. There’s not anyone else anymore hungry to win, trust me. My wife and kids are

behind me 100%. It takes that to win. (Dad) Dick Mackey won in 1978. (Brother) Rick Mackey won in 1983. (Brother) Lance Mackey won four time, 2007 – 2010. Being the youngest brother and youngest son, I have had the best in the world to learn from. I feel very fortunate. This year’s team, training, and strategy will have an exciting outcome in this year’s Race.” He is a member of the Northern Lights 300. Jason is married to Lisa and they are the parents of Patrick, 21 and Jason, 19. Jason has been a heavy equipment operator for the last eight years. He says he enjoys hunting, fishing, berry picking, wood carving and back country hiking.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2004	28	10:18:58:27	2013	scratch	
2008	33	11:03:44:27			



**Kelly Maixner – Big Lake, AK**

Website: madstorkkennel.com

Kelly Maixner, 38, was born and raised in North Dakota. After graduating from Montana State University he went to dental school at Nova Southeastern in Ft. Lauderdale, where he received his dental degree. Kelly moved to Alaska in 2007 for a pediatric dental residency. Being a man who always seeks out challenges, he immediately set his sights on running the Iditarod. He started Mad Stork Kennel, LLC with two pregnant females and it has grown to around 60. Before Kelly decided to become a pediatric dentist, he was a farmer, a snowboard instructor, a soldier in the National Guard, a bartender, a doughnut-maker, a physical therapy assistant for the Phoenix Suns, a state champion boxer, and a semi-professional football player for the Bozeman Kodiaks. An avid runner and competitor, Kelly has completed multiple marathons and triathlons, including the Silverman competition. He hopes one year to finish the Iditarod, climb Mt. McKinley, and race the Boston Marathon. Every year Kelly takes his professional skills to Haiti to provide dental care for the children of Kobonal Mission. Kelly’s wife, Margaret, found him in 2009 and they were married the following year. They are the parents of Rosemary, 2, and Vendelin, an infant. He is a member of the American Dental Association and the America Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	30	10:20:29:31	2013	31	10:16:57:36
2012	32	11:01:53:02			



**Wade Marrs – Wasilla, AK**

Website: wademarrs.webs.com

Wade Marrs, 23, was born and raised in the Knik area outside of Wasilla, Alaska. He started running dogs in 1996 and first ran the Jr. Iditarod in 2007 and his first Iditarod in 2009. He’s been a tour guide for the last six years. He says, “My dogs look really good—very excited.” Wade’s says he enjoys hunting, fishing and trapping.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2009	47	14:11:6:25	2013	32	10:17:05:18
2012	Scratched				



**Newton Marshal – St. Ann, JAMAICA**

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

Newton Marshal, 30, was born and raised in Ocho Rios, Jamaica. He began mushing in 2005 and ran the Yukon Quest in 2009, thus began the dream of running the Iditarod. He worked as a tour guide for 10 years and is currently working in security in Jamaica. He says he loves horseback riding.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	47	12:04:27:28	2013	Scratch	
2011	Scratched				



**Allen Moore – Two Rivers, AK**

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

Allen Moore, 56, was born and raised in Northeast Arkansas where he received a degree in Biology from Arkansas State University. 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. "Racing sled dogs is what we do. The Yukon Quest and Iditarod are part of a full year in which we work with our SP Kennel sled dogs: training them, encouraging them and conditioning them to their physical and mental peak. 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! Our dogs are born and raised in our kennel in Two Rivers and are as committed to the Iditarod as we mushers are!" Allen lives in Two rivers, Alaska with his wife Aliy Zirkle, also an Iditarod veteran and competitor in 2014. He enjoys fishing and hunting. Allen has two adult children, Bridget and Jennifer.

Prize Money: \$4,800

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2007	36	11:20:45:15	2010	35	10:23:25:04
2008	Scratched		2011	24	19:07:37:05
2009	33	12:10:00:00	2013	33	10:18:04:21

**Award**

2011 .....Fred Meyer Sportsmanship



**Hugh Neff – Tok, AK**

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

Hugh Neff, 47, was born in Tennessee. He grew up in Evanston, Illinois and attended Loyola Academy and the University of Illinois. Before moving to Alaska in 1995, Hugh worked as a golf caddy in Evanston, Illinois. He moved to Alaska to run dogs. He says, "I love Alaska!" After reading one of Lew Freedman's books and hearing Hobo Jim's Iditarod song, he began thinking about someday running the Iditarod. He began mushing in 1996 when he was a handler for Bill Mitchell and the Earhart's. He lists his occupation as dog musher, writer and public speaker. He is a member of Mush with P.R.I.D.E., the IOFC, and Tok Dog Mushers Association and says he enjoys reading, hiking and canoeing.

Total prize money: \$88,646.67

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2004	22	10:16:21:01	2009	15	11:04:42:29
2005	26	10:22:59:39	2010	9	09:10:52:24
2006	21	10:06:22:39	2011	5	09:03:16:18
2007	19	10:13:05:15	2012	17	10:08:41:52
2008	25	10:12:12:20			

**Award**

2004 .....Rookie of the Year  
 2011 ..... Millennium Alaska Hotel First to the Yukon



**Lisbet Skogen Norris – Willow, AK**  
 Website: <http://www.facebook.com/AnadyrSiberians>.

"I grew up in Willow, AK, surrounded by dogs and loving winter, says 26 year old Lisbet Norris. "After high school, I moved to Fairbanks to attend university. At UAF, I cultivated a love for the North. I studied in Norway and Baffin Island and worked as a musher and expedition guide. I received my BA in Northern Studies and History from UAF in 2011 and decided then to pursue a long-held dream: distance mushing. I returned to Northern Norway that summer and spent the fall and winter of '11-'12 training and racing dogs in the Alta area. I loved all aspects distance mushing offered: time in nature and time with dogs. I came back to Alaska with aspirations toward Iditarod. In the fall of 2012, I moved from Fairbanks to the Mat-Su Valley to work at the family business, Underdog Feeds, and run dogs from our kennel, Alaskan Kennels, the oldest Siberian Husky kennel in the world. I qualified for Iditarod this past season and am proud and excited to field a team of AKC registered Siberian Huskies in the 2014 Iditarod."



