

2018

# Iditarod

## MEDIA GUIDE



## TABLE OF CONTENTS

TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	
INTRODUCTION .....	1
IDITAROD BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF & COORDINATORS.....	5
PARTNERS/SPONSORS.....	6
MEDIA INFORMATION .....	7
2018 CREDENTIAL AND MEDIA GUIDELINES.....	8
MEDIA FAQ.....	11
IDITAROD FACTS.....	13
IDITAROD RACE HEADQUARTERS CONTACT INFORMATION.....	16
ALASKA VISITOR INFORMATION .....	16
2018 IDITAROD HONORARY MUSER .....	17
IDITAROD MUSER AND BIB AUCTIONS .....	18
CEREMONIAL START COORDINATOR’S MESSAGE TO MEDIA .....	19
ANCHORAGE STARTING LINE DETAIL .....	20
2018 ANCHORAGE COLOR-CODED MEDIA ZONES .....	21
RESTART - WILLOW MAP .....	22
IDITAROD INSIDER – GPS/VIDEO TRACKING PROGRAM .....	23
PACKING FOR THE IDITAROD TRAIL .....	24
IDITAROD TRAIL COMMUNICATIONS.....	25
SOUTHERN RACE ROUTE INFORMATION – 2018 & 2019.....	27
MAPS, MILEAGES AND CHECKPOINTS-SOUTHERN ROUTE- 2018 & 2019.....	28
OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT MILEAGES-SOUTHERN ROUTE.....	29
SOUTHERN ROUTE TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS .....	30
SOUTHERN ROUTE-DESCRIPTION OF THE IDITAROD TRAIL BETWEEN CHECKPOINTS.....	34
.....	39
2018 ALPHABETICAL MUSER BIOGRAPHIES & PHOTOS .....	42
DICTIONARY OF MUSHING TERMINOLOGY .....	80
ANIMAL WELFARE .....	81
2018 TEACHER ON THE TRAIL – HEIDI SLOAN .....	83
TABLE OF CONTENTS .....	
INTRODUCTION .....	1
IDITAROD BOARD OF DIRECTORS, STAFF & COORDINATORS.....	5
PARTNERS/SPONSORS.....	6
MEDIA INFORMATION .....	7
2018 CREDENTIAL AND MEDIA GUIDELINES.....	8



## INTRODUCTION

### **Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race**

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

The sled dogs that run in the Iditarod are some of the greatest athletes on the planet and providing the best care available is beyond the top priority of the Iditarod Trail Committee. The ITC takes every step to ensure the canine athletes are given first-rate care and treated with respect. Their stories about racing across the wilds of Alaska deserve to be told.

(Note: In 2012, the northern route distance changed to approximately 975 miles and the southern route to approximately 998 miles. In prior years, the distance was always more than 1,000 miles. Three things factor into this adjustment: the new ceremonial start location, which now runs from downtown Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip; the new restart location, which is now runs from Willow and factors in the loss of the Wasilla-Knik-Susitna River as well as some Yentna River mileage; and finally, the year-to-year trail conditions, which often result in rerouting and cause the trail distance to vary slightly each year. In addition, "1,049 miles" has been a symbolic figure since the inception of the race to signify the more than 1,000 miles of race trail, with the number 49 depicting Alaska as the 49th state).

Add temperatures far below zero, winds that can cause a complete loss of visibility, the hazards of overflow, long hours of total darkness and treacherous climbs to hundreds of miles of jagged terrain and you have the Iditarod – a race extraordinaire only possible in the Last Frontier. From the city of Anchorage in Southcentral Alaska to Nome on the western Bering Sea coast, each team of 12-16 canines and its musher cover more than 975 miles in 9-17 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, Alaska 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 thousands of volunteers. They man headquarters in Anchorage and Nome. 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 puts man and animal against nature; against wild Alaska at its best. 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.



## **AN EVENT FOR ALL ALASKA**

Anchorage is the ceremonial starting line, a city of nearly 300,000 people, streetlights, freeways and traffic. From there, a field of dog teams, which varies in number each year, runs to Campbell Airstrip, approximately 11 miles. After a restart the following day in the Matanuska Valley in Willow, the mushers leave the land of highways and bustling activity and head out to the Yentna Station Roadhouse and Skwentna, then up through Finger Lake, Rainy Pass, over the Alaska Range, 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 alternates every other year, one going north through Cripple, Ruby and Galena, and the other south through Iditarod, Shageluk and Anvik.

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

The route encompasses large metropolitan areas and small Alaska Native villages. It causes a yearly burst of activity, increased airplane traffic and excitement to areas otherwise quiet and dormant during the long Alaska winter. Everyone gets involved from very young school children to the old timers who relive the colorful past of Alaska as they watch each musher and their team. The race is an educational opportunity and an economic stimulus to these small Alaska 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 committee. 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 1920s, 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 U.S. Congress. 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 the trail, people used it to get from place to place and supplies were transported. Priests, ministers and judges also 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 airplanes in the late 1920s signaled the beginning of the end for the dog team as a standard mode of transportation, with the final blow to the use of the dog team came with the appearance of snowmobiles.

By the mid-60s, most people in Alaska didn't even know there was an Iditarod Trail or that dog teams had played a very important role in Alaska's early settlement. Page, a resident of Wasilla and self-made historian, recognized the importance of recognizing the use of sled dogs as working animals and of the Iditarod Trail as well as the important part they 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 Page and Redington began promoting the idea of the Iditarod Race to the extent that Joe and VI Redington moved to the Knik area at Flat Horn Lake, just 30 miles out of Knik, and never moved back.

The Aurora Dog Musher's Club, along with men from the Adult Camp in Sutton, helped clear years of overgrowth 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 at the race, with Joe and VI Redington donating one acre of their land at Flat Horn Lake, adjacent to the Iditarod Trail, to help raise \$10,000 toward the purse. Contestants from all over Alaska and even two contestants from Massachusetts entered the first Iditarod race. However, it was newcomer Isaac Okleasik, from Teller, Alaska, who won the race with his team of large working canines. 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 U.S. Army reopened the trail as a winter exercise and in 1973, the decision was made to take the race over 1,000 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 who believed it was crazy to send a bunch of mushers out into the vast uninhabited Alaska wilderness. But the race went! Twenty-two mushers finished that year. Since 1973, there have been 779 finishers and a total of 2,172 racers to cross the finish line, as of 2017. Mushers from 23 states, five continents – including North America, South America, Europe, Asia and 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 race, including 134 women.

The late Dorothy G. Page, who is considered the “Mother of the Iditarod,” is quoted in the October 1979 issue of the Iditarod Runner on her intent for the race: “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 Alaska event. I think the fact that it starts in Anchorage and ends in Nome opens 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 46th Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race will begin on Saturday, March 3, 2018. The teams will leave the start line at the corner of Fourth Avenue and D Street at two-minute intervals starting at 10 a.m. About 69 teams are expected.

The mushers follow streets and bike trails through Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip. From there, the canines are loaded into 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 – originally to Eagle River – portion does not count in the overall time to Nome.

On Sunday, March 4, 2018, mushers will line up at the restart area in Willow, about 70 miles north of Anchorage. At 2 p.m., the first team will depart on its way to Nome.

From Willow, they head over 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 tailgate party to 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 typically expect it to be between eight and 10 days, making it on Monday or Tuesday. 2017 Iditarod champion Mitch Seavey completed the race in eight days, three hours, 40 minutes, 13 seconds, which is a new Iditarod record.

### **BEHIND THE SCENES**

It takes so much more than a field of willing mushers and anxious sled dogs to run the Iditarod Trail race, the Iditarod Trail Committee depends on a hardworking force of volunteers and supporters to raise the necessary money all year around. Our race sponsors supply more than \$2 million in cash donations and/or goods and services. A semi-annual raffle is held as well as an IditaRider 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 and 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 and Nome during the race to disseminate information and race standings to the public. Volunteers man each of the 20 plus checkpoints, including some who 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, that shuttle dog food and mushers' supplies to each checkpoint, moving veterinarians and race officials up and down the trail, hauling tired dropped canines 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 canine 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 nearly impossible to raise otherwise. Their dedication and involvement is what this historic Alaska event is all about.

### **ON THE TRAIL**

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.

Whether they run during the day or night, each musher has a different strategy on and off the trail. In addition, each has a different approach for dog care, dog diet, dog stamina as well as their own personal ability. Mushers spend an entire year getting ready and raising the money needed to get to Nome. Some even 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 miles of training have to be put in 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 ..... Wade Marris  
Director ..... Joahn Handeland  
Director ..... Mike Owens  
Director ..... Rick Swenson  
Director Emeritus ..... Joe Redington, Sr.

**STAFF AND VOLUNTEER RACE COORDINATORS**

Chief Executive Officer ..... Stan Hooley  
Chief Operating Officer ..... Chas St. George  
Race Director / Race Marshal ..... Mark Nordman  
Assistant to the Race Director ..... Joanne Potts  
Race Coordinator ..... Andy Willis  
Education Director/Volunteer/Idita-Rider Musher Auction ..... Diane Johnson  
Finance Director/Membership ..... Don Patterson  
Sales Director ..... Starre Szelag  
Media Coordinator ..... Bri Kelly, Thompson & Co. PR  
Chief Veterinarian ..... Stuart Nelson, Jr., DVM  
Chief Pilot ..... Bert Hanson  
Start Coordinator ..... Karl Heidelberg  
Restart Coordinator ..... Darrell Davis  
The Lakefront Anchorage Headquarters Coordinator ..... Cheryl Zachary  
Trail Communications Coordinator ..... Molly Farr  
Nome Coordinator ..... Mike Owens  
Iditarod Insider ..... Greg Heister  
[Iditarod.com](http://Iditarod.com) ..... Art Aldrich

**RACE OFFICIALS AND JUDGES**

Race Official ..... Mark Nordman  
Judge ..... TBD  
Judge ..... TBD



## PARTNERS/SPONSORS

### Principal Partners



### Lead Dog Partners



### Team Dog Partners



### Wheel Dog Partners



## MEDIA INFORMATION

Media credential applications due by **Feb. 15, 2018**

Applications can be found at <http://iditarod.com/resources/press-media/>

Media briefing will be held at **1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018**, at The Lakefront Anchorage, at 4800 Spenard Road.

Media must attend the briefing in order to pick up media credentials. This is the **ONLY** time media can pick up credentials for Anchorage or Willow.

**Please plan accordingly: any media that do not attend the briefing will not receive credentials.**

The media briefing is where you will receive information needed for covering the ceremonial start, restart and the trail.

If you will be covering the Iditarod finish in Nome, please note that there will be a separate mandatory media briefing several hours before the projected finish of the first musher. An email will be sent out, as well as posters put up in the Mini Convention Center, to media who are credentials for the Nome finish once the time and date of the briefing is determined.

### **NOME MEDIA BRIEFING**

Mini Convention Center

409 River Street

Nome, AK 99762

Projected Finish Date: **Tuesday, March 13, 2018**

Your credentials used along the trail and in Anchorage cannot be used to access the finish chute in Nome. However, there will be a designated media section near the finish line for media use.



## 2018 CREDENTIAL AND MEDIA GUIDELINES

When applying for media credentials for the 2018 race, please read the below guidelines prior to filling out an application to ensure you meet eligibility requirements.

- You must be on assignment from a qualified media outlet and provide details of the assignment.
- Specialty photography and personal website photography are not considered valid assignments. Freelance media are required to detail and submit proof of assignment when submitting an application to [media@iditarod.com](mailto:media@iditarod.com).
- For documentary film crews and video production companies, a written request must be submitted to [media@iditarod.com](mailto:media@iditarod.com) no less than one month prior to the start of the 2018 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and should include the following:
  - Information about the company; the purpose of covering the race; a synopsis of the film, video, or documentary; a reference for the Iditarod Trail Committee to reach out to for validation; and the sources of financial support for the project.
- Media credentials will not be issued if supporting documentation is not emailed at the time of application. Partial applications will not be approved.
- Media credentials can be picked up at the media briefing on **Wednesday, Feb. 28, 2018, at 1 p.m.** at The Lakefront Anchorage. Credentials cannot be picked up prior to the briefing and media must attend the briefing in order to receive credentials.
- Media credentials issued are not transferable and may be revoked at any time. There is a fee for lost media credentials.
- Receiving credentials in the past does not guarantee future approvals.

The Iditarod Trail Committee **will not** issue credentials to the following representatives:

- Advertising/sales representatives of publications
- Advertising, marketing, or public relations representatives from sponsor companies or agencies, including individual mushers
- Spouses and other guests of journalists covering the race
- Representatives of organizations selling or producing publications, video/audio tapes, or website intended for marketing, advertising, or public relations purposes
- Organizations whose main objective is to promote a product or service (i.e. marketing, advertising, financial analysts, or public relations personnel).

Individuals with media credentials that violate Iditarod Trail Committee media credential policies will immediately forfeit media credentials for the race, as well as any subsequent media opportunities before, during and after the race. These violations include:

- Selling, marketing, or representing a company for the purposes of obtaining advertising from Iditarod sponsors, mushers and staff.
- Misrepresentation to obtain media credentials to cover the 2018 race.
- Deliberately accessing a credential zone outside of your designated credential zone. This includes designated areas at the ceremonial start in Anchorage, official restart in Willow and finish in Nome.
- Sharing or distributing embargoed media materials beyond those immediately involved in the development of news coverage prior to the embargo lift



- Product promotion that implies that the Iditarod Trail Committee endorses said product and/or usage of the Iditarod logo without the express written consent of the Iditarod Trail Committee.

