

IDITAROD XLIII SPECIAL AWARDS 2015

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

PenAir Spirit of Alaska Award

- Presented since 2000 to the first musher into McGrath but due to race trail change in 2015 it will be presented in Ruby.
- 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 Ruby checkpoint and again at the Nome banquet

Millennium Alaskan Hotel First Musher to the Yukon Award

- Presented since 1983 in the checkpoint of Ruby or Anvik
- Five course gourmet dinner prepared at either the Ruby or Anvik checkpoints, in 2015 the race route changed and it was presented at the Galena checkpoint.
- \$3,500 and a commemorative plaque is presented at the checkpoint and represented in Nome at the Finishers 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. In 2015 it is awarded at the Huslia Checkpoint.
- First musher to the checkpoint receives a trophy and \$3,000 in gold nuggets
- Presentation made at the checkpoint and again at Nome banquet

Bristol Bay Native Corporation Fish First Award

- Presented to the first musher to Galena. In 2015 the race route changed and the award was presented in Kaltag.
- Check for \$2,000.00 and Twenty-Five Pounds of Bristol Bay salmon
- Re-presented at the Nome banquet

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 \$3,500 worth of gold nuggets
- Presentation made at checkpoint and again at Awards Banquet in Nome

Jerry Austin Memorial 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

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

Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Official Truck Award

- Presented to the Iditarod winner since 1991
- 2015 Ram 1500 4x4 pickup truck a value of \$40,000
- Presentation made at finish line and again at Nome banquet

Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher Award

- Presented since 1987
- 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

Donlin Gold's Sportsmanship Award

- Musher receives an commemorative trophy and a check for \$3,500
- Presented at the Nome banquet
- Recipient chosen by fellow mushers

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 \$3,990 and it's surrounded by a gold chain rope.

Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk Memorial Award

- Presented since 2007
- 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
- \$1,049 in "pocket change" inside of a NAC jacket
- Presented at the Nome banquet

Golden Clipboard Award

- Presented by the mushers since 2001 to a special checkpoint
- Voted on by the mushers
- Presented at the Nome 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.

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

Red Lantern Award

- Presented since the beginning 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 traditionally again at the Red Lantern banquet in Nome. However, if the musher comes in before the first Awards Banquet in Nome it will be presented there.

Donlin Gold Snowmachine Drawing

- Initiated by Donlin Gold in 2013
- Random Drawing for the mushers at the Anchorage Banquet

Northern Air Cargo 4-Wheeler Drawing

- 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.

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