**Curt Perano (Per ann' o)– Queenstown, New Zealand**  
 Website: [www.nzsleddog.com](http://www.nzsleddog.com)

Curt Perano, 41, was born in New Zealand and raised in Singapore, Europe, the United States and New Zealand. He began running dogs in 2000 and in 2007 moved to Minnesota to handle and work for Jamie Nelson. He and his wife handled for Jamie Nelson for three and a half years. He says, "Jamie had a big influence on how we run dogs." After leaving Minnesota, they moved to Atlin, BC, and trained there for a year. As of July 2012, their team is staged out of Willow, Alaska. Over the last five years, he and his wife, Fleur, have built and developed their own team, running and racing in the Lower 48 and then last year, the Iditarod. "I enjoy the outdoors and running dogs, and as a result, distance racing became a natural progression." Curt has been a consultant for the last ten years. "This summer, we established our own sled dog tour business in the southern Alps of New Zealand, Under Dog New Zealand. We have been fortunate to turn our dogs into a full time lifestyle allowing us to enjoy our dogs and the outdoors." Fleur and Curt are the parents of Wyatt, who will be a year old in November, 2013.

Prize money: \$3,900

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	40	11:22:40:45	2013	27	10:13:01:11



**Nicolas Petit (Pe' ti) – Girdwood, AK**  
 Website: None

Nicolas Petit, 34, says his passion for dogs and sledding started while he was in diapers. He credits his first canine companion with teaching him to walk and jump-starting his love of dogs and ultimately dog mushing. Nick was born in France and grew up in Normandy, till the age of 12, when his mother remarried and moved him and his sister to New Mexico. Nick moved to Alaska in 2000, and adopted his first Husky shortly thereafter. During a visit to Wyoming, he went on his first dogsled trip and immediately got "hooked". For this he thanks Iditarod veteran Billy Snodgrass for putting him on the runners. Ten years after adopting that beautiful Alaskan husky, he named Ugly, working construction, and dabbling with sled dog tour scene, he decided to pursue competitive dog mushing. In fall 2010, Petit connected with 15-time Iditarod finisher Jim Lanier. Petit's plan was to volunteer for Lanier, and possibly complete Iditarod qualifying races. However, Lanier's hip needed replacing, so he asked Petit to run his team for 2011. Petit took on the challenge of qualifying, training and raising funds all in the same year as his rookie Iditarod. Petit not only met the challenge, he exceeded it by finishing in 28th place, first among 13 rookies, garnering him the 2011 Jerry Austin Rookie of the Year Award. Petit lists his hobbies as snow sports and fishing.

Total prize money: \$40,100

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	28	10:15:43:01	2013	6	09:11:39:13
2012	29	10:24:23:00			

#### Award

2011 .....Jerry Austin Rookie of the Year  
 2012 .....Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher



**Mats Pettersson – Kiruna, SWEDEN**

Website: [sleddog.se](http://sleddog.se) / [irondogs.se](http://irondogs.se)

Mats Pettersson, 43, was born and raised in Kiruna, Sweden. He began mushing in 2000 after visiting Goose Lake Kennel and buying a female sled dog, Shasta, from Jeff King. Later he went back and bought an "awesome" sled dog, Rhumba. This was the start of his kennel and the breeding program for the kennel. He has run the Finnmarksløpet in Norway five times and also the Femundløpet, and the Amundsen races. He has been in the tourism business in Sweden 32 years and currently runs a tourism business just 20 km away from the world famous Ice Hotel in Sweden, Kiruna Sleddog Tours. He and his wife, Charlotta, are the parents of Linnea, 18, Clara, 165, Tolda, 14 and Zeb, 3. He is a member of Kiruna Slädhundsklubb and says he enjoys music

and sports. He's also been an ice hockey player for 20 years. "I am living my dream to participate in the Iditarod and hopefully the Yukon Quest soon also."



**Michelle Phillips – Tagish, YT CANADA**

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

Michelle Phillips, 45, was born and raised in Whitehorse, YT. Growing up she was a competitive figure skater. As a young adult, she traveled the world until she decided to stay in the Yukon. Michelle Phillips and her partner Ed Hopkins own and operate Tagish Lake Kennel. Michelle has run six Yukon Quest races (best finish 4<sup>th</sup> and Vet's Choice award in 2009). After running the Quest, she decided to try the Iditarod. For the past 13 years, when not racing professionally, Ed and Michelle, with their son Keegan, 14, (and up to 90 Alaskan huskies) have provided visitors with sled dog adventures of 30 minutes to 7-days throughout the year.

Total prize money: \$\$34,800

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	27	10:08:31:12	2012	16	10:08:18:01
2011	17	09:20:22:22	2013	24	10:02:22:06

**Award**

2012 ..... Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk



**Karen Ramstead – Perryvale, AB CANADA**  
**Website:** [www.northwapiti.com](http://www.northwapiti.com)

Karen Ramstead, 47, was born and raised in Ontario, CANADA. She studied at the University of Calgary and started mushing in 1994. She moved to Perryvale in 1999, "so I could quit my job and run dogs full time." This will be her 10<sup>th</sup> Iditarod and she has run multiple races in Alaska and the Northwest. She says, "After 10 years I continue to inspired and passionate about this event and the amazing canine athletes that run it." Karen is married to Mark. She says her hobbies are writing and photography.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2000	scratched		2006	13:19:58:52	62
2001	57	14:23:53:16	2007	scratched	
2003	scratched		2008	12:06:56:58	56
2004	58	12:08:00:04	2010	scratched	
2005	scratched				



**Ray Redington, Jr. – Wasilla, AK**  
**Website:** [www.teamredington.com](http://www.teamredington.com)

Ray Redington, Jr., 38, was born and raised in Alaska. The grandson of Iditarod co-founder, Joe Redington, Sr. and son of Iditarod veteran, Raymie Redington, Ray says that he's been mushing since he can remember. "Iditarod has always been around my family." After running the Jr. Iditarod several times, he took a break from mushing. He began racing again in 2000. He is married to the former Julia Flodin, daughter of Iditarod veteran, Steve Flodin. They lived in Two Rivers for nine years and then moved back to Knik to be closer to family. Ray and Julia's daughter, Ellen, will be EIGHT during the 2014 Iditarod and son, Isaac, will be five in December of this year. Ray says he enjoys hunting and fishing. He lists his occupation as "dog musher."

Total prize money: \$215,505

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	35	12:18:14:42	2008	18	10:05:38:16
2002	14	09:21:26:18	2009	20	11:09:59:15
2003	15	10:19:04:08	2010	11	09:12:53:44
2004	20	10:14:21:31	2011	7	09:05:41:05
2005	25	10:17:04:00	2012	6	09:12:19:11
2007	17	10:12:43:10	2013	5	09:11:04:54

**Awards**

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

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	43	12:00:329			



**Jessie Royer – Fairbanks, AK**

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

Jessie Royer, 37, was born in Idaho. She grew up on a cattle ranch in Montana where she lived for 21 years. She worked on ranches as a horse wrangler & horse teamster. She says she got her first sled dogs when she was 15. She started learning about dogs from Doug Swingley whom she worked with for a couple of years. She had dogs in Montana seven years before moving to Alaska in the spring on 1998. In December of 2011 she went back to the ranch in Montana to work. 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 and she was the winner of the invitational La Grande Odyssey in

France in 2005. She says her hobbies are horses, hunting and mounted shooting.