In evaluating all media credential applications, the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC) will consider the following:

- Previous journalism experience.
- The commercial nature of any website, including advertisers.
- The amount of content produced.
- How the content will be used.
- How long the outlet has been in existence, its audience, and circulation/unique visitor numbers.

## Media Guidelines

- 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 are not authorized to use trademarks in non-news contexts, specifically for commercial purposes unless a separate license or permission is obtained from the Iditarod.
- Any and all use of any non-text content owned by ITC must first be approved by ITC, and if approved, 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. Further, such content may not be sold or licensed 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, unless otherwise approved by Iditarod.
- 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.
- 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.
- Official Media partners (Iditarod Insider Productions, Denali Media (KTVA-TV) and Ohana Media Group) are solely allowed to broadcast live coverage within the Iditarod Trail Committee-controlled media zones and staging areas at the ceremonial start, restart and finish of the race. Further, the use of boom cameras (including jibs) are prohibited within three blocks of the starting line of the Iditarod ceremonial start.

## Official Media

- Iditarod Insider Productions, Denali Media (KTVA-TV) and Ohana Media Group have preferential access and positioning and are identified by a credential that indicates they are “Official Media.”

## Trail Etiquette and Expectations: Respect the four-legged athletes

- Media credentials must be worn in all checkpoints and specified media areas.
- Dog teams always have the right-of-way, no exceptions.
- Do not touch sled dogs without musher approval.
- Do not help mushers unless they ask for your help. Strict rules are in place against mushers receiving outside assistance.
- 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 canines.
- Do not ask to interview a musher during any medical exam of the canines and/or musher.
- 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 canines have been taken care of, mushers can then give consent to be interviewed.
- Media are not allowed inside the parking/staging area (where canines are fed and rested) without prior approval of the race judge or race marshal. The musher and/or race judge or race marshal must escort media in these areas. Drop canine areas are restricted to mushers and race personnel only. Media are permitted to take photos of mushers and canines from outside the canine staging area.
- Media are expected to ensure they have appropriate escorts or expertise for trail travel. Any on trail coverage plans must be fully detailed and discussed with ITC.
- Food, equipment, shelter, Internet and phone connectivity provided by the Iditarod are for race communications and race personnel only.
- 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.
- In the event that a race official or musher considers the conduct of media to be detrimental or obstructive to them or the race they may register a protest against any media personnel. Current and future media credentials could be revoked or denied.
- 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 may not share or distribute media credentials to others not approved by ITC. Doing so will cause your credential to be revoked.

Need assistance in applying for credentials? Contact Bri Kelly with Thompson & Co. Public Relations, by email at [media@iditarod.com](mailto:media@iditarod.com), or by phone at 907-376-5155 ext. 106.



## MEDIA FAQ

**Can I use Iditarod logo, videos or pictures from the website?** No, unless specific approval is authorized by the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC). Please note that this will most likely require a license agreement and fee for defined use. Insider footage is available for sale and cost is determined by how much footage is needed. For information on purchase or license of items on the Iditarod website, please email [shooley@iditarod.com](mailto:shooley@iditarod.com).

**Do credentialed media receive access to the Iditarod Insider for free?** In the media room at the Iditarod Race Headquarters at The Lakefront Anchorage, we have equipment available for media use which has the Insider Video on-demand and Insider GPS Tracker available free of charge. Otherwise, you may [purchase an Iditarod Insider subscription](#).

**Can I attend the banquet for free?** Media wanting to attend the banquet can do so for free for news purposes only, provided they stand and do not eat. Media often choose to purchase a ticket, as the event is more than four hours long. Banquet tickets are available for \$100.00 and can be purchased at: <https://iditarod.ejoinme.org/mushersbanquet>. This event is the main fundraising event for the Iditarod Trail Committee, where mushers draw for their starting order from a mukluk on stage at the Dena'ina Civic + Convention Center in Anchorage. The banquet is an opportunity to meet mushers and visit with fans from all over the world. Please understand that mushers are seated with their own sponsors and special guests, so be respectful of their time.

**Is there a media center with free Wi-Fi access?** Iditarod Race Headquarters at The Lakefront Anchorage offers Wi-Fi for guests staying there. Additionally, the media room located in the The Lakefront Anchorage has designated equipment for media with Wi-Fi access. You must show your media credentials to use.

**Is Iditarod interested in purchasing my photos?** We do not purchase photos. The ITC has an agreement with Jeff Schultz who is the Iditarod's official photographer. You may contact him by email at [Jeff@Schultzphoto.com](mailto:Jeff@Schultzphoto.com) or by phone at 907-279-2797.

**Can the Iditarod help me with my travel arrangements or accommodations on the trail?** Media are responsible for arranging their own travel arrangements. Iditarod staff can answer general questions about the area and specific information about the race.

For more travel information see the following:

**State of Alaska tourism office**  
[www.travelalaska.com](http://www.travelalaska.com)

**Visit Anchorage**  
524 W. Fourth Avenue  
Anchorage, AK 99501  
907-257-2363 or 800-476-1255  
[info@anchorage.net](mailto:info@anchorage.net)  
[www.Anchorage.net](http://www.Anchorage.net)

**Visitor Information Center**



Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport  
907-266-2437 or 907-266-2657

**Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau**

7744 Visitors View Court  
Palmer, AK 99645  
907-746-5000  
[www.alaskavisit.com](http://www.alaskavisit.com)

**Nome Convention & Visitors Bureau**

P.O. Box 240  
Nome, AK 99762  
907-443-6555  
[www.visitnomealaska.com](http://www.visitnomealaska.com)

**Can I call the mushers? Will Iditarod give me their phone numbers?** First, refer to [each musher's bio](#). You will find that they contain valuable information about the mushers and their kennels. Most bios also have a website listed for contact information. We are only able to provide additional contact information for those mushers who have indicated they want this information distributed. The best time to reach these mushers is usually prior to the start of the Iditarod.

**How many mushers have completed the Iditarod?** As of the finish of the 2017 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, 779 mushers have completed the race.

**Does the Iditarod race route change?** Yes, in odd years the race follows the [southern route](#). In even years the race follows the [northern route](#). The board decided unanimously in 2017 that the race course would follow the southern route in 2018 and 2019.

**What is the length of the race?** In 2012, ITC published trail mileage using data gleaned from GPS mileage (southern route = 998 miles, northern route = 975 miles) calculations. While this data gets us close to the actual mileage, it is not exact as the units do not include a sufficient number of data points to account for all full twists, turns and elevation changes in the trail. Also, we know that the trail is not the same distance as it may be “set” or “broken” and “marked” somewhat differently in certain areas from year to year. Because of these factors, we often continue to use the symbolic figure of 1,049 miles, a number first used in the very early years of the Iditarod: 1,000 miles of trail and 49 to identify Alaska as the 49<sup>th</sup> state.

Permanent changes to the start – running only from downtown Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip instead of to Eagle River – and the change of the restart location from Wasilla to Willow – loss of mileage from Wasilla-Knik-Yentna River runs – has eliminated approximately 35 miles from the race.



## IDITAROD FACTS

- The Iditarod starts in downtown Anchorage, Alaska, on Saturday, March 3 at 10 a.m.
- The Iditarod restarts in Willow, Alaska, on Sunday, March 4 at 2 p.m.
- As of Feb. 18, 2018, 67 mushers are signed up for the 2018 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, including 53 veterans and 16 rookies. Entrants hail from eight states – Alaska, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, New York, Washington – and from three countries – United States, Canada, and Norway. The record number of mushers starting the race was 96 in 2008.
- The Iditarod traditionally pays the highest purse in sled dog racing. The 2017 purse was approximately \$750,000, distributed between the top 30 finishers with \$1,049 paid to each additional finisher for a total of \$791,960.
- The teams average 16 canines, which means over 1,000 canines will leave the starting line in 2018. Each musher can start with a maximum of 16 canines down to a minimum of 12 canines, and can finish with as few as six canines.
- Three 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 Martin Buser, Jeff King and Mitch Seavey.
- The race crosses two mountain ranges, including North America's largest mountain range, the Alaska Range, and runs along the Yukon River and over the frozen Norton Sound.
- The southern route will be used in both 2018 and 2019. It runs from Ophir thru Iditarod, Shageluk, Anvik, Grayling, Eagle Island, Kaltag, Unalakleet, Shaktoolik, Koyuk, Elim, \*Golovin, White Mountain, and Safety before ending in Nome. \*NOTE: Golovin is not a checkpoint, but the race goes through this village. ITC appreciates the village's support and willingness to help the Iditarod.
- There are 19 checkpoints on the southern route, including Anchorage and Nome, three of which are uninhabited during the rest of the year.
- Five teams signed up for the 2018 Iditarod also signed up for the 2018 Yukon Quest – Allen Moore, Hugh Neff, Rob Cooke, Matt Hall, and Bradley Farquhar.
- Volunteers are an integral part of the Iditarod. Currently there are 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 2018 there will be over 1,500 volunteers involved in some way or another.
- The 2018 race has more than 50 veterinarians responsible for caring for canines along the race course.

- There have been 779 individual team finishers for a grand total of 2,172 teams to cross the finish line as of 2017. Musher's hailing from 23 states, five continents – North America, South America, Europe, Asia and Australia – and 22 foreign countries – Argentina, Austria, Australia, Belgium, Brazil, Canada, Czechoslovakia, Denmark, France, Great Britain, Germany, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, Serbia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom – have finished the Iditarod since 1973, including 134 women.
- Musher's can be shy about talking about themselves; however, they will usually talk your ear off about their canines.
- Checkpoints are staffed by volunteers who range from locals to visitors who have traveled hundreds of miles to Alaska. Volunteers may provide interesting stories about their communities and/or volunteer work. Some volunteers are actually on their vacation, and return year after year to volunteer. Ask them how long they have been a volunteer and you will be surprised to find that many have more than 20 years of experience.
- 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 2017 by Mitch Seavey with eight days, three hours, 40 minutes and 13 seconds, breaking the previous record by Dallas Seavey of eight days, 11 hours, 20 minutes and 16 seconds.
- The closest finish was in 1978 when 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 43 Iditarod's.
- Susan Butcher, Martin Buser, Doug Swingley, Jeff King, Lance Mackey and Dallas Seavey have each won four Iditarod championships. Mackey is the only musher to have won four consecutive races with Butcher, Swingley and Seavey all winning three consecutive races.
- Dick Mackey, Rick Mackey and Lance Mackey (father and two sons) have won the Iditarod. All three won wearing bib number 13 in their sixth race. Rick Mackey won the race in 1983 to become the first son of an Iditarod champion to match his father's accomplishment. Emmitt Peters was also wearing bib number 13 when he won in 1975.
- Lance Mackey is the first, four-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.
- 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. Dallas Seavey became a four-time winner in 2016 with consecutive victories in 2014, 2015 and 2016. Butcher, Swingley and Seavey have the distinction of being the only Iditarod champions who have three consecutive victories.

- The youngest musher to ever compete in the Iditarod was Dallas Seavey in 2005 when he turned 18 on March 4, 2005. He was also the youngest winner in 2012.
- The oldest musher to ever compete is Colonel Norman D. Vaughan who last competed in 1992 at the age of 86.
- The Iditarod traditionally pays the highest purse in sled dog racing.
- On the trail, canines need about 10,000 calories daily. How that is attained depends on their feeding program, which varies from kennel to kennel.
- The core diet is a premium kibble, specifically designed to have much higher levels of protein and fat than regular commercial pet food. Additional fat supplements (saturated or unsaturated, i.e., animal or plant sources) are needed to attain the 10,000-calorie level. Meats and fish are used to enhance palatability and/or as snacks. Of course, the more fat that is in the meat, the less pure fat supplement needed.
- There has been a huge amount of research into the topic of dog food. Authors include Grandjean (Royal Canin), Reynolds (Purina) and Reinhart (Iams). Knowledge gained by research into the nutritional needs of the sled dog has led to significant improvements in pet food formulations.

## IDITAROD RACE HEADQUARTERS CONTACT INFORMATION

The Iditarod Trail Committee operates its primary race headquarters in Anchorage at The Lakefront Anchorage, 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).

<b>General Information, Updates and Race Business:</b> Anchorage Race Headquarters at The Lakefront Anchorage Hotel, 4800 Spenard Road, Room 1004	907-248-MUSH (6874)	Open throughout the business day March 2, 2018, then open 24/7 March 6–24, 2018
<b>General Information and Updates:</b> Nome Race Headquarters at Mini-Convention Center	907-443-MUSH (6874)	Open March 12, 2018
<b>Iditarod Media Coordinator:</b> Bri Kelly, Thompson & Co. Public Relations	907-376-5155 ext. 106 <a href="mailto:media@iditarod.com">media@iditarod.com</a>	

## ALASKA VISITOR INFORMATION

State of Alaska tourism office: [www.Travelalaska.com](http://www.Travelalaska.com)

### Visit Anchorage

www.Anchorage.net  
 524 W. Fourth Avenue, Anchorage, AK 99501  
 907-276-4118 or 800-476-1255

### Visitor Information Center

Ted Stevens Anchorage International Airport  
 907-266-2437 or 907-266-2657

### Mat-Su Convention & Visitors Bureau

[www.Alaskavisit.com](http://www.Alaskavisit.com)  
 7744 Visitors View Court, Palmer, AK 99645  
 907-746-5000

### Nome Convention & Visitors Bureau

[www.Visitnomealaska.com](http://www.Visitnomealaska.com)  
 P.O. Box 240, Nome, AK 99762  
 907-443-6555

## 2018 IDITAROD HONORARY MUSER



### Joseph Redington Jr. – 1943- 2017

On Oct. 6, 2017, the Iditarod Trail Committee board of directors unanimously selected Joseph (Joe) Redington Jr. as the 2018 Honorary Musher. Joe passed away in Fairbanks on Aug. 14, 2017, at the age of 74. He was the oldest son of Joe Redington Sr., the “Father of the Iditarod”

Board President Andy Baker contacted Joe’s wife, Pam Redington, to give her the news. Pam said she and her family were honored and that Joe would have been honored as well.