Total prize money: \$\$226,987.11

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	14	11:23:04:40	2008	14	10:01:00:20
2003	20	11:04:09:08	2009	8	10:15:07:25
2004	21	10:14:23:32	2010	15	09:16:04:40
2005	8	10:01:03:30	2011	10	09:09:23:17
2006	11	09:23:23:04	2013	18	09:20:20:15
2007	21	10:15:25:05			

**Awards**

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



**Mike Santos – Cantwell, AK**

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

Mike Santos, 45, originally from Massachusetts. He has been involved with dogs his whole life, his grandfather and godfather raised beagles and he always loved being around the dogs. As a kid, the only thing his parents could get him to read were accounts of polar explorers getting stranded on the ice watching their ships get crushed by the ice and making a heroic dash for land with their sled dogs. He says "It is not easy living for forty years with the lingering, almost nagging feeling that I was born in the wrong century." He always thought those days were long gone, then Will Steger reenacted Robert Perry's historic trek to the North Pole and National Geographic chronicled it on their weekly program Explorer. That was it. Mike decided he would

become a polar explorer. Quickly he had his first sled dogs and in time he heard about the Iditarod. Since then he has been striving to put himself in a position to make his dreams of running the Iditarod a reality, having finished in 2012. . Mike is married to Caitlin who teaches math and science to 3<sup>rd</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> graders at Cantwell School, the local, 3-room schoolhouse. Caitlin has helped Mike make his Iditarod dreams possible. She trains puppies, maintains our website, sews the harnesses and jackets our dogs use, and most importantly convinces Mike that it is important to follow dreams. Mike and Caitlin are the parents of infant Maxwell. Mike says he is a MountainBilly (not a HillBilly), a Ski-Doo and Husqvarna nut, loves rocks, dirt and wood and hates plumbing. He's a stay at home wannabe mom.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	Scratched		2012	34	11:14:20:04



**Justin Savidis – Willow, AK**

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

In 2004, Justin (AJ), 39, and his wife, Rebecca, packed their worldly belongings into a truck and a trailer (complete with a rocking chair strapped to the top) and moved to Willow, Alaska to follow a job offer, and more importantly, to chase down a dream of running dogs. It was a quick journey from having a couple of dogs and handling for other mushers to establishing a kennel of their own, and then setting the goal to prepare for and race in the Iditarod. Today, they operate Snowhook Kennel comprised of 40+ dogs—some are rescues, some procured from other mushers, and others are a result of the Snowhook Kennel recipe. Growing up in Southeast Idaho, Justin has always sought out adventure including mountaineering and whitewater kayaking. Mushing and the Iditarod are a natural fit for Justin’s sense of and need for adventure—he and the dogs live for pulling the snowhook! Justin’s racing career includes the Rich Allen ‘For Love of Dogs’ award for exceptional dog care and a 5<sup>th</sup> place finish in the 2013 Northern Lights 300, a 1<sup>st</sup> place finish in the 2012 Don Bowers Memorial Sled Dog Race, and a 1st place finish and receiving the Humanitarian Award in the 2011 Don Bowers Memorial Sled Dog Race—the awards for dog care are by far the bigger honors. Justin earned his degree in Parks, Recreation, and Tourism with an emphasis on experiential education from the University of Utah in 2002. Driven to help others, his career path has been focused on working with youth at risk. In addition to running dogs, Justin enjoys kayaking, carpentry, reading, climbing, and mountaineering.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	Scratched		2012	45	12:04:45:53
2011	39	12:06:08:03	2013	38	11:01:12:14



**Nathan Schroeder – Chisholm, MN**

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

Nathan Schroeder, 36, 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 15 years. Nathan was introduced to mushing at the age of 12 when he was given a ride behind a team of malamutes. “It’s been a lifelong dream to compete in the Iditarod! I’ve raced all over the mid-west. I’ve won a few, including the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon in 2010 and 2013 and have had many top two finishes. We currently have 35 dogs in our kennel. Nathan and his wife, Carey, and their three children under the age of 3 12: Gavin, Sawyer and Kinley. Nathan says his hobby is “raising kids.”



**Dallas Seavey – Willow, AK**

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

Dallas Seavey, 26, 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. He also wrestled for Sky View High School and spent one year training at the U.S. Olympic Training Center. He is a High School State Champion, a Jr. National Champion, and was on the 2005 Jr. World team. In 2009, he and his family moved to Willow to “train our Iditarod team.” Dallas’ current occupation is training and racing sled dogs. In 2011, he won the Yukon Quest and in 2012, he became the youngest Iditarod champion in its history. He is one of four mushers ever to hold a championship in both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod. Dallas and his wife, Jen, also an Iditarod veteran, are the parents of three year old Annie. Dallas is a member of USA Wrestling and the IOFC. He says he enjoys hunting, camping and fishing.

Total prize money: \$198,400

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2005	51	12:19:34:48	2011	4	09:02:27:18
2007	41	12:08:08:11	<b>2012</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:04:29:2</b>
2009	6	10:14:49:45	2013	4	09:10:20:51
2010	8	09:10:04:20			

#### Award

2009 .....Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher  
 2010 .....GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway  
 2012 .....Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Truck  
 2012 ..... Wells Fargo Winner's Purse



#### Danny Seavey-

Danny Seavey, 31, was born and raised in Seward, Alaska. He received his AA degree at UAF and his Business degree from the University of Montana. He currently operates a tour for the Seavey family. He has mushed all his life and remembers watching his dad and grandpa race when he was growing up. When Matt Giblin got injured, Danny was called in by the family to run this year's race. He finished both the 2001 and 2006 Iditarod but has taken a mushing break since then to raise his family. He and his wife, Safia, are the parents of two daughters, Allikz, 8, and Emma, 1. Danny lists his hobbies

as traveling, poker, real estate and ducks.



#### Mitch Seavey – Sterling, AK

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

Mitch Seavey, 54, was born in Minnesota and moved with his family to Alaska in 1963. He graduated from high school in Seward and wrestled for Pacific University in Forest Grove, Oregon. He began mushing in 1963. Mitch's dad, Dan, ran the Iditarod in 1973 so he decided he wanted to run the Iditarod someday. After running eleven Iditarods, Mitch won the race in 2004. In 2008, Mitch was the winner of the All Alaska Sweepstakes, held that year as a commemoration of the original All Alaska Sweepstakes 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 15 and won the Jr. Iditarod in 2012. He says his hobbies are "granddaughters."

Total prize money: \$535,405.33

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1982	22	17:10:27:00	<b>2004</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:12:20:22</b>
1995	20	11:07:00:00	2005	3	09:19:20:58
1996	15	10:06:27:00	2006	9	11:07:39:27
1997	16	10:14:31:55	2007	9	09:19:30:23
1998	4	09:12:18:00	2008	7	09:20:42:31
1999	11	10:14:26:29	2009	4	10:14:18:00
2000	9	09:19:15:45	2010	10	09:12:08:54
2001	42	13:07:56:06	2011	Scratched	
2002	11	09:14:25:10	2012	7	09:13:10:58
2003	12	10:14:12:10	<b>2013</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:07:39:56</b>

#### Awards

2004 ..... Lolly Medley Golden Harness  
 2004 ..... Wells Fargo Winner's Purse  
 2013 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Winner's Truck  
 2013 ..... Lolly Medley Golden Harness  
 2013 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast



**Lev Shvarts – Willow, AK**  
 Website: [teamollie.com](http://teamollie.com)

Lev Shvarts, 34, says, "I was born in Kiev, Ukraine, back when it was part of the Evil Empire. My parents took my brother and me and moved to the Boston area in 1989. I went to school there, and bounced off to college in Pittsburgh." Lev received an engineering degree from Carnegie Mellon University in 2001 and went back to Massachusetts where he was employed as an engineer before moving to Alaska two years ago to "play with dogs." He says, "It all started with a dog named Ollie. He is a Siberian husky, now 12 and still around and still the best dog ever. I fell in love with mushing and even though Iditarod was a long time pipe dream, I decided to chase it. My wonderful wife and I relocated to Willow two years ago for the purpose of running dogs." He currently is a handy man and says he enjoys "sleeping and eating." He is married to Melissa. And finally, he says, "I am a very proud American citizen as of 1997."



**Cim Smyth (Smith)– Big Lake, AK**  
 Website: [www.perseverancespringsfarm.com](http://www.perseverancespringsfarm.com)

Cim Smyth, 37, was born and raised in Fairbanks, Alaska. The family moved to the Wasilla area in 1991. He is the son of Iditarod veteran "Bud" Smyth. Cim says he's been mushing "since I was big enough to stand on a sled." He lists his occupation wild land firefighter. He is married to Corrine. He enjoys horses, hunting, fishing and gardening.

Total prize money: \$156,652.88

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1996	18	10:08:00:00	2008	12	09:22:24:19
2003	27	11:42:14:44	2009	5	10:14:27:50
2004	43	11:18:58:00	2010	23	10:05:05:00
2005	34	11:12:24:50	2011	21	10:05:59:44
2006	12	09:23:31:50	2012	24	10:21:26:58
2007	11	10:02:16:40	2013	15	09:19:08:22

**Awards**

1996 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome  
 1996 ..... Rookie of the Year  
 2004 ..... Sportsmanship  
 2004 ..... Most Inspirational Musher  
 2006 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome  
 2007 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome  
 2008 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome  
 2013 ..... Sportsmanship



**Ramey Smyth (Smith) – Willow, AK**  
 Website: [www.smythracingteam.com](http://www.smythracingteam.com)

Ramey Smyth, 38, was born and raised in Alaska, the son of Iditarod veterans Bud Smyth and the late Lolly Medley. His father, Bud Smyth, raced in the first Iditarod, and his mother, Lolly Medley, raced in the second Iditarod. Ramey has lived all over the State and says he moved to Willow to put down roots and build a home for his wife and children. He says he's been mushing since he was "born." He ran the Jr. Iditarod twice and won both times. He ran his first Iditarod in 1994 and has only skipped one year since. He is a log builder and dog musher. He says that his hobbies are family and all sports. "I love that my family can be so involved in this sport as they all love dogs. I would like to bring awareness to the need for cancer research funding. I am running under the banner of abstinence from drugs and alcohol." Ramey and his wife, Rebecca, are the parents of Ava, 7 and Banyan, 3.

Total prize money: \$480,153.33

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1994	21	12:06:46:10	2005	20	10:16:12:59
1995	19	11:00:07:07	2006	18	10:03:32:40
1997	15	10:14:11:20	2007	16	10:10:20:18
1998	6	09:21:47:23	2008	3	09:18:52:06
1999	12	10:15:37:10	2009	9	10:17:52:08
2000	11	09:22:08:26	2010	6	09:07:47:50
2001	13	11:22:16:40	2011	2	08:19:50:59
2002	7	09:12:02:29	2012	3	09:06:04:04
2003	7	10:07:10:33	2013	20	09:20:54:56
2004	4	09:16:23:50			

#### Awards

1995 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome  
 1997 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome  
 2001 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome  
 2002 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome  
 2003 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome  
 2004 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome  
 2008 ..... Lead Dog – City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness Award  
 2009 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome  
 2013 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time Safety to Nome



#### Robert Sørлие (Row'bert Sore'ly) – Hurdal, NORWAY

Website: [www.sled.no](http://www.sled.no) & <http://musing-teamnorway.com/>

Robert Sørлие, 56, was born and raised in Norway. He began mushing in 1970 and became interested in the Iditarod after "winning all the long distance races in Europe. I wanted more challenge." He has since won the Iditarod twice and is back in 2014 after a 7 year absence. Robert is married to Elin and they are the parents of two adult children, Håkon and Magnus. Robert says he enjoys nature and camping.

Prize money: \$194,956.67

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2002	9	09:13:44:52	<b>2005</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:18:39:31</b>
<b>2003</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:15:47:3</b>	2007	5	10:04:34:34

#### Awards

- 2003 ..... Winner's Purse
- 2003 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Winner's Truck
- 2005 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Winner's Truck
- 2005 ..... PenAir Spirit of Iditarod
- 2005 ..... GCI Dorothy G Page Halfway
- 2005 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast



**Jan Steves – Edmonds, Washington**

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

Jan Steves, 57, was born and raised in Edmonds, Washington. In 2009 she moved to Alaska to run dogs and train for the Iditarod. A 1974 graduate of Edmonds High School, she attended the University of Washington. She is currently employed in property management/repairs. She began mushing in 2008 and says she first became interested in the Iditarod "when I first spent time with sled dogs in 2007." Jan is the mother of three adult children, Nicole, Tyler, and Kelsey. She lists her hobbies as fishing, boating, hiking, skiing, and bike riding.

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	53	14:11:57:03	2013	Scratch	

**Award**

- 2012 ..... Wells Fargo Red Lantern



**Christian Turner – Australia**

Website: None

Christian Turner, 35, was born and raised in Dorrigo, Australia, where it never snowed. He began mushing in 2008. He says, "I have thought about the Iditarod since the first day I stood on the runners in Banff National Park. This race means a great deal to me. It has not been easy being from Australia and making the winter journey each year. Meeting the Seavey's boosted my personal experience and my admiration for the dogs to a new level. I love spending time out on the trail with the dogs and the fantastic people you meet along the way. The dogs I will use in the Iditarod are a great bunch of two year olds from Dallas' kennel. My goal is to make it to the end with a health team." Christian is currently living in Western Australia and working in the iron ore mines. He says his hobbies are four wheeling, soccer, travel and any new experiences.