Traditionally, the Honorary Musher is the first to leave the ceremonial start’s starting line in downtown Anchorage at the corner of Fourth Avenue and D Street. On March 3, 2018, that position will be reserved for Joe Redington Jr.’s wife, Pam.

Joe had a long history of competitive mushing, winning the 1966 Fur Rendezvous while he was serving in the United States Army. He placed 12 th in the 1967 Iditarod Centennial Race. Later, he finished the 1974 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in ninth place. He ran the Iditarod one more time in 1975, finishing in third place.

Joe and Pam lived in Manley Hot Springs where they raised their daughter, Heather, and son, Joe Ray. In 2003, 2015, and 2017, Joe Redington was instrumental in transforming the community of Manley Hot Springs into the third checkpoint on the Iditarod Trail when the race restart was moved to Fairbanks due to poor weather conditions.

In 2017, the Manley Hot Springs checkpoint was awarded the prestigious Golden Clipboard award. This award is presented by the Iditarod Trail Committee to the most outstanding checkpoint and Joe Redington played a big role in Manley Hot Springs receiving that award.

## IDITAROD MUSER AND BIB AUCTIONS

### **IDITARIDER MUSER AUCTION – ONE-OF-A-KIND EXPERIENCE**

Not only is the IditaRider Musher Auction one of the largest fundraisers for the Iditarod, but it is definitely one of the most adventurous! The IditaRider Musher Auction, which opens on Dec. 1 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 \$1,300 with many sleds selling for the maximum – \$7,500 per sled. The auction closes on the third Friday in January each year. Remember: Bid! Win! Ride!

### **2018 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.iditaroduction.com](http://www.iditaroduction.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.

## CEREMONIAL START COORDINATOR'S MESSAGE TO MEDIA

### ANCHORAGE START INFORMATION

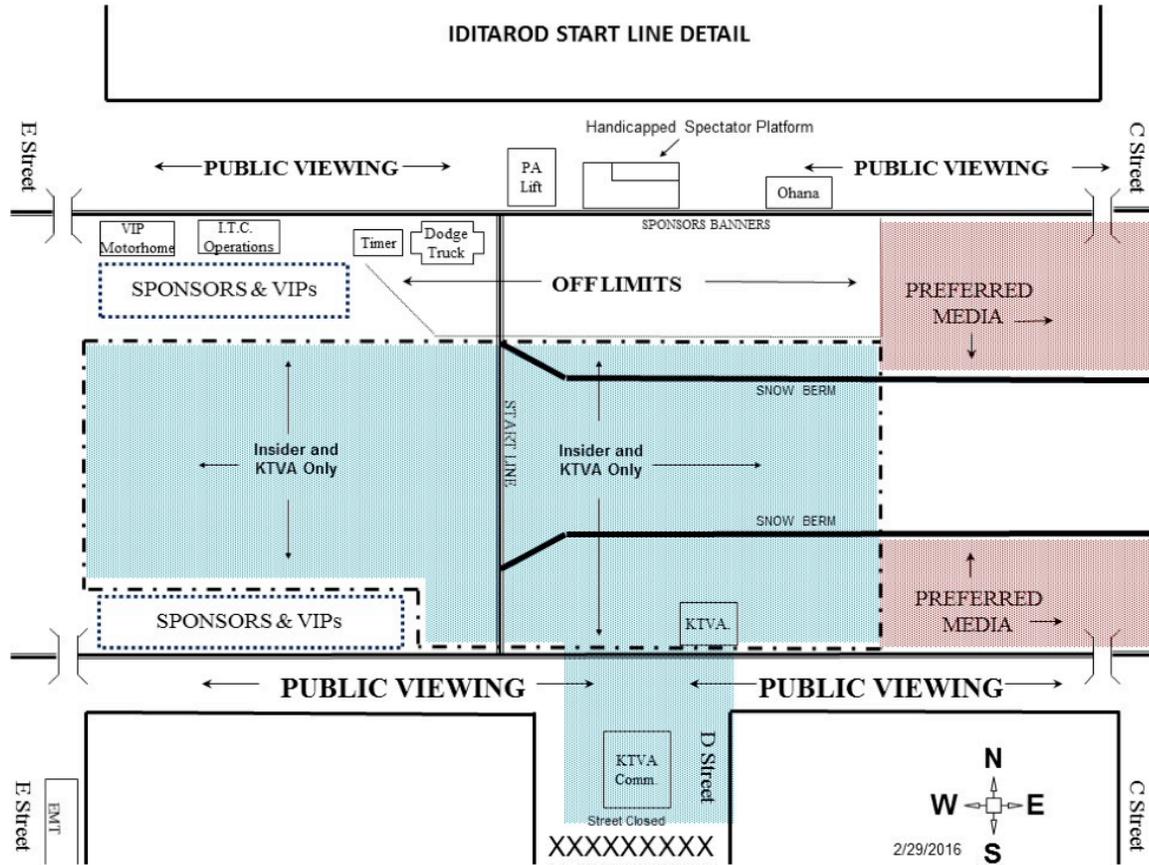
Welcome to the 2018 Iditarod! This portion of the media guide includes a brief event timeline for the ceremonial start in Anchorage along with maps depicting Fourth Avenue and the trail through Anchorage to the Bureau of Land Management complex at Campbell Airstrip.

There are four guidelines that concern media at the start:

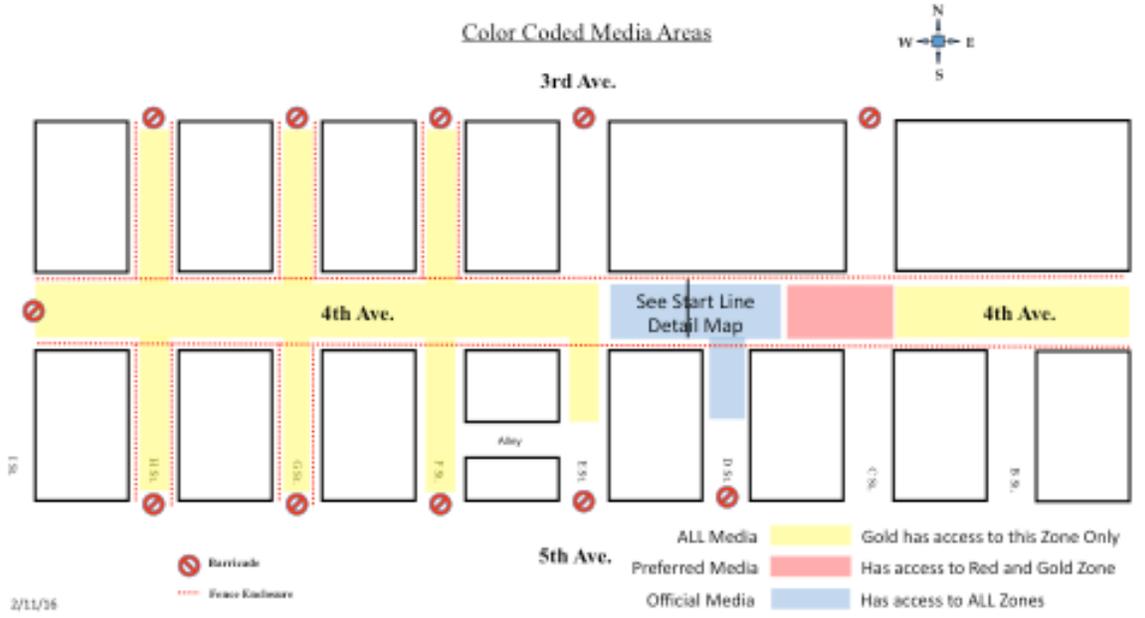
1. It is imperative that members of the media not impede the activities of the mushers and canine teams, handlers, officials or the volunteers. The media is asked to make way for these people, as well as the teams, and to comply with security requests.
2. **COLOR CODED MEDIA CREDENTIALS MUST BE VISIBLE AT ALL TIMES.** Security will ask you to produce these credentials if they are not visibly displayed. Anyone who cannot produce and display the proper credentials will be asked to leave the designated media area. Members of the media who have questions or concerns regarding credentials may inquire with the media coordinator at the Iditarod operations motorhome.
3. **BLUE ZONE (partner media):** Priority positions for start-line coverage will be reserved exclusively for partner media including: KTVA-TV, Ohana Media Group, Iditarod Insider Productions and other entities under contract with Iditarod. **NO OTHER MEDIA WILL BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE AREA BETWEEN THE KTVA-TV CAMERA PLATFORM AND E STREET.**
4. **RED ZONE (other television stations, newspapers, production companies and their videographers and photographers):** People and equipment will only be allowed **BEHIND** the snow berms between the start line and C Street. **YOU MAY NOT** position your equipment on, or lay on, the snow berms. The first 75 feet on the north side of 4th Avenue, running east from the start line, is off limits to any and all personnel, including media.
5. **GOLD ZONE:** All other credentialed media.

The primary purpose and responsibility of all start volunteers is to provide for the safety and wellbeing of the mushers and the canine athletes – we simply ask that you respect their efforts.

# ANCHORAGE STARTING LINE DETAIL



# 2018 ANCHORAGE COLOR-CODED MEDIA ZONES

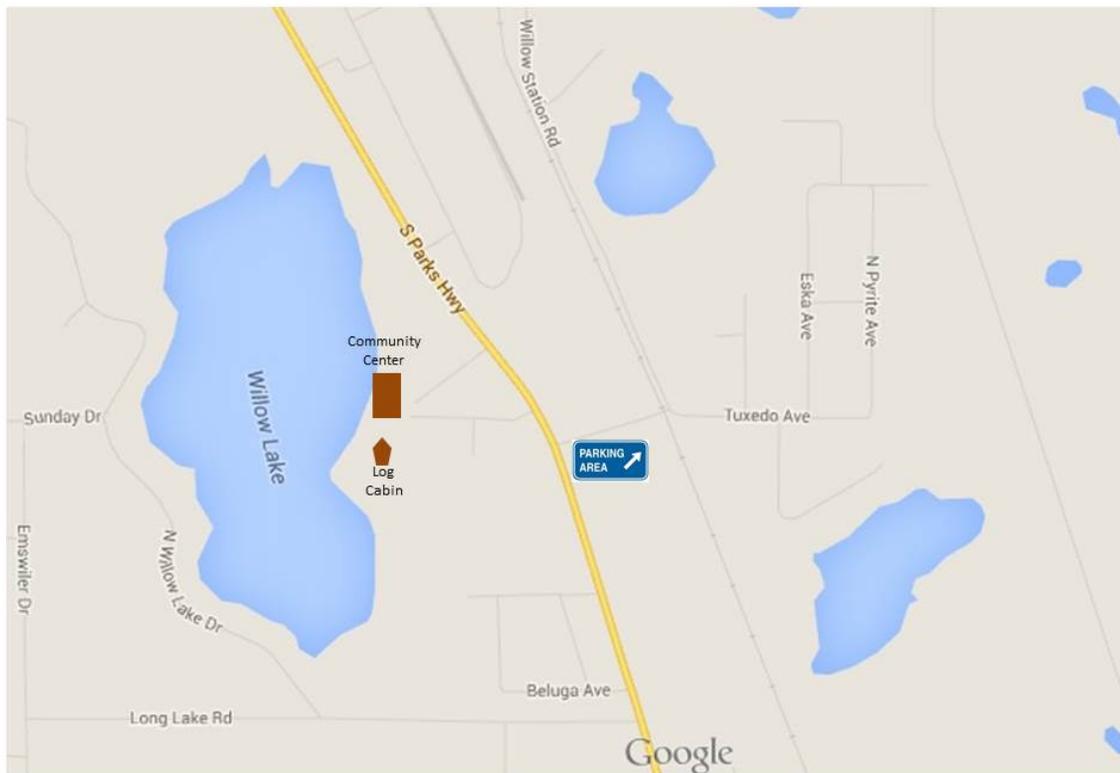


## RESTART - WILLOW MAP

The 2018 Iditarod Restart will begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 4, 2018.

The restart will be staged on Willow Lake located behind the Willow Community Center. From Willow Lake, the mushers will cross Long Lake, Crystal Lake, and Vera Lake. Once they leave Vera Lake they will travel to the Susitna River and on to the Yentna River.

Media and fans traveling to Willow are encouraged to do as much carpooling as possible to avoid unnecessary congestion on the Parks Highway. Public Parking will be available at the Willow Airport at a cost of \$10.00 per vehicle.



## IDITAROD INSIDER – GPS/VIDEO 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**

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

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**

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

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**

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

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™.



## 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. 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
- 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 clothing
- 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 Fahrenheit
- 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
- Please avoid bringing dryers, curling irons, electronic razors, large-frame backpacks, etc.

## 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, Feb. 28, 2018, at The Lakefront Anchorage, Anchorage, 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.

**Please do not attempt any interviews with mushers at checkpoints until they have fed and strawed their canines!** 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 up to an hour. The canines remain the top priority of the Iditarod Trail Committee and it is important that they are not interfered with during the crucial resting phase of the race.

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 canines and their race. They will be much more apt to be cooperative if you cooperate with them from the beginning.

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 strongly 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 Alaska 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 teams.
- Wait for interviews until mushers have had time to feed their canines and to rest.
- Look for official race information from the checkpoints. The media coordinator is available to answer any questions you might have.

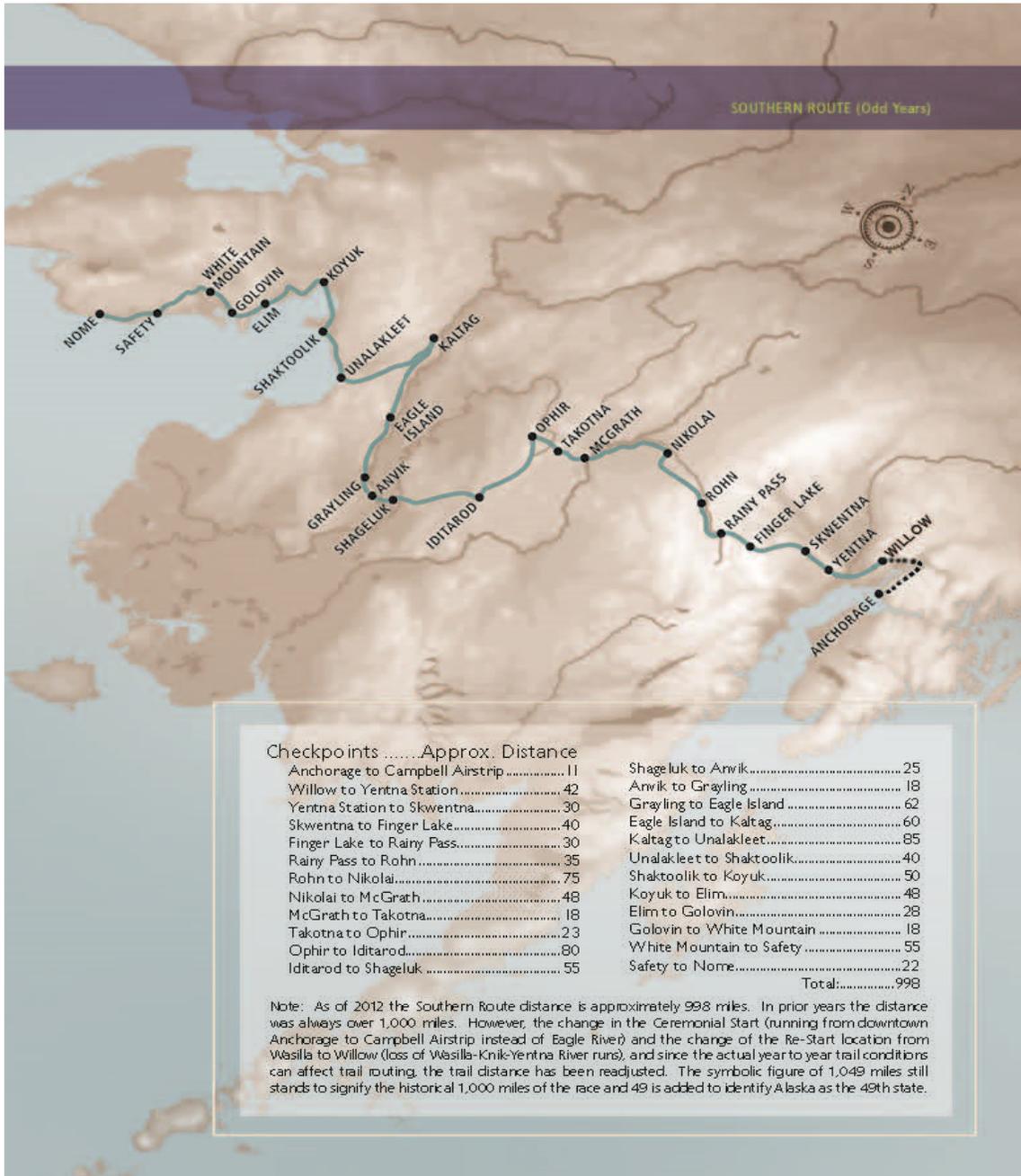
Bri Kelly  
Thompson & Co. Public Relations  
907-376-5155 ext. 106  
media@iditarod.com

**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.



**MAPS, MILEAGES AND CHECKPOINTS-SOUTHERN ROUTE- 2018 & 2019**



## OFFICIAL CHECKPOINT MILEAGES-SOUTHERN ROUTE

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

Note: As of 2012, the southern route distance is approximately 998 miles. In previous 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 Wasilla-Knik-Yentna River runs)
- The actual year-to-year trail conditions can affect trail routing and the actually 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 49<sup>th</sup> state.



## SOUTHERN ROUTE TRAIL DESCRIPTIONS

### Pronunciation, Population and Facts of Interest

#### ***Anchorage (ang-ker-ij) – (ANC) Lat 61.12 Long 149.55***

Population: 301,000 – Anchorage is 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 Mount Alyeska, both less than an hour drive south, or head north to Hatcher Pass for cross country skiing and to explore the remains of Independence Mine.

#### ***Willow (wil-oh) – Lat 61.45.25N Long 150.03.10W***

Population: 2,156 – The restart takes place on Willow Lake at Parks Highway Mile Marker 70.

#### ***Yentna Station -- (YENT-na) -- (YENT) Lat 61.46 N Long 150.41W***

Population: 8 – This checkpoint is at the home of the Dan and Jean Gabryzack family.

#### ***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.

#### ***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.

#### ***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.

#### ***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 checkpoint is a cabin built in the 1930s. 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 treacherous Farewell Burn area. No facilities or lodging are available at Rohn.

***Nikolai (NIK-o-lye) -- (NIK) Lat 63.02 Long 154.22***

Population: 101 – This is the first of many Alaska 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.

***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.

***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.

***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.

***Iditarod (I-DIT-a-rod) - Lat 62.38 Long 155.05***

Population: 0 – Now a ghost town, it was once a bustling community of over 10,000. GCI Dorothy G. Page Halfway Award is presented to the first musher to the checkpoint in addition to a trophy and \$3,000 in gold nuggets.

***Shageluk (SHAG-a-luck) - Lat 62.42 Long 159.24***

Population 83 - Ingalik Indian name meaning “village of the dog people.” Checkpoint is in community hall. Adolph Hamilton resides here. He helped race organizers find the original trail to the town of Iditarod even though he had been over it once, as a small boy, with his father.

***Anvik (AN-vick) - Lat 62.39 Long 160.11***

Population: 79 – First checkpoint on the Yukon River. Checkpoint is in lodge minimum accommodations available. The Lakefront Anchorage First Musher to the Yukon Award, including a seven-course meal and \$500 in \$1 bills.

***Grayling - Lat 62.55 Long 160.40***

Population: 189 – Checkpoint is in the community center and is the last village until Kaltag, 122 miles up the trail on the Yukon River.

***Eagle Island - Lat 63.39 Long 159.24***

Population: 0 – Tent checkpoint on the Yukon River.

***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.

***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.

***Shaktoolik (Shak-TOO-lick) -- (SHAK) Lat 64.20 Long 161.10***

Population: 258 – This is one of the windiest stretches of the trail. From here the trail continues overland for a short distance, and then leads the mushers out onto the ice of Norton Bay, one of the most treacherous segments of trail. The checkpoint is at the armory.

***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.



***Elim (EE-lim) -- (ELM) Lat 64.37 Long 162.15***

Population: 332 – The checkpoint 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.

***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.

***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.

***Safety -- (SAF) Lat 64.27 Long 164.49***

Population: 0 – 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.

***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. 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 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.

## SOUTHERN ROUTE-DESCRIPTION OF THE IDITAROD TRAIL BETWEEN CHECKPOINTS

### Between the Checkpoints

#### **Anchorage to Campbell Airstrip.....11 miles**

Ceremonial start of the Iditarod Trail that begins on Fourth 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.

#### **Willow to Yentna Station .....42 miles**

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.

#### **Yentna Station to Skwentna.....30 miles**

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.

#### **Skwentna to Finger Lake .....40 miles**

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.

#### **Finger Lake to Puntilla Lake (Rainy Pass Lodge) .....30 miles**

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. 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. 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.

**Puntilla Lake to Rohn.....35 miles**

Puntilla Lake (Rainy Pass Lodge) is 1835 feet above sea level and from here the trail climbs through Rainy Pass reaching 3160 feet 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.

**Rohn to Nikolai .....75 miles**

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 feet 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.

**Nikolai to McGrath .....48 miles**

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.

**McGrath to Takotna .....18 miles**

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.

**Takotna to Ophir .....23 miles**

From Takotna the Iditarod Trail is the State Highway that runs to Ophir. Take the road to the right at the fork 1.5 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.

**Ophir to Iditarod.....80 miles**

Out of Ophir checkpoint the trail follows a cat trail along the Innoko River into the old town site, about a mile. It runs right down the airport runway and crosses the Innoko about a mile further along. You cross the river again at six miles out of the checkpoint. Large spruce, birch and cottonwood here a good camping spot. Immediately after crossing the Innoko, the cat trail forks -left to Iditarod. It will be well marked. A long up grade through black spruce to the Beaver Mountain Pass across a barren rocky, desolate area. Two small creeks cross this stretch offering the only meager cover available. The trail is heading in a West - Southwest direction. Six to eight miles after re-entering spruce cover; you pass Don's Cabin on the right side of the trail. You are 36 miles from Ophir. The trail crosses a small spruce covered ridge and crosses Windy Creek. The trail runs south on the East side of the Iditarod through open timber, swamps, and lakes into Iditarod. Some gentle rolling ridges are encountered. The checkpoint is on the west side of the large slough with old town on the left.

**Iditarod to Shageluk .....55 miles**

You leave Iditarod out of the west end of the slough and drop onto the river for about two miles north and then go up the left bank following a low ridge between two small streams climbing a gentle often moderate grade to nearly the top of a 1008-foot barren knob. This portion of trail is in an old burn; it will be marked with tripods, reflectors, and tape. It passes across ridge after ridge with gentle to occasionally steep grades. The Little Yentna crossing is the first stream of any size since Iditarod. You continue through swamp and scattered timber to the Big Yentna out of small drainages in a westerly direction. It crosses a few low ridges with gentle grades while changing drainages. Spruce covered hills are encountered as you drop into the lower Innoko River Valley at Shageluk.

**Shageluk to Anvik.....25 miles**

Leaving Shageluk, you drop onto the Innoko and go north about a mile. Depart the river on the left bank and proceed in a westerly direction across swamps and lake for 10 - 11 miles. The trail turns to a more southwesterly direction and passes through heavy timber, cottonwood, spruce, birch and lots of brush. It is nearly a tunnel in some spots. You come out on the Yukon and pass an island on your right. Across the Yukon and 3/4 miles north is Anvik. It is on a small slough just off the river.

**Anvik to Grayling .....18 miles**

The trail goes north along the west shore of the Yukon out of Anvik for miles to Grayling.

**Grayling to Eagle Island .....62 miles**

Out of Grayling you travel north along the west shore of the Yukon. Occasionally the trail may run on an island sandbar to avoid thin river ice. Local conditions will control this. The Iditarod trail will have confirming marking just after intersections or turnoffs. It is located just inside a small stream on the west bank.

**Eagle Island to Kaltag .....60 miles**

Out of Eagle Island the trail continues to hug the west shore for about 23 miles and then crosses to some midstream islands and then to the east shore at 35-mile Slough. We follow the trapper's trail north on up the Yukon to Kaltag.

**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. 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.

**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. 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. 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 feet) 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.