**Abbie West – Two Rivers, AK**

Website: None

Abbie West, 40, was born in Oklahoma and raised in New Jersey. She went to school in Maine, where she was an avid downhill skier. She came to Alaska almost 20 years ago, chasing a childhood dream of being a musher. She started out working on fish docks in the summers on the Kenai Peninsula, but she says she came here to be a musher, so she started her own kennel in 1998. "I also love astronomy and astrology, so I decided to name my dogs the Cosmic Canines. They all have stellar names and you know what? These dogs are 'outta' this world. My main focus so far has been the Yukon Quest, but I decided this year to run the Iditarod and I'm excited to see new parts of Alaska. My dogs are mainly Yukon Flats Gwinch'in village dogs from Jay Cadzow's bloodline. They are tough and happy because they have been bred for generations to be used as

working dogs; trapping, hunting and travelling. Actually, half of the team has already run the Iditarod, leased to other teams, so I figured it's time I join in some of the fun too. They are young, between one and five years old, but most have multiple 1000 miles races under their harnesses so I expect them to perform well. She is a very experienced musher, having run the Quest three times and many mid distance races in Alaska and Canada. "Abbie has worked in landscaping for the last year. She lists her hobbies as astronomy, astrology, running, hunting, baking, goats (dairy), mountain biking, archery, writing and poetry.



**Mike Williams, Jr. – Akiak, AK**

Website: None

Michael Williams, Jr., 29, was born and raised in Alaska. Michael says, "I grew up mushing out of the remote village of Akiak. My dogs are prime Alaskan huskies and proven Iditarod veterans. I could not do this without the continued support of my sponsors and the endless support of my family. And most of all, I want to thank God!" Michael graduated from the Galena Charter School and attended the Alaska Vocational Technical Center in Seward for a year and FMCT, studying carpentry. He is now doing commercial fishing as well as dog mushing.

Total prize money: \$56,900

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	26	10:06:44:36	2012	8	09:13:12:18
2011	13	09:11:59:05	2013	23	10:01:57:30



**Monica Zappa – Kasilof, AK**

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

Monica Zappa, 30, was born and raised in Cumberland, Wisconsin. She holds a bachelor's degree in meteorology and a master's in geography. She has also completed one year of a PhD program in Geography. In the fall of 2010, she moved to the Kasilof area 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 of being a commercial fisherwoman, but he says she also works as "a dog musher, a waitress, or whatever pays." Monica grew up in a mushing family. Both her parents competed in and officiated the John Beargrease Sled Dog Marathon. She says, "Over the last three years, I have been raising and training a competitive team and they deserve the chance to travel the trail to Nome!" She lists her hobbies as sewing, gardening, decorating, painting, taking pictures, writing, working on websites and walking with puppies. "I am also an activist against the proposed Pebble Mine that could bring devastating impacts to the world's largest wild salmon spawn. Thus, I am Mushing to Save Bristol Bay!"



**Aliy Zirkle – Two Rivers, AK**

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

Aliy Zirkle, 44, was born in New Hampshire. She spent her childhood in New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, and Missouri. She graduated from the University of Pennsylvania with a degree in Biology and came to Alaska in 1990, where she lived in a wall tent on the Alaskan Peninsula and worked for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service. She's lived in Two Rivers for the last 16 years and says she "enjoys the community and the surrounding wild lands." Aliy lists her occupation as "dog musher" and has finished the Iditarod 12 times. "The Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race is part of my lifestyle at this point. Allen and I have a great kennel of SPK dogs and we work with them throughout the season: training them, encouraging them and conditioning them to their physical and mental peak. When the first weekend in March arrives, our kennel clears out because that is the goal of

many of the dogs – to race in the Iditarod. My goal is to have a team of SP Kennel dogs win the Iditarod and look incredibly strong and upbeat at the finish line. These dogs are born and raised at our kennel and are as committed to the Iditarod as we mushers are! It makes our jobs much easier to have a group of happy, talented, upbeat team mates to work with and ultimately race the Iditarod.” Aliy has two adult step daughters, Bridgett and Jennifer. When asked what she enjoys, she says “a good cup of coffee.”

Total prize money: \$225,239.11

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	33	12:17:53:33	2008	21	10:07:10:21
2002	29	10:28:01:45	2009	17	11:02:28:45
2003	14	10:17:17:38	2010	16	09:18:05:10
2004	34	11:02:04:44	2011	11	09:10:22:31
2005	11	10:01:46:30	2012	2	09:05:29:10
2006	14	10:00:36:50	2013	2	09:08:93:35
2007	28	10:19:57:07			

**Award**

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

**FAMOUS MUSHERS ASSOCIATED WITH THE IDITAROD**

There are names which are automatically associated with the race:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Lance Mackey** – won the 2007 Iditarod after winning the Yukon Quest only 10 days earlier – first musher to have won both races in the same year and made Dick Mackey the only father to have won the Iditarod and to have two sons also win the Iditarod, all wearing bib #13. Lance Mackey repeated his feat of winning both the Yukon Quest and Iditarod in 2008. Lance is the first musher to ever win four consecutive Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Races in a row (2007, 2008, 2009, and 2010)

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

**Dan Seavey**-1973 Inaugural musher who ran again in 2012 to celebrate the 100 anniversary of the Iditarod Trail, he is father of Mitch and grandfather of Dallas.

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

**Mitch Seavey**-2013 champion, the oldest musher to ever win the Iditarod as of 2013.

## DICTIONARY OF MUSHING TERMINOLOGY

- **Gee-** Command for right turn
- **Haw-** Command for left turn
- **Come Gee! Come Haw!** - Commands for 180 degree turns in either direction
- **Line Out!**- Command to lead dog to pull the team out straight from the sled. Used mostly while hooking dogs into team or unhooking them
- **Mush! Hike!**-All Right! Let's Go! - Commands to start the team
- **Whoa!** - Command used to half the team, accompanied by heavy pressure on the brake

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

### **Mushing Vocabulary:**

- **Alaskan Husky**-“Breed” generally used as sled dog. Not recognized by the American Kennel Club
- **Booties**  
Type of sock made to protect dogs’ feet from small cuts and sores  
Usually made out of a light weight pack cloth
- **Dog in Basket**  
Tired or injured dog carried in sled
- **Double Lead**  
Two dogs that lead the team side by side
- **Indian Dog**  
An Alaskan Husky from an Indian village
- **Lead Dog or Leader**  
Dog(s) who run in front of others  
Generally must be both intelligent and fast
- **Swing Dog/Dogs**  
Dog that runs directly behind the leader  
Helps “swing” the team in the turns or curves
- **Malamute**  
Registered breed, larger than most sled dogs  
Term often used by old timers for any sled dog  
Breed not often used in mushing teams
- **Neck Line**  
Line that connects dog’s collar to tow line and between the two collars of a double lead
- **Pedaling**  
Pushing the sled with one foot while the other remains on the runner
- **Rigging**  
Collection of lines to which dogs are attached  
Includes towline, tug lines and necklines
- **Runners**  
Two bottom pieces of the sled that come in contact with the snow  
Extend back of the basket for the driver to stand on