## 1973-2017 CHAMPIONS & RED LANTERN WINNERS

<u>Year</u>	<u>Musher</u>	<u>D:H:M:S</u>	<u>Musher</u>	<u>D:H:M:S</u>
1973	Dick Wilmarth	20:00:49:41	John Schultz	32:05:09:01
1974	Carl Huntington	20:15:02:07	Red Olson	29:06:36:10
1975	Emmitt Peters	14:14:43:45	Steve Fee	29:08:37:13
1976	Gerald Riley	18:22:58:17	Dennis Corrington	26:08:42:51
1977	Rick Swenson	16:16:27:13	Vasily Zamitkyn	22:09:06:06
1978	Dick Mackey	14:18:52:24	Andrew Foxie	22:03:29:44
1979	Rick Swenson	15:10:37:47	Gene Leonard	24:09:02:22
1980	Joe May	14:07:11:51	Barbara Moore	24:09:25:45
1981	Rick Swenson	12:08:45:02	Jim Strong	18:06:30:30
1982	Rick Swenson	16:04:40:10	Ralph Bradley	26:13:59:59
1983	Rick Mackey	12:14:10:44	Scott Cameron	21:04:36:41
1984	Dean Osmar	12:15:07:33	Bill Mackey	19:09:43:33
1985	Libby Riddles	18:00:20:17	Monique Bene	22:03:45:45
1986	Susan Butcher	11:15:06:00	Mike Peterson	20:13:42:21
1987	Susan Butcher	11:02:05:13	Rhodi Karella	19:09:01:01
1988	Susan Butcher	11:11:41:40	Lesley Monk	19:13:22:55
1989	Joe Runyan	11:05:24:34	Bob Hoyt	17:11:19:19
1990	Susan Butcher	11:01:53:23	Steve Haver	21:10:26:26
1991	Rick Swenson	12:16:34:39	Brian O'Donoghue	22:05:55:55
1992	Martin Buser	10:19:17:15	Vern Cherneski	18:13:05:02
1993	Jeff King	10:15:38:15	Lloyd Gilbertson	18:04:19:19
1994	Martin Buser	10:13:02:39	Mark Chapoton	16:16:17:35
1995	Doug Swingley	09:02:42:19	Ben Jacobson	17:06:02:05
1996	Jeff King	09:05:43:13	Andy Sterns	15:23:48:22
1997	Martin Buser	09:08:30:15	Ken Chase	15:09:07:44
1998	Jeff King	09:05:52:26	Brad Pozarnsky	14:05:42:04
1999	Doug Swingley	09:14:31:07	Jeremy Gebauer	15:03:18:44
2000	Doug Swingley	09:00:58:06	Fedor Konykhov	15:05:44:44
2001	Doug Swingley	09:19:55:50	Karen Ramstead	14:23:53:16
2002	Martin Buser	08:22:46:02	David Straub	14:05:38:12
2003	Robert Sørлие	09:15:47:36	Russell Bybee	15:05:30:53
2004	Mitch Seavey	09:12:20:22	Perry Solmonson	15:02:50:36
2005	Robert Sørлие	09:18:39:31	Phil Morgan	15:06:02:57
2006	Jeff King	09:14:11:36	Glenn Lockwood	15:18:08:56
2007	Lance Mackey	09:05:08:41	Ellen Halverson	16:11:56:20
2008	Lance Mackey	09:11:46:48	Deborah Bicknell	15:05:36:12
2009	Lance Mackey	09:21:38:46	Tim Hunt	15:14:06:22
2010	Lance Mackey	08:23:59:09	Celeste Davis	13:05:06:40
2011	John Baker	08:18:46:39	Ellen Halverson	13:19:45:49
2012	Dallas Seavey	09:04:29:26	Jan Steves	14:11:57:03
2013	Mitch Seavey	09:07:39:56	Christine Roalofs	13:22:36:08
2014	Dallas Seavey	08:13:04:19	Marcelle Fressineau	13:04:42:08
2015	Dallas Seavey	08:18:13:06	Cindy Abbott	13:11:19:51
2016	Dallas Seavey	08:11:20:16	Mary Helwig	13:08:51:30
2017	Mitch Seavey	08:03:40:13**	Cindy Abbott	12:02:57:31*

\*\* Fastest winning time

\* Fastest Red Lantern time



## ALPHABETICAL MUSER LIST

FIRST	LAST	CITY	STATE	COUNTRY	STATUS
Travis	Beals	Seward	AK	USA	Veteran
Charley	Bejna	Addison	IL	USA	Veteran
Anna	Berington	Wasilla	AK	USA	Veteran
Kristy	Berington	Wasilla	AK	USA	Veteran
Brett	Bruggeman	Great Falls	MT	USA	Rookie
Aaron	Burmeister	Nome/Nenana	AK	USA	Veteran
Martin	Buser	Big Lake	AK	USA	Veteran
Rick	Casillo	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Tara	Cicatello	Buffalo	NY	USA	Rookie
Rob	Cooke	Whitehorse	YT	CANADA	Veteran
Larry	Daugherty	Eagle River	AK	USA	Veteran
Jeff	Deeter	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran
Dave	Delcourt	Wasilla	AK	USA	Veteran
Zoya	DeNure	Delta Junction	AK	USA	Veteran
Richie	Diehl	Aniak	AK	USA	Veteran
Alan	Eischens	Wasilla	AK	USA	Veteran
Matthew	Failor	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Bradley	Farquhar	Mahone Bay	Nova Scotia	CANADA	Rookie
Linwood	Fiedler	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Peter	Fleck	Soft Spring Island	BC	CANADA	Rookie
Marcelle	Fressineau	Whitehorse	YT	CANADA	Veteran
Matt	Hall	Two Rivers	AK	USA	Rookie
Jessie	Holmes	Nenana	AK	USA	Rookie
Scott	Janssen	Anchorage	AK	USA	Veteran
DeeDee	Jonrowe	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Peter	Kaiser	Bethel	AK	USA	Veteran
Magnus	Kaltenborn	Whitehorse	YT	CANADA	Veteran
Katherine	Keith	Kotzebue	AK	USA	Veteran
Jeff	King	Denali	AK	USA	Veteran
Tom	Knolmayer	Wasilla	AK	USA	Veteran
Michi	Konno	Willow	AK	USA	Rookie
Jim	Lanier	Chugiak	AK	USA	Veteran
Joar	Leifseth Ulsom	Mo i Rana		NORWAY	Veteran
Kelly	Maixner	Big Lake	AK	USA	Veteran
Meredith	Mapes	Palmer	AK	USA	Rookie
Wade	Marrs	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Emily	Maxwell	Iowa City	IA	USA	Rookie

Lars	Monsen	Skiptvet		NORWAY	Veteran
Allen	Moore	Two Rivers	AK	USA	Veteran
Tim	Muto	Manley Hot Springs	AK	USA	Rookie
Hugh	Neff	Tok	AK	USA	Veteran
Andrew	Nolan	Wasilla	AK	USA	Rookie
Aaron	Peck	Bezanson	AB	CANADA	Veteran
Noah	Pereira	Brockport	NY	USA	Veteran
Nicolas	Petit	Girdwood	AK	USA	Veteran
Mats	Pettersson	Kiruna		SWEDEN	Veteran
Michelle	Phillips	Tagish	YT	CANADA	Veteran
Andy	Pohl	Wasilla	AK	USA	Rookie
Anja	Radano	Talkeetna	AK	USA	Rookie
Ray	Redington, Jr.	Wasilla	AK	USA	Veteran
Robert	Redington	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Ryan	Redington	Wasilla	AK	USA	Veteran
Ketil	Reitan	Kaktovik	AK	USA	Veteran
Jessie	Royer	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran
Tom	Schonberger	Chugiak	AK	USA	Rookie
Mitch	Seavey	Seward	AK	USA	Veteran
Lev	Shvarts	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Ramey	Smyth	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Jason	Stewart	Wasilla	AK	USA	Rookie
Cody	Strathe	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran
Shaynee	Traska	Gladwin	MI	USA	Rookie
Steve	Watkins	Topeka	KS	USA	Veteran
Scott	White	Snohomish	WA	USA	Veteran
Misha	Wiljes	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Michael	Williams, Jr.	Akiak	AK	USA	Veteran
Monica	Zappa	Kasilof	AK	USA	Veteran
Aliy	Zirkle	Two Rivers	AK	USA	Veteran

## 2018 ALPHABETICAL MUSHER BIOGRAPHIES & PHOTOS



**Travis Beals- Seward, AK**

**Website:** <http://www.TurningHeadsKennel.com>

Travis Beals, 26, 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. In Seward, he operates tours. He enjoys fishing, hiking and the outdoors.

Total prize money: \$45,673.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	37	11:01:10:51	2015	11	09:13:18:45
2014	37	11:03:18:38	2016	18	09:06:42:53

### Awards

2015..... Most Improved Musher



**Charley Bejna (bej' na)– Addison, IL**

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

Charley Bejna, 44, a self-described adventurer, was born and raised in Addison, Illinois. He first came to Alaska in 1991 with his dad and toured most of the State. He says he has had an interest in the Iditarod from early on. “I flew up to see the Iditarod in 2006 and became interested in running dogs after that.” Charley was an Idita-Rider with Bruce Linton in 2007 and a handler and tag sled driver for GB Jones, he is now musher. He has owned Charley’s Landscaping Co. for the past 27 years and currently operates the company in the summer months in Addison, Illinois. He also owns 31 sled dogs, including several retired ones, at his kennel in Knik. Charley has been a type 1 Diabetic (insulin pump dependent) for the past 17 years. “Managing my Diabetes on a daily basis is definitely a challenge. I am entering the 2018 Iditarod to enjoy the race, spend time with my dogs and see the beauty that Alaska has to offer. As a type 1 Diabetic, I want to show other diabetics that you can still live a normal life, even with Diabetes, as long as you take care of yourself to the best of your ability.” This will be Charley’s sixth Iditarod, and he says “A Big thanks to my dogs, my family, friends and everyone else who support me in running the Iditarod Race.”

Total prize money: \$3,147.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	--	--	2016	--	--
2014	41	11:18:01:10	2017	46	10:21:30:21
2015	34	11:02:07:10			



**Anna Berington -- Wasilla, AK**  
**Website:** [www.seeingdoublesleddogracing.com](http://www.seeingdoublesleddogracing.com)

Anna Berington, 34, has been loving life in Alaska since 2007 with her sister racing sled dogs, commercial fishing, building and constructing homes and competing in running races. With her sister, they are Seeing Double Sled Dog Racing. Being able to raise and train dogs together has been a dream come true, and racing the Iditarod is a perfect fit for these endurance racers. These dreams have been made possible because of help and support from friends, family and sponsors. The twins have come a long way from mushing their pet dog in Wisconsin to giving tourists rides in the Sierra Nevadas, to training with former champion Dean Osmar, and many mushing friends like Scott Janssen here in Alaska. Now dog mushing is a family affair with visits and help from Mom, Dad, and sister Kat, and of course their fur children, 30 amazing dogs!

Total prize money: \$8,945

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	43	12:02:16:30	2015	28	10:11:06:33
2013	43	11:07:07:55	2016	40	10:13:58:27
2014	39	11:14:15:22	2017	41	10:02:30:14

#### Awards

2013 .....Northern Air Cargo Four Wheeler Drawing



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

Kristy Berington, 34, operates Seeing Double Sled Dog Racing with her twin sister Anna and her husband, Andy Pohl, in Knik, Alaska. Mushing dogs has become part of family life. Andy races and trains the dogs, Kat Berington manages their website, Vicki Pohl sews harnesses and dog coats, Ray Pohl runs trail support, and the entire family supports and sponsors from the sideline all the way from Wisconsin to South Carolina. This is Kristy’s 9th running of the Iditarod. She moved to Alaska 11 years ago to learn more about mushing from 1984 Iditarod Champion Dean Osmar in Kasilof. Since then she has raced all over Alaska and into Canada competing in the Yukon Quest, Kusko 300, and Copper Basin 300, just to name a few. “I love endurance sports and adventure!” says the ultra athlete. “What better way to combine those two factors than running sled dogs in the most beautiful place in the world.” Never sitting still, in the off season Kristy competes in many running races from half marathons to ultra distances and triathlons with Anna. “Anna and I are always in friendly competition. I’m so proud of her in her mushing and athletic career. And to be a part of it all with her is amazing.” Kristy and Anna pay the bills by doing carpentry work and commercial fishing, “Thank you to the many fans, friends, family, volunteers and sponsors for making all of this possible. We couldn’t do this without you!” “I’m looking forward to running another Iditarod with my incredible canine athletes! Best of luck to all the musher’s and their amazing dogs.”

Total prize money: \$11,845

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	39	11:06:44:02	2014	30	10:19:20:26

2011	29	10:20:02:47	2015	29	10:11:10:50
2012	43	12:02:17:13	2016	39	10:13:58:14
2013	42	11:07:07:17	2017	40	10:02:29:53



**Brett Bruggeman – Great Falls, MT**

Brett Bruggeman, 47, was born in Cleveland and raised in Idaho. He graduated from BYU in 1992, Idaho State in 1993 and the University of Nebraska Med Center in 1999. He has been a dentist for the last 20 years. Brett explains, “My youngest son, Spencer, 16, has a birth defect which caused one leg to not develop muscle. He competed in traditional sports until he was 11 and then started looking for other sports in which he could be competitive in that didn’t require both legs. He was reading Jack London books and told my wife that he wanted a dog team for his sport. My wife, Suzette, was certain I had suggested that to him because I had been interested in mushing for a couple of months, but I had enough hobbies already to take on another one. Neither of us knew the other was interested in mushing. After Suzette was convinced this was the case, we decided this was meant to be. We started our kennel, Skinny Leg Sled Dogs, in honor of Spencer’s leg. His brothers always told him his skinny leg had no limits. We have been fortunate to have several great mushing mentors. Terry and Chris Adkins introduced us to the sport. Doug Swingley helped us in the beginning and was the source of our foundation bloodlines. Jessie Royer has been a close friend and taught us so much about mushing and dogs. The Iditarod as always been in the back of our minds, and I look forward to traveling across Alaska with our dog team.” Brett has run Montana’s Race to the Sky every year since 2013 and the Oregon Eagle Cap Extreme since 2014. He and Suzette are the parents of two other adult sons, Brandon and Chase. Brett lists his hobbies as falconry, horse packing, hunting and fishing.



**Aaron Burmeister- Nome/Nenana, AK**

Aaron Burmeister, 42, 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 a general manager in the construction field. Aaron says, “I have been raising dogs and racing my entire life. (He is the son of Iditarod veteran Richard Burmeister.) Over the last 20 years our kennel and breeding program have been focused on building a winning Iditarod team. “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 enjoying Alaska with my family. Mandy and Aaron are the parents of Hunter, 9, and Kiana, 5.

Total prize money: \$291,519.56

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1994	37	14:10:33:22	2007	13	10:06:12:20
1996	43	14:04:48:00	2008	19	10:06:05:20
1999	39	13:03:26:41	2009	7	10:14:56:15
2000	30	11:03:35:10	2012	4	09:10:04:07

2001	29	12:10:39:10	2013	11	09:14:19:02
2003	16	10:20:20:15	2014	10	09:14:19:02
2004	13	10:05:34:10	2015	3	08:23:47:31
2005	24	10:19:09:39			
2006	16	10:01:21:53			

**Awards**

- 2009.....Sportsmanship
- 2009.....Spirit of Alaska
- 2013.....Spirit of Alaska
- 2014.....Mushers Choice
- 2014.....Dorothy G. Page Halfway
- 2015.....Herbie Nayokpuk
- 2015.....Dorothy G. Page Halfway
- 2015.....Gold Coast
- 2015.....Fish First



**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, a retired teacher, reside in Big Lake, Alaska, where the family owns and manages Happy Trails Kennel. Their sons, Nikolai and Rohn, both named after Iditarod checkpoints, have been involved with dogs at various times in their lives. Nikolai currently resides in Seattle. Rohn completed three Iditarods, his first Iditarod in 2008, as a senior in high school.

Martin was inducted into the Alaska Sports Hall of Fame this past April (2017). 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 an unprecedented five times, in 1988, 1993,1995, 1997 and again in 2014 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 burlled monument. He then turned around in Nome and made the trip from Nome to Big Lake with his family by snowmachine.

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 33 Iditarods. Visitors are offered a glimpse of a mock up 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.

Mile by Mile: Martin Buser's Iditarod is a newly revised video. In partnership with Jeff Schultz and Sprocketheads, LLC and Little Frog Video, 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! The video now includes insight into life with sled dogs.

Martin tailors motivational speeches on many topics to large and small audiences in and outside Alaska. Some titles include:

- "You're Only As Fast As Your Slowest Dog: Elevating the Entire Team for Maximum Performance"
- "Capitalizing on Extreme Challenges"
- "Travelogue Alaska: Negotiating 1000+ miles with a Dog Team", "Work Hard, Never Quit, the Mantra for Life in the Last Frontier (or anywhere else for that matter)"

Martin is currently the musher with the most consecutive Iditarod finishes, 32 races completed in row, 34 total finishes. He is a four-time Iditarod champion winning the race 1992, 1994, 1997 and 2002. We are looking forward to many more and working diligently toward a fifth Iditarod win. While the race is always the final exam, the year round interaction and relationship with the dogs is the most valuable aspect of this lifestyle. On a daily basis, we are amazed by the stamina, loyalty, honesty, and joy of our dogs. Author Brian Jacques went on a ride with Martin and the team many years ago and described the dogs as "eternal children." We couldn't agree more. It is our good fortune to be able to take care of them.

Martin published DOG MAN: Chronicles of an Iditarod Champion in March 2015. The book is available at our online store at [www.buserdog.com](http://www.buserdog.com).

Total prize money: \$815,717.89

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1980	22	17:06:50:05	<b>2002</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>08:22:46:02</b>
1981	19	14:02:47:23	2003	4	10:03:40:19
1986	25	15:00:53:56	2004	11	10:02:41:24
1987	10	12:02:26:28	2005	13	10:02:32:40
1988	3	12:04:21:46	2006	23	10:12:04:35
1989	6	12:02:06:05	2007	4	09:14:07:04
1990	10	12:02:33:44	2008	5	09:19:11:50

1991	2	12:18:41:49	2009	18	11:02:43:00
<b>1992</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>12:18:41:49</b>	2010	14	09:15:33:58
1993	6	11:00:47:39	2011	18	10:01:03:38
<b>1994</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10:13:02:39</b>	2012	19	10:18:10:13
1995	2	09:08:47:44	2013	17	09:20:01:33
1996	3	09:17:58:00	2014	6	09:00:58:58
<b>1997</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:08:30:45</b>	2015	22	09:22:36:40
1998	7	09:21:47:58	2016	37	10:11:31:51
1999	2	09:23:10:59	2017	32	09:15:14:51
2000	7	09:14:55:15			
2001	24	12:07:43:59			

**Awards**

- 1988 ..... Gold Coast
- 1988 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 1993 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 1992 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Official Truck
- 1992 ..... Winner’s Purse
- 1994 ..... National Bank of Alaska Gold Coast
- 1994 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Memorial Golden Harness – Lead Dog
- 1994 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Official Truck
- 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 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Memorial Golden Harness – Lead Dog
- 1997 ..... Regal Alaskan First to the Yukon
- 1997 ..... National Bank of Alaska Gold Coast
- 1997 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 1997 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Memorial Golden Harness – Lead Dog
- 1997 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Official Truck
- 1998 ..... Cars & Eagle Quality Center Sportsmanship
- 2000 ..... Cabela’s Outfitter
- 2002 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Golden Harness
- 2002 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Official Truck
- 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
- 2005 ..... Sportsmanship
- 2005 ..... Most Inspirational
- 2007 ..... PenAir Spirit of Alaska
- 2007 ..... Millennium First to the Yukon
- 2011 ..... PenAir Spirit of Alaska
- 2013 ..... Millennium First Musher to the Yukon
- 2014 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonard Seppala Humanitarian



**Rick Casillo, (Ca see' lo) – Palmer, AK**

**Website:** [www.battledawgs.org](http://www.battledawgs.org)

Rick Casillo, 44, grew up in a small country town of Alder, outside of Buffalo, NY. He worked in Alden as a sub-contractor before moving to Alaska in 1999 to become a fly fishing guide. He began mushing in 2002. He says, as he watched the Race go by, he began to get interested in actually running it. He first ran in 2004. He came back in 2014, after establishing their kennel, Battle Dawgs Racing. "The primary goal of our kennel is racing the Iditarod and raising awareness for combat veterans. My wife, Jennifer, a combat veteran, and I have a non-profit organization called Battle Dawgs. This is separate from the race kennel. Battle Dawgs' focus is providing year round camps for warriors all across the country and Alaska. Activities include Iditarod, dog mushing, rafting, hiking and hunting. Our motto is 'Helping Our Warriors one step at a time.' This year we are taking the first steps in building our year round facility for warriors, families and their battle buddies." Rick lists his hobbies as "working with combat veterans and fly fishing."

Total prize money: \$14, 721.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2004	57	12:06:53:14	2014	26	10:16:53:22
2006	34	10:23:32:00	2015	44	12:00:37:22
2007	37	11:20:48:39	2016	--	--
2008	32	11:02:33:55	2017	28	09:11:56:40

**Awards**

2006 .....Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher



**Tara Cicatello –Buffalo, NY**

**Website:** <http://baconsacres.com>

Tara, 26, was born and raised in Tonawanda, a suburb just outside Buffalo, New York. After completing her B.A. in English at Canisius College, adventure and the pulls of Alaska called her name. She applied and was accepted to KNOM Radio's Volunteer program, and moved to Nome, Alaska in August 2013. It was there she learned of the mushing world through covering various sled dog races and witnessing her first Iditarod finish.

While working at KNOM, she was introduced to a local Nome musher whom she worked with for her first season in the sport. She ran and completed her first-ever race, the Kuskowim 300, in 2015. She spent the 2016 season watching from afar, but after trekking back to Nome to watch her third Iditarod finish, she knew she had to go back.

Tara and Kristin Bacon met during the 2015 season, as Tara hosted Jeff King and handling crew in Nome for the 2015 Iditarod. Tara and Kristin joined forces in September 2016, as Kristin and doggies warmly welcomed Tara to the Bacon's Acres Team. Tara is beyon excited to be running dogs of Bacon's Acres for her rookie Iditarod!

Tara lists her hobbies and interests as "dancing, beach combing, and making people smile."



**Rob Cooke- Whitehorse, YT, CANADA**

**Website:** <http://www.shaytaansiberians.com>

Rob Cooke, 51, was born and raised in Worcester, England. He received his B.A. and M.A. in Humanities in the United Kingdom. “Having spent 23 years in the UK Royal Navy as an aircraft technician and then as an engineering officer, I retired in 2005 to live in Canada and pursue the dream of racing the Yukon Quest with our own Siberian Huskies. In 2013, we realized that dream when we crossed the finish line in Fairbanks. This just inspired us for more, so in 2015, we entered both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod and became the first purebred team to finish both 1000 mile races in the same winter. Wanting to prove it wasn’t all just luck, we repeated the feat in 2016. We have a kennel of AKK, CKC, and UKKC registered Siberian Huskies. One litter, the Crazies, between them have finished 23 1000 mile races.” Rob is a member of the Siberian Husky Club of Great Britain and is married to Louise. He says he has “no” hobbies!

Total prize money: \$2,098

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2015	50	12:04:23:45	2017	--	--
2016	67	12:07:03:55			



**Larry Daugherty – Eagle River, AK**

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

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

Total prize money \$2,098

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2016	63	10:18:29:10			
2017	44	11:21:16:36			



**Jeff Deeter – Fairbanks, AK**

**Website:** <http://blacksprucedogsledding.com>

Jeff Deeter, 29, grew up in the state of Alaska and began mushing in 2003 for family friends, Frank and Claudia Sihler. After finishing the 2008 Iditarod, Jeff moved to Fairbanks to attend UAF. Although schooling only lasted a semester, Jeff stayed in the Interior for the amazing trails and consistency of snow. Jeff and his wife, Kattie Jo, now own and operate Black Spruce Dog Sedding, a home-based tour business that introduces people to mushing and sled dogs and the unique lifestyle that surrounds the sport. “The times of sweat and hard work are immediately rewarded when you watch a team of dogs do what they truly enjoy. The satisfaction I get by traveling with my best friends is unmatched by anything in this world.” This will be Jeff’s second Iditarod.

Total prize money: \$1,049

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	59	12:13:11:45			



**Dave Delcourt – Wasilla, AK**

Dave Delcourt, 30, was born and raised in Queensbury, New York. He graduated from State University of New York at Cortland with a B.S. in GIS. After college, he left New York for Idaho where his first job was with the Student Conservation Association. He said he’s lived New York, Idaho, Massachusetts and Michigan and done trail work, trail inventory and dog sledding. He began mushing in 2012 and came to Alaska in 2014 to be a dog handle for Team Redington. Dave says, “I’m running Iditarod this year to get another team of puppies to Nome and because I enjoyed running in 2017. I’ll be running dogs from Whoa Mushing, operated by Robert Redington and Joe March. I’ve been running dogs for six years and can’t imagine doing anything else.” Dave is currently working as a deckhand. He says he enjoys hiking, trying new things, food and friends.

Total prize money: \$1,049

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2017	50	11:00:18:08			



**Zoya DeNure – Delta Junction, AK**

**Website:** [www.dogsleddenali.com](http://www.dogsleddenali.com)

Zoya DeNure, 41, was born and raised in Wisconsin. She spent 12 years in the fashion industry working primarily as a runway & fashion model. In 2002, tired of the pressures and triviality of that lifestyle, she rented a storage unit in Madison, Wisconsin, stacked it with furniture, shoes, dresses, and headed to Alaska with a carry-on and the dream of

running, living and breathing sled dogs. Her Siberian husky, Ethan, traveled with her.

Ethan has since passed, but the dream is still alive. Zoya is married to fellow dog driver John Schandelmeier, and now splits her time between homes at Maclaren River and Delta Junction, Alaska. She has two daughters; Jona, nine and Olivia, four. The family operates a rescue/rehab facility for unwanted sled dogs and is striving to focus attention on positive training techniques. Zoya loves the sport of sled dog racing, enjoys time on the trail with her team. She says her hobbies are “running 1/2 marathons, fishing, yoga, travel working for herself, ministry study and family.”

Total prize money: \$2,098

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	53	12:01:57:35	2015	--	--
2010	--	--	2016	--	--
2011	--	--	2017	57	11:19:24:25
2012	--	--			



**Richie Diehl (Deal) – Aniak, AK**

Richie Diehl, 32, 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 ten 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 Iditarod since 2013. He lists his hobbies as flying, boating, fishing and hunting.

Total prize money: \$66,800

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	36	10:22:32:06	2016	12	09:02:42:21
2014	14	09:16:35:40	2017	24	09:08:33:22
2015	22	09:23:26:59			

**Award**

2014.....Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher



**Alan Eischens – Wasilla, AK**

**Website:** <http://doubleekennels.com>

Alan Eischens 58, is a lifelong resident of Alaska. Having been born in Minnesota, he was raised in the Aleutian Islands, growing up in Adak. While living in Adak, that is where he decided that he would pursue a degree in Biology and Anthropology. While attend UAF, he decided to visit St. Lawrence Island, and ended up staying there for 10 years.

Alan has a great love for the outdoors and has had several jobs that allow him to do what he likes, from commercial fishing, to construction work. However, his true passion is being with his dogs. This all come to be in 2011 when Alan and his wife Tanjala, started Double E Kennel in Wasilla. Alan has a huge heart for

children and together he and Tanjala decided that the kennels platform would be to Bring Awareness to Pediatric Diseases and Disabilities. Whether training or racing all his miles are for the children that have gone on before us, or those that are suffering.

In 2016 and 2017, Alan was able to bring all 16 dogs across the finish line in Nome. Both times when finishing the Iditarod he would say, “the Kids and I did it”!

Alan and Tanjala own and operate Cable17 in Palmer, AK. He enjoys hunting, camping, fishing and traveling to visit all the grandchildren, along with visiting children that are or have been effected by pediatric diseases and/or disabilities.

Total Prize Money: \$3,147

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2015	60	12:11:56:36	2017	62	12:02:39:46
2016	53	11:07:39:15			



**Matt Failor – Willow, AK**  
**Website:** [www.17th-dog.com](http://www.17th-dog.com)

Matthew Failor, 34, was born and raised in Mansfield, Ohio, and a graduate of The Ohio State University (2007, Fine Arts Photography). Matthew is an Eagle Scout, an honor which he shares with each of his four brothers.