Usually wood, covered with plastic or Teflon  
Plastic or Teflon usually replaced at least once during the Race

- **Slats**  
Thin strips of wood that make up the bottom of a wooden sled basket
- **Snow Hook or Ice Hook**  
Heavy piece of metal attached to sled by line  
Embedded in the snow in order to hold the team for short periods of time
- **Snub Line**  
Rope attached to the sled used to tie the sled to a tree or other object
- **Stove Up**  
Injured, generally temporarily  
Applies to both mushers and dogs
- **Tether Line**  
A long chain with shorter pieces of chain extending from it  
Used to stake out a team when stakes aren't available

## ANIMAL WELFARE

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

- A complete pre-race physical examination is performed on each canine athlete by a licensed veterinarian within 14 days of the race start. Within 30 days of the race start, each dog receives an ECG evaluation to check for heart abnormalities. Since the implementation of this measure, four canine athletes have not been allowed to race.
- Pre-race blood work (CBC's and Chemistry panels) are performed on each canine athlete.
- All canine athletes are identified with a microchip implant.
- All canine athletes have current vaccinations and are de-wormed within 10 days of the race start.
- Rookie mushers are required to complete qualifying races of considerable distance before entering the Iditarod to ensure that they are experienced in providing the proper care (nutrition, hydration, rest, etc.) for their teams. In addition, the ITC hosts a mandatory two-day rookie seminar in December prior to the race.
- In addition to the high standard of care provided by the mushers themselves, thirty-five (35) licensed, professional veterinarians, volunteer their time on the trail to perform routine evaluations and administer any necessary treatments.
- During the Race itself, well over 10,000 planned checkpoint examinations take place.
- Canine care diaries are carried by each musher and are utilized by the mushers and veterinarians at each checkpoint to serve as a written medical record for each athlete in the race.
- All mushers competing in the Iditarod are members of P.R.I.D.E., which stands for "Providing Responsible Information on a Dog's Environment" and is an organization whose membership consists of a wide variety of mushers, veterinarians and other interested individuals from around the world. Those familiar with sled dogs will appreciate the guidelines established by P.R.I.D.E. as being sound advice for the care of this special breed of dog.
- The International Sled Dog Veterinary Medical Association (I.S.D.V.M.A.) published The Musher and Veterinary Handbook, a highly regarded resource which provides important information

to the musher and veterinarian alike. As an organization consisting primarily of medical professionals with an interest in and/or experience in working with sled dogs, the I.S.D.V.M.A. actively promotes and encourages their welfare and safety. Many members of the organization have served as trail veterinarians during the Iditarod itself. The I.S.D.V.M.A. also supports and encourages scientific research to further a better understanding of the racing sled dog.

- Race policies and rules are written with the greatest emphasis on the proper care and treatment of the canine athletes. Any musher found guilty of inhumane treatment will be disqualified and banned from competition in future Iditarod's.
- Ongoing, random drug testing is conducted throughout the race. In the 10 years of this program, no drug test has ever been positive.
- The result of these efforts is a level of health care and screening that even an overwhelming majority of the human population will never experience.

## SPECIAL AWARDS

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Presented by Wells Fargo Bank since 1993 to the last musher to finish Race

- Musher receives a trophy made from a red lantern
- Presentation made on the street as musher comes to finish line and again at the Red Lantern banquet

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

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

#### **Sportsmanship Award**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### **EXXONMOBIL Mushers Choice Award**

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

#### **Golden Clipboard Award**

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

#### **Golden Stethoscope Award**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Presented to the first musher to Galena.**

**Check for \$1,000.00, Twenty-Five Pounds of Bristol Bay salmon and a commemorative jacket**

**Re-presented at the Nome banquet**



# **DITAROD TRAIL INTERNATIONAL SLED DOG RACE OFFICIAL RULES 2014**

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS** (note: the #'s refer to rule numbers.)

### Pre-Race Procedure & Administration

- 1 -- Musher Qualifications
- 2 -- Entries
- 3 -- Entry Fee
- 4 -- Substitutes
- 5 -- Race Start and Re-Start
- 6 -- Race Timing
- 7 -- Advertising, Public Relations & Publicity
- 8 -- Media
- 9 -- Awards Presentation
- 10 -- Scratched Mushers
- 11 -- Purse

### Musher Conduct and Competition

- 12 -- Checkpoints
- 13 -- Mandatory Stops
- 14 -- Bib
- 15 -- Sled
- 16 -- Mandatory Items
- 17 -- Dog Maximums and Minimums
- 18 -- Unmanageable Teams
- 19 -- Driverless Team
- 20 -- Teams Tied Together
- 21 -- Motorized Vehicles
- 22 -- Sportsmanship
- 23 -- Good Samaritan Rule
- 24 -- Interference
- 25 -- Tethering
- 26 -- Passing

- 27 -- Parking
- 28 -- Accommodations
- 29 -- Litter
- 30 -- Use of Drugs & Alcohol
- 31 -- Outside Assistance
- 32 -- No Man's Land
- 33 -- One Musher per Team
- 34 -- Killing of Game Animals
- 35 -- Electronic Devices
- 36 -- Competitiveness

## Veterinary Issues & Dog Care

- 37 -- Dog Care
- 38 -- Equipment & Team Configuration
- 39 -- Drug Use
- 40 -- Pre-Race Veterinary Exam
- 41 -- Jurisdiction & Care
- 42 -- Expired Dogs
- 43 -- Dog Description
- 44 -- Dog Tags
- 45 -- Dropped Dogs
- 46 -- Hauling Dogs

## Food Drops & Logistics

- 47 -- Shipping of Food & Gear
- 48 -- Shipping Amounts

## Officials, Penalties & Appeals

- 49 -- Race Officials
- 50 -- Protests
- 51 -- Penalties
- 52 -- Appeals

## **OFFICIAL 2014 RULES**

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

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

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

#### **Rule1 -- Musher Qualifications:**

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

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

Proof of Qualification:

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

Qualifying Review Board:

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

Standards for ITC Approved Qualifying Races

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

- 1. A race wishing to be approved as a qualifier must have at least a one year track record, or the race organizations wanting Iditarod approval for their race to be a qualifier must have at least a one year successful track record, the request for qualification status be presented to the ITC Rules Committee by sign-up day, and that an annual review of all qualifiers take place.
- 2. Qualifying Races will have a minimum distance of a certified 150 miles.
- 3. Qualifying Races will have at least one licensed veterinarian on race courses until the last team is off the trail.
- 4. Qualifying Races, since 2010, will submit for each qualifying musher a completed "Musher assessment form" (Report Card) provided by the ITC to the participating Qualifying Races.

Musher Meetings:

- Rookies must attend a rookie musher meeting the weekend of December 7, 2013, dates, time and place to be determined by the Race Marshal.
- All mushers must attend the pre-race musher meeting Thursday, February 27, 2014, starting at 9:00 a.m.
- A fine from \$50 to \$500 will be assessed for tardiness at either the rookie meeting or pre-race musher meeting.

Musher Draw and Starting Positions:

- All mushers qualified to race must be present at the pre-race banquet on Thursday, February 27, 2014. Each musher will personally draw his/her starting position.
- The **drawing for starting position will be done at the pre-race banquet on Thursday, February 27, 2014.** Each musher will draw for his/her starting position. The drawing for positions will be divided into two groups. All mushers who were present in person to pay entry fee on June 29, 2013, between 9:30 a.m. and 3:00 p.m. and those who are not present but have paid their entry fee and provided the required paperwork to the ITC will draw for the first starting positions. The remaining mushers, who enter in any manner after 3:30 p.m. on June 29, 2013, will draw in the second group for starting position.

**Rule 2 -- Entries:** Entries will be accepted from June 29, 2013 until November 29, 2013 by the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC), P.O. Box 870800, Wasilla, Alaska 99687-0800. Kennels entering must indicate the musher's name with their entry. Entries may be presented to the ITC in person by the musher, or by mail. The maximum number of entries for the 2014 race will be one hundred (100). Once the maximum of one hundred is reached, a waiting list will be established, on a first-come, first-served basis. To qualify for the waiting list, the race application must be completed, signed and turned in, the participant's release must be signed, and turned in, the Nome housing form must be completed and turned in, and a one-hundred dollar (\$100.00) non-refundable fee paid. If an entrant withdraws from the list of one hundred entrants, the name at the top of the waiting list will be moved up to the entry list, upon receipt of the entry fee in full. **The slot will be held open for no more than seven (7) days after notification, before it will be offered to the next name on the waiting list.**

Mushers will sign up for the 2014 race beginning at 9:00 a.m. on Saturday, June 29, 2013 at ITC HQ in Wasilla. All who enter the 2014 race by any means before 3:00 p.m. on June 29, 2013 will be in the first draw.

Mailed entries, received after June 29, will be recorded by postmark. Entries received with the same postmark will be recorded alphabetically for southern route races and in reverse alphabetical order for northern route races.

An entry submission will **not be considered complete until the entry fee is paid in full, the race application is completed, signed and turned in, the participant's release is signed and turned in, and the Nome housing form is completed and turned in**, and in the case of rookies, the reference and qualification materials are received concerning the qualifying races. The local contact form and the dog care

agreement will be turned in **no later than food drop**. Food drops will not be accepted until the dog care agreement and the two local contact forms are turned in.

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

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

Any entry received after November 29, 2013 must be accompanied by a \$4000 non-refundable fee in addition to the entry fee. The qualified musher will be allowed to enter after all normal policies and procedures have been met, the normal entry fee has been received, the waiting list has been exhausted, and another musher withdraws. No musher will be allowed to sign up after February 13, 2014.

*Short explanation –There is no need to arrive days or hours early as doing so no longer has any bearing on your sign up order. The sign up order will be determined by random drawing at 3:15 p.m. for all those in the first draw. The sign up order will be the order in which you will draw for your starting position at the pre-race mushers' banquet. In the event that entries for the 2014 race exceed 100 on the initial day of sign ups, the qualifying committee as to rookies (under Rule 1) and the executive board as to all entrants (under Rule 2) can be utilized to determine those placed on the waiting list, as the maximum starting field is 100 teams.*

**Rule 3 -- Entry Fee:** The entry fee is \$3,000 US, which includes Iditarod and P.R.I.D.E. membership dues payable on or after June 29, 2013. This entry fee must be received by the ITC or postmarked by midnight, November 29, 2013. Payment of the \$3,000 US constitutes the musher's intention to enter the race and acknowledges that the musher agrees to comply with these policies and rules.

Upon written request, mushers withdrawing from the race on or before 12:00 noon, October 1, 2013 will receive a full refund of their entry fee. Upon written request, mushers withdrawing after October 1, 2012 and before the close of business on November 1, 2013 will receive a \$2,000.00 refund of their entry fee. After November 1, 2013 no part of the entry fee will be refunded.

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

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

**Rule 5-- Race Start and Re-Start:** The official starting date and time for the 2014 race will be March 1, 2014, at 10:00 a.m. in Anchorage, Alaska.

**The re-start will be on Sunday March 2, 2014 at 2:00 p.m. at the Willow Community Center.** Teams will leave the re-start line in the same order as they left Anchorage on Saturday.

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

**Rule 6 -- Race Timing:** For elapsed time purposes, the race will be a common start event. Each musher's total elapsed time will be calculated using 2:00 p.m., Sunday March 2, 2014, as the starting time. Teams will

leave the start and the re-start in intervals of not less than two minutes, and the time differential will be adjusted during the twenty-four (24) hour mandatory layover. No time will be kept at the Saturday event.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Rule 11 -- Purse:** A purse of \$650,000 will be shared among those placing in the top thirty (30). Every effort will be made to supplement this baseline purse. In addition, beginning with 31<sup>st</sup> place, \$1,049.00 will be paid to each remaining finisher.

## **MUSHER CONDUCT AND COMPETITION**

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

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

**Twenty Four-Hour Stop:** A musher must take one mandatory twenty-four (24) hour stop during the race. The twenty-four (24) hour stop may be taken at the musher's option at a time most beneficial to the dogs. The

starting differential will be adjusted during each team's twenty-four (24) hour stop. It is the musher's responsibility to remain for the entire twenty-four (24) hour period plus starting differential. The ITC will give each musher the required time information prior to leaving the starting line.