Matthew first fell in love with Alaska and its culture while working summers during college on the Mendenhall Glacier in Juneau. Through Gold Rush Dog Tours, Matthew formed a relationship with Veteran Iditarod Musher, Matt Hayashida; and through that relationship Matthew was able to earn a handler position with 4-time Iditarod Champion, Martin Buser (Happy Trails Kennel) in 2010. In 2012, Matthew ran a team of Buser puppies in ‘The Last Great Race’, and he hasn’t looked back. He has raced the Iditarod every year since, as well as multiple mid and long distance races, including the Yukon Quest (2013) and Kuskokwim 300 (2011).

In 2013 Matthew opened his own kennel, 17th-Dog/Team Matthew Failor. Carved out of the Birch & Black Spruce in Willow, AK, amongst numerous winter trails near the Mountains of Hatcher Pass, you can find home to 48 of the “hardest working athletes and truest friends [he] has ever known.” Matthew is proud to promote the lifestyle and sport of dog mushing through every day life, as well as tourism and racing.

Matthew has not forgotten his roots. He supports, promotes, and empowers his home community (and beyond) by giving back; through Catholic Charities, local schools, Boy Scouts of America, or National Awareness. While Matthew remains focused on his future, he is firmly rooted in the values he learned growing up in Ohio.

Total prize money: \$27,296

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	48	12:18:10:20	2015	41	11:22:42:42
2013	28	10:13:39:46	2016	61	11:18:54:45
2014	15	09:16:42:30	2017	59	11:20:19:03

## Awards

2016 ..... Most Inspirational



**Bradley Farquhar - Mahone Bay, Nova Scotia, Canada**

**Website:** <http://www.lifealwaysworksout.com>

Brad Farquhar, 31, was born and raised in Nova Scotia. He was introduced to dog mushing at the age of 8 while watching Iron Will at his grandmother’s house. “Seeing the young boy overcome the challenges of mushing and winning he big race, I knew I needed to try it. It was only a couple of years ago that I gave Sebastian Schnuelle a call and he gave me my first taste. After sledding with him for a week, I knew the Iditarod had to be my goal. Sebastian introduced me to Ken Anderson who took me under his wing and got me through all the qualifying races last season. I feel privileged to be running the Iditarod and am counting down the days to begin.”



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

Linwood Fiedler, 64, was born in Vermont. He received his BSW at Carroll College in Helena, Montana.

He began mushing in Montana in 1997 and moved to Alaska “to race the Iditarod and raise my family” in 1990. He has run 23 Iditarods, placing in the top ten several times and was a second place finisher in 2001.

For the last 18 years he has owned and operated, with his son, Dalton, Alaska Heli-Mush, Inc., an exciting glacier sled dog tour business on the Juneau Icefield .

He is also the co-founder of Arctic Paws for Service, a service dog organization assisting Alaskan families experience the healing powers of service dogs.

Linwood says, “Mushing is what surrounds our life at the Fiedler home. I’ve been fortunate to have the support of the best wife and family a person could ask for. After many runs to Nome with the hardships and victories it has brought me, it’s always been the love of my family and the connection I have with my dogs that get me through.”

Total Prize Money: \$221,513

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1989	26	13:13:37:37	2001	2	10:03:58:57
1990	8	12:01:19:16	2002	--	--
1991	25	15:23:45:15	2003	6	10:07:02:55
1992	25	12:21:59:50	2007	--	--
1993	17	12:21:02:50	2009	23	11:13:44:45
1994	18	11:15:57:30	2010	--	--
1995	13	10:08:27:00	2013	29	10:15:00:52
1996	17	10:07:25:00	2014	--	--
1997	17	10:14:58:20	2015	37	11:18:28:35
1998	8	09:22:29:32	2016	24	09:14:57:26
1999	13	10:18:30:40	2017	20	09:06 09:52

2000	19	10:04:01:31			
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**Awards**

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



**Peter Fleck - Soft Spring Island, BC, CANADA**

Peter Fleck, 27, was born and raised in Southwest England with plenty of opportunity to get outdoors and explore, and this has been a major focus of his life ever since. “I first came to Alaska in 2009, having just left school and was looking for adventure. I was hugely fortunate to meet Iditarod veteran, GB Jones at that time, and as a result of his generosity and encouragement, I started my mushing journey! I have been given the opportunity to run the race this year by Mitch and Janine Seavey. I will be running a team of Mitch’s two year olds. These youngsters represent the future of Mitch’s kennel, and it is a huge responsibility and an enormous privilege to be running them. I hope that our race this year will set up these young dogs to succeed in the future.” Peter says he is a “jack of all trades and master of none.”



**Marcelle Fressineau- Whitehorse, YT, CANADA**

**Website:** <http://marcelle-fressineau.com>

Marcelle Fressineau, 63, was born in Switzerland. She attended college in Switzerland, where she received a degree in mathematics and science, 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 Canada in 1995 because it was “a good place for dog mushing.” Marcelle says, “I live now in the Yukon where I operate an adventure outfitter business. I raise my own Alaskan Huskies. My goal was to enter one time, but as it was the best experience I made with my sled dogs, I am entering again.” She lists her hobbies as “outdoor activities and writing books.”



**Matt Hall –Two Rivers, AK**

**Website:** <http://www.smokinacekennels.org>

Matt Hall, 26, was born and raised in Eagle, Alaska on the Yukon River, where he worked his trap line with his sled dogs and guided weeklong expeditions for his parents’ company. He says he has been mushing “since I was two years old.” He moved to Two Rivers, Alaska, to pursue competitive racing and completed his first long distance race, the Yukon Quest, at the age of 22. His kennel, Smokin’ Ace Kennels, sits on a 40 acre parcel of land next to the Chena River. He and his wife, Amanda, maintain their off grid life style by hauling water and firewood with their 35 Alaskan Huskies. For the last 10 summers, he has lived and worked for Alaska Icefield Expeditions on the Denver Glacier. Winters are spent training and guiding tours and expeditions for their new aspiring tour company, Last Frontier Mushing Co-op. in 2018, Matt, the 2017 Yukon Quest Champion, will be racing the Quest for the fifth time as well as running his first Iditarod. He says he enjoys “building,

hunting and training dogs.”



**Jessie Holmes – Nenana, AK**

Jessie Holmes, 36, was born and raised in Alabama. He left Alabama 17 years ago “looking for adventure” and ended up in Montana where he worked as a carpenter for three years. He came to Alaska 13 years ago to “become a mountain man” and is now a subsistence resident of Nenana. Currently he is a carpenter and TV personality. He started mushing in 2004 and became interested in running Iditarod after winning the Kobuk 440 in 2017.



**Scott Janssen – Anchorage, AK**

Scott Janssen, 56, the “Mushin Mortician”, was born and raised in Crookston, Minnesota. He graduated from the University of Minnesota in 1985 with a B.S. in Mortuary Science and moved to Alaska in June of that year to work as a mortician at Evergreen Memorial Chapel. He has been a mortician and funeral home owner for the last 32 years. Scott began mushing in 2007 with Paul Gebhardt. He says, “Iditarod has been my dream since 1986.” He grasped his dream by finishing 42nd in the 2011 Iditarod and 38th in the 2012 Iditarod. He and Debbie, his wife of 37 years, are the parents of two adult daughters, Angela and Chelsea, his godson (who is like a son to him) Jaikob and his grandchildren Avalyn and Liam. 2018 will be his 7th Iditarod. Scott is a member of the National Funeral Directors Association, the ICCFA, Kiwanis, Catholic Archdiocese of Anchorage and the Iditarod Finishers’ Club. He enjoys spending time with his family, mushing dogs, camping, hunting, fishing, skiing and riding Harley’s.

Total Prize Money: \$2,098

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	42	12:20:28:28	2014	--	--
2012	39	11:21:38:31	2015	--	--
2013	--	--	2016	--	--



**DeeDee Jonrowe – Willow, AK**

**Website:** [www.DeeDeeJonrowe.com](http://www.DeeDeeJonrowe.com)

DeeDee Jonrowe, 64, was born in Frankfort, Germany, while her father was in the military. The family moved to Alaska in 1971 where her dad was stationed at Ft. Richardson. DeeDee has a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences and Renewable Resources and now lists her occupation as kennel owner and public speaker. She began mushing in 1979 when she was living in Bethel and her mother was excited about volunteering in the early Iditarod races. (Peg Stout attended every Iditarod start before she passed away in July of 2015, except in 1974

when her husband was stationed Outside.)

DeeDee says, “This will be my 36th Iditarod start, 16 finishes in the top 10. “In three decades I have seen our event mature in many ways as has the state of Alaska. I am committed to using the things I have learned to improve the lives and conditions of all working dogs, the people of rural Alaska, especially young people searching for a meaningful life and our precious elders who have so much to teach us. God has blessed me with the health and circumstances to participate in this celebration of the bond—dogs with man, together opening the unknown. I am truly blessed.” Deedee goes on to say, “When challenged with the Sockeye fire, I had very little time to evacuate. Instinctively, I grabbed the most important things in my life, my dogs. Besides a few guns, we lost everything we have ever owned, all our records. We only saved our dogs. That is the deepest value I placed on them. This will be my final Iditarod. I will continue to train and even race shorter races. I want to thank all the villagers and volunteers that have made it possible to be on the trail since 1980. I was race judge in 1985 and flew out on the trail in 1982 to encourage racers. The only year I was not involved in any way was 1986.

I am relieved that I have made this decision. It feels right for myself and for Mike. I will not raise pups nor are there any dogs for sale. I will age them out as the precious family they are. The 1st and only concern I had when faced with losing everything. I want to give back.” DeeDee is a member of the Big Lake Baptist Church and Wasilla Sunrise Rotary. She says her hobbies and interests include “training Labrador Retrievers, raising hobby chickens, and loving her Pekingese. DeeDee is married to Mike, secretary of the Iditarod’s Board of Directors.

Total prize money: \$544,495.44

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1980	24	17:07:59:24	2001	10	11:14:33:15
1981	31	16:05:05:43	2002	16	09:22:07:20
1983	15	13:18:10:25	2003	18	10:23:45:39
1984	30	15:19:18:13	2004	15	10:08:40:49
1987	22	13:02:58:15	2005	10	10:01:42:55
1988	9	13:16:29:06	2006	4	09:16:25:50
1989	4	11:37:14:16	2007	--	--
1990	5	11:14:41:31	2008	15	10:01:07:46
1991	7	13:13:44:10	2009	13	10:22:56:10
1992	5	11:09:05:00	2010	22	10:02:47:44
1993	2	10:16:10:50	2011	12	09:10:24:17
1994	9	11:04:25:15	2012	10	09:14:43:15
1995	4	09:11:24:07	2013	10	09:13:24:39
1996	5	09:20:18:00	2014	--	--
1997	4	09:18:26:10	2015	31	10:19:10:23
1998	2	09:08:49:42	2016	44	10:22:29:13
1999	--	--	2017	47	10:22:03:37
2000	20	10:04:24:04			

**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
- 2012 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonard Seppala Humanitarian



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

Peter Kaiser, 30, was born and raised in Bethel, Alaska. He graduated from Bethel High School in 2005 and has worked for Knik Construction/Lynden for the last ten years. He says, “Our family has always had dogs, and I’ve been mushing since I was a kid. Watching the Kuskokwim 300 every January sparked my interest in long distance racing, and a few years ago, I decided that I would give the Iditarod a try.” Peter says he enjoys boats, hunting, and fishing. Pete and his wife, Bethany, are the parents of five-year-old Ari.

Total prize money: \$211,439

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	28	10:11:13:59	2014	13	09:15:28:30
2011	8	09:07:06:06	2015	14	09:15:44:35
2012	5	09:11:06:23	2016	5	08:20:24:55
2013	13	09:17:36:34	2017	9	08:23:05:38

**Awards**

- 2011 ..... Northern Air Cargo Four Wheeler Drawing
- 2012 ..... Northern Air Cargo Four Wheeler Drawing



**Magnus Kaltenborn-Whitehorse YT, Canada**  
**Website:** <http://facebook.com/farandawayracing>

Magnus Kaltenborn, 28, was born and raised in Norway. He first became interested in mushing and the Iditarod when he was 14 and Robert Sólrie won the 2003 Iditarod. He moved to Alaska in 2008 to learn about mushing from Martin Buser. After three years at Happy Trails Kennel, he went back to Norway and ran dogs there before moving to the Yukon in 2012 to train dogs there and enjoy the wilderness. He received a diploma in Northern Studies from Yukon College and has worked as a tour guide for the last two years. He and Maren Bradley operated Caribou Crossing Kennel. Magnus says that he enjoys “paddling, skiing, hunting and fishing” in his spare time.

Total prize money: \$1,049

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	33	11:11:55:02			



**Katherine Keith- Kotzebue, AK**  
**Website:** <http://www.katherinekeith.com>

Katherine, 38, was born in Minnesota and lived there until completing high school at which point Katherine decided that it was time to pursue her dream of going to Alaska. She graduated from the 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 14 years old.