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

None of the) mandatory stops may be combined.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Rule 17 -- Dog Maximums and Minimums:** The maximum number of dogs a musher may start the race with is sixteen (16) dogs. A musher must have at least twelve (12) dogs on the line to start the race. At least six (6) dogs must be on the towline at the finish line. No dogs may be added to a team after the re-start of the

race. All dogs must be either on the towline or hauled in the sled and cannot be led behind the sled or allowed to run loose. All dogs must be on the towline at the start and re-start.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

For purposes of this drug use policy, drugs will be defined in the Prohibited List which will be distributed annually no later than four months prior to the start of the Race. For purposes of implementing this policy, details regarding the Therapeutic Use Exemption (TUE) procedures and deadlines for the 2014 race will also be distributed no later than four months prior to the start of the Race.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Rule 34 -- Killing of Game Animals:** In the event that an edible big game animal, i.e., moose, caribou, buffalo, is killed in defense of life or property, the musher must gut the animal and report the incident to a race official at the next checkpoint. Following teams must help gut the animal when possible. No teams may

pass until the animal has been gutted and the musher killing the animal has proceeded. Any other animal killed in defense of life or property must be reported to a race official, but need not be gutted.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- Anabolic Steroids
- Analgesics (prescriptive and non-prescriptive)
- Anesthetics
- Antihistamines
- Anti-inflammatory drugs including but not limited to:
  - Cortico-steroids (the exception is for use on feet)
  - Antiprostaglandins
  - Non-steroidals
  - Salicylates
  - DMSO
- Bronchodilators
- Central Nervous System Stimulants
- Cough Suppressants
- Diuretics
- Muscle Relaxants
- Tranquilizers & Opiates
- Blood doping
- Cheque Drops

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

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

**Drug Testing:**

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

**Rule 40 -- Pre-Race Veterinary Exam:** Veterinary paperwork, including Pre-Race Exam forms (one for each dog with proof of vaccination), Dog Microchip Identification Sheet (maximum 20), Verification of Deworming Form and the Veterinarian Signature Form (the letter from the Chief Veterinarian addressing the veterinarian who performs the physical exams which must be signed along with each Pre-Race Exam Form), has to be delivered to ITC Headquarters by the deadline of 5:00 P.M. on Wednesday, February 26, 2014. Non-compliance will result in a fine of \$100.

Mushers must initiate conversation regarding scheduling of appointments for blood tests and ECGs (EKGs) on first come first served basis, beginning at 8:00 a.m. Sunday, December 1, 2013 and must be done no later than **Wednesday**, December 18, 2013. Non-compliance will result in a \$100 fine.

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

A musher must have the team physicals performed by the veterinary staff at ITC Headquarters on Wednesday, February 26, 2014, or by another veterinarian with a current license in good standing, on or after Saturday, February 15, 2014. The following conditions will prohibit a dog from participating: seizures (epilepsy), syncope (fainting) and/or pregnancy.

A musher is permitted to have a maximum of **24 dogs** screened (microchips, EKG's and blood work) in preparation for Iditarod 2014. (All **24 dogs** must be screened at the original appointment date. There will be **no** additional screening after that time. From these, a musher may select a maximum of **20 dogs** for listing on the Dog Microchip Identification Sheet, which must be submitted to ITC Headquarters by the previously stated deadline of 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, February 26, 2014. To be listed on the Microchip Identification Sheet, dogs must have had pre-race screening by Iditarod personnel, including a documented microchip implant number, an ECG (EKG) recording and blood work. In addition, each must have had a pre-race physical exam to be eligible to race. The musher may select his/her dogs for the start from any dogs listed on a Dog Microchip Identification Sheet. Dogs for the re-start may be selected from any dogs listed on a Dog Microchip Identification Sheet and not run in another team on Saturday. The maximum number of dogs permitted at the start will be determined by the Race Marshal. A maximum of 16 dogs may be selected for the re-start. Once a dog has run in a team, that dog cannot be switched to another team.

All dogs entered in the race must have current Distemper/Hepatitis/Lepto/Parvo, Rabies and injectable, nasal or oral Bordetella vaccinations. Proof of these vaccinations, except for Rabies, must come from a veterinarian

or certified lay vaccinator, or if administered by the musher, records must include the type of vaccine, proof of purchase (i.e., receipt) and date of vaccination, in writing.

The Distemper/Hepatitis/Lepto/Parvo vaccine must have been given between April 1, 2013 and February 16, 2014.

The Bordetella (intra-nasal, oral or injectable) vaccine must have been given between October 1, 2013 and February 16, 2014.

Proof of Rabies vaccination must come from a licensed veterinarian or certified lay vaccinator. Rabies vaccines must be given no later than February 16, 2014 and must be current through April 1, 2014, according to Alaska State regulations.

All teams must be de-wormed for Echinococcus multilocularis with a medication approved by the ITC on or after Wednesday, February 19, 2014. The ITC is currently negotiating with the sponsor for donation of this de-worming medication. However, mushers should be prepared to pay for this medication if it is not available from the sponsor.

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

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

All dogs entered in the race are under the jurisdiction of the Race Marshal from the time they enter the staging area at the start until 72 hours after they have been released by the ITC veterinarians or 48 hours after the final musher finishes. The Chief Veterinarian shall have the authority to determine in his or her exclusive discretion whether any dogs require veterinary care and to select the provider, including treatment by medical specialists and or 24-hour care facilities, prior to an animal's release. In such case, financial responsibility shall be borne by the musher. If the financial responsibility is not satisfied within 30 days of the banquet, finishing status will be withdrawn until satisfied. In addition, the Chief Veterinarian will have immediate access to medical records and updated status reports of all dropped dogs for up to 72 hours after their release. In the event that a death occurs within the 72-hour period following release, an ITC representative will participate in a necropsy of that animal.

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

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

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

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

- The Race Marshal or his/her appointed judges, will determine whether the musher should continue or be disqualified.
- The Chief Veterinarian will cause a necropsy to be carried out by a board certified pathologist at the earliest opportunity and shall make every attempt to determine the cause of death.

- If a board certified pathologist is not available to perform the necropsy within the time frame to preserve the tissues appropriately, (as determined by the Race Marshal), the gross necropsy and tissue collection will be performed by a trail veterinarian following the guidelines in the *Musher and Veterinary Handbook*.
- These tissues will then be examined by a board certified pathologist.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Rule 45 -- Dropped Dogs:** All dogs that are dropped from the Race must be left at a designated checkpoint with a completed and signed dropped dog form. Any dropped dog must be left with four (4) pounds of dog food and a reliable chain or cable (16" to 18" in length) with a swivel snap and collar. Dropped dogs may be moved from the originating checkpoint to the closest dog collection area at Anchorage, McGrath, Unalakleet or Nome. Dogs may be shipped from the collection areas to a location designated by the musher at the musher's expense.

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

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

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

### **FOOD DROPS AND LOGISTICS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Skwentna

Rainy Pass

[Rohn](#)

Nikolai

[McGRath](#)

[Takotna](#)

Ophir

Cripple

Ruby

Galena

Nulato

Kaltag

Unalakleet

Shaktoolik

Koyuk

Elim

White Mountain

Safety

Nome

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

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

## **OFFICIALS, PENALTIES AND APPEALS**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

## **OFFICIALS, PENALTIES AND APPEALS**

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

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

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

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

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

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