Total prize money: \$16,419.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2014	32	10:20:43:15	2017	19	09:05:50:31
2015	--	--			
2016	31	09:23:30:05			



**Jeff King – Denali Park, AK**

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

Jeff King, 62, was born and raised in California. He came to Alaska in 1975 to “seek adventure.” He began mushing in 1976 after he heard Jerry Riley’s race finish while listening to the radio. Jeff has an outstanding race record, including a Yukon Quest victory in 1981 and four Iditarod victories. 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: \$948,747.78

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITIONN	TIME
1981	28	15:07:02:47	2004	2	09:14:40:59
1991	12	13:14:24:40	2005	12	10:02:21:21
1992	6	11:10:40:35	<b>2006</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:11:11:36</b>
<b>1993</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>10:15:38:15</b>	2007	5	09:15:05:17
1994	3	10:21:46:09	2008	2	09:13:05:51
1995	7	09:18:52:10	2009	12	10:21:06:06
<b>1996</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:05:43:00</b>	2010	3	0:02:22:17
1997	3	09:15:35:15	2012	--	--
<b>1998</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:05:52:26</b>	2013	3	09:09:21:56
1999	7	10:10:10:32	2014	--	--
2000	3	09:08:44:41	2015	7	09:05:47:50
2001	3	10:07:19:43	2016	9	09:00:00:46
2002	6	09:10:42:19	2017	11	09:00:49:42
2003	3	09:23:17:00			

**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 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Memorial 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 Winner’s Purse  
 2006 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast  
 2006 ..... Lead Dog – City of Nome Lolly Medley Memorial Golden Harness  
 2007 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast  
 2008 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast  
 2008 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian  
 2010 ..... PenAir Spirit of Iditarod  
 2010 ..... Millennium Hotel First to the Yukon  
 2014 ..... Millennium Hotel First to the Yukon  
 2015 ..... Millennium Hotel First Musher to Yukon  
 2016 ..... The Lakefront Anchorage’s First Musher to Yukon



**Tom Knolmayer- Wasilla, AK**

Thomas Knolmayer, 50, was born and raised in Ohio. He graduated from the Air Force Academy and received his medical degree from Uniformed Services University in 1994. He joined the Air Force where he served as a military surgeon for 28 years, which included four combat tours to the Middle East. He has lived in Alaska since 2001 and has since retired from the Air Force. He works currently as a trauma surgeon at Providence Hospital in Anchorage. He says he’s had dogs all his life and enjoyed running, biking and skijoring for years.” He started his kennel with a group of yearlings from Kelly Maixner and Martin Buser and will take those dogs on the trail in 2018. Tom and his wife, Tina, are the parents of two children, Zane, 12 and Madeline, 10. Thomas is a member of the American College of Surgeons and says he enjoys fishing and camping.

Total prize money: \$2,415

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2005	58	13:22:13:25	2006	47	11:23:10:10



**Michi Konno- Willow, AK**

**Website:** <http://m6n27t.wixsite.com/project-michi>

Michi Konno, 55, was born and raised in Japan. He started mushing about 25 years ago moved to Alaska in 1999 to mush dogs here. “When I raced sprint dogs, I started with Joe Redington, Jr. I leased a team from him and finished in first place in the 1998 North American in Fairbanks. At one time I had 70 sprint dogs in my kennel.” Michi retired from sprint mushing and sold his dogs. Then he focused on his work as a tour guide and spent his springs and summers hiking and camping in the national parks in Montana, Utah, Arizona and Nevada. He explains, “Running Iditarod has always been in my mind. Joe Redington, Sr. told me once that I ‘must run the Iditarod.’” Michi’s hobbies and interests include hiking, fishing and camping.



**Jim Lanier (La Near)– Chugiak, AK**

**Website:** [www.northernwhites.com](http://www.northernwhites.com)

Jim Lanier, 77 years young, was born in Washington D.C. and raised in Fargo, North Dakota. After receiving his medical degree from Washington University in St. Louis, he moved to Alaska in 1967 to serve at the Native Hospital in Anchorage with the US Public Health Service. A Pathologist at Providence Hospital for thirty-some years, Jim is now retired from medicine but not from mushing. He “went to the dogs” in the 70’s as a result of hanging around with Iditarod mushers Ron Gould, Dinah Knight and Gerry Riley. Then in 1979 he ran his first Iditarod, as chronicled in his book Beyond Ophir. A sequel, Way Beyond Ophir, is in 1st draft.

In 2014 Jim entered his seventeenth race to Nome and, for the first time, had to scratch due to a ruptured Achilles tendon. 2015 and 2016 saw scratches two and three with pneumonia in Unalakleet and a fractured collar bone in Kaltag. In 2017 a bum knee forced a handing of the reins to good friend Gunnar Johnson. Apparently Jim’s determination, or stubbornness, knows no bounds as he now returns to the starting line for yet another go. After that “Who knows?” he says. “Health aside, it’s a matter of continued enjoyment of the dreaming, scheming, training, support of family and friends, and of going head to head with people half my age and younger.” Lanier’s specialty is his white dogs and, therefore, his “Northern Whites Kennel.” Jim is married to Anna Bondarenko, the first and only Russian Woman to enter and complete the Last Great Race, in 2000.

He is the father of four adult children (Margaret, Kimberly, Willy and Jimmy) and grandfather of five (Annie, Ethan, Ollie, Logan and Jessie). His activities include singing, hunting, commercial fishing, cabin construction, reading, writing, tall tales, cheering the Minnesota Twins, and raising kids.

Total prize money: \$57,847.88

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1979	43	24:06:44:18	2007	27	10:19:01:56
1984	40	17:05:49:22	2008	20	10:06:35:40
1998	42	12:06:09:35	2009	35	12:13:24:35
1999	42	13:13:55:00	2010	24	10:05:21:10
2001	49	13:15:35:40	2012	33	11:02:58:18

2002	25	10:12:43:00	2013	35	10:21:08:46
2003	24	11:11:11:10	2014	--	--
2004	18	10:11:01:10	2015	--	--
2005	40	12:00:07:50	2016	--	--
2006	41	11:07:59:30			

### Awards

2003 ..... Sportsmanship  
 2010 ..... Musher’s Choice  
 2012 ..... GCI Dorothy G. Page Halfway



**Joar Leifseth Ulsom (U are’ Life’seth Ool’some) – Mo I Rana, NORWAY**

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

Joar Leifseth Ulsom, 31, holds the record as the fastest rookie to have ever run the Iditarod, and is one of only two mushers to place top-7 five times in as many Iditarod starts. The 2013 Iditarod Rookie of the Year is from Mo I Rana in Norway by the Arctic Circle. Joar traveled with his dogs from Norway to Alaska where they currently reside since fall of 2011. He works full-time with his small kennel of dogs and Russian teammates for the GoNorth! Adventure Learning non-profit as part of Team Racing Beringia. Racing Beringia is an online education program for students in K-12 classrooms around the world to explore the region of Beringia spanning from the Yukon in Canada, across Alaska to Chukotka, Russia (RacingBeringia.com).

Joar and his team have raced throughout Beringia starting with the Yukon Quest in 2012. Setting a new time record for the Nadezhda Hope race in Chukotka (Russia), Joar became the first non-native winner of the “toughest race in Eurasia” in 20 years. He is now a 2-time Nadezhda Hope champion, with a second victory in 2014. Joar and his team also placed 1st in 2012 Chukotka Sprint Championship. Back in Norway Joar started out as a kid by borrowing his neighbor’s two housedogs to pull him around on skis.

Watching Iditarod movies is what fueled his dreams growing up. In 2007 Joar started mushing and building up his own team. He received a degree from an agricultural college in Norway and worked as a cowboy while he ran the great races of Scandinavia before coming to Alaska. With this sixth Iditarod, the run for Racing Beringia continues in 2018. Joar is a member of Rana Trekk-og Brukshundklubb and Go North! Adventure Learning. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping and “the North.”

Total prize money: \$202,534

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	7	09:12:34:00	2016	6	08:22:12:38
2014	4	08:19:01:01	2017	4	08:11:00:40
2015	6	09:05:21:01			

### Award

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



**Kelly Maixner- Big Lake, AK**

**Website:** <http://madstorkkennel.com>

Kelly Maixner, 42, 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, 5, and Ven, 4, Birdie, 2, and an infant, Lulu. He is a member of the American Dental Association and the America Academy of Pediatric Dentistry.

Total prize money: \$39,223.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	30	10:20:29:31	2014	--	--
2012	32	11:01:53:02	2015	13	09:15:39:01
2013	31	10:16:57:36	2016	21	09:08:38:18



**Meredith Mapes-Palmer, AK**

Meredith Mapes, 24, was born in Texas but her family moved to Alaska when she was a baby because “her parents didn’t want to raise her in a big city.” The owner and head poop scooper at Fun On The Run Kennel, was raised in Alaska and has been around sled dogs for most of her life. First introduced to sled dogs at age 6 through Girl Scouts, she ran the Willow Winter Carnival 1-dog race, and won by only 1/5 of a second. From then on she was hooked, and competed in a variety of 1-dog races the next season before taking a break from mushing for a few years.

At age 12 she was gifted with her first two sled dogs, which came from Mitch Seavey’s kennel. That fall she was gifted with two more dogs from musher Sue Allen, and Fun On The Run Kennel was born. The kennel continued to grow the next year, and she trained her own team for her first big mid-distance sled dog race – the 2008 Junior Iditarod, finishing 14th. Everything changed for Meredith when her dog team was hit by a snowmachine during the Aurora 50/50 in December 2008. Her two main lead dogs were injured, and she was shaken up but uninjured. She competed in the Junior Iditarod finishing 8th that year, but her heart wasn’t really in it anymore.

After high school Meredith officially called herself retired from sled dog racing, and started college. She was offered a job working in Seward, Alaska at Seavey’s IdidaRide Sled Dog Tours, and had a blast working with sled dogs again. Within the first week she said she’d be running the Iditarod in just a few years, and blames Danny Seavey for offering her the job and getting her back into dog mushing (and continuing to feed her mushing addiction). She graduated from college in May 2016 with a Bachelor of Arts in Theatre

with an emphasis on Dance. She's excited to be running dogs from her own kennel in the 2018 Iditarod. Meredith lists her hobbies as "hiking, biking, kayaking and camping."



**Wade Marris – Wasilla, AK**  
**Website:** <http://stumpjumpinkennel.com>

Wade Marris, 26, was born and raised in the Knik area outside of Wasilla, Alaska. "I could mush before I could walk." Wade says, "I've wanted to run the Iditarod for as long as I can remember. I grew up around the Redington family in Knik and they played a big role in my mushing career. My uncle had a team of his own and showed me the ropes. When he passed away, I took over running the dogs. I enjoy mushing because of the awesome bond I have with my dogs, the time alone with them on the trail and the sights we get to see together. We are always looking for ways to improve our finishing position and look forward to someday winning the Iditarod." In 2014, he moved to Willow for better training opportunities and to expand his growing kennel. He is the owner of Sawtooth Sled Dog Tours. When he is not mushing, Wade enjoys hunting, fishing, running and exploring Alaska with Sophie and our Irish Wolfhound.

Total prize money: \$143,613

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2009	47	14:11:6:25	2015	8	09:08:15:17
2012	Scratched	--	2016	4	08:20:22:02
2013	32	10:17:05:18	2017	6	08:18:43:40
2014	16	09:17:27:35			

**Award**

- 2015 ..... Nome Kennel Club's Fastest Time from Safety to Nome
- 2017.....Gold Coast
- 2017 .....Spirit of Alaska



**Emily Maxwell - Iowa City, IA**

Emily Maxwell, 33, was born and raised in Iowa. She grew up in Iowa City where she earned degrees in Spanish, Journalism, and Literary Translation at the University of Iowa and worked as a Pilates instructor and bartender. She has seen her fair share of adventure, including running with bulls, skydiving, working as a long-haul trucker and racing in triathlons. After recovering from a severe burn injury sustained in 2013, she traveled to Alaska, seeking the therapy that nature and its wide open spaces has to offer. While traveling she met Iditarod veteran Nicolas Petit and soon after, she moved to Alaska to begin her mushing life with him. She worked as a dropped dog volunteer in 2016 and 2017, gaining valuable experience working with dogs and other volunteers on the trail. She is honored to run her rookie Iditarod alongside many Alaska friends and Iditarod veterans.

**Lars Monsen – Skiptvet, NORWAY**  
**Website:** [www.larsmonsens.no](http://www.larsmonsens.no)



Lars Mosen was born in Oslo, Norway, in 1963. He has been mushing since 1997 and has completed the Femundløpet 600 and the Finnmarksløpet 1000 many times. . He has been a full time adventurer since 1991 and has spent more than 4,500 nights in a sleeping bag, more than half in extreme winter conditions.

Lars Mosen has produced 12 national television series and written some 20 books. His trademark is “long expeditions.” He crossed Canada on foot, canoeing and dog sledding in 947 consecutive days. A similar Across Alaska Expedition lasted 10 months. He has bushwacked on foot across Kodiak and Admiralty, and through Katmai, and has canoed several Alaskan and Canadian rivers. He has led two 30 days expeditions with 11 disabled people through the Scandinavian wild, and been on many 30-60 days bushwacking expeditions north of the Arctic Circle in Scandinavia. Lars is married to San Francisco-born singer Trine Rein ([www.trinerein.com](http://www.trinerein.com)), and they live one hour drive from Oslo, Norway.

The 2018 Iditarod is Lars Mosen’s third. He has 27 grown dogs to pick his team of 16 starters from. At least half of the team has finished the Iditarod two times. In 2016 he ran the race to learn and finished 29th. In 2017 his goal was top 15, but he ended up finishing 26th after “sleeping” five hours on the Golovin Bay sea ice, during a storm, just 5 miles from White Mountain. His goal in 2018 is top 10. Anything is possible.

Total prize money: \$8,771

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2016	29	09:21:52:01	2017	26	09:11:01:58



**Allen Moore – Two Rivers, AK**  
**Website:** [www.SPKNogLog.com](http://www.SPKNogLog.com)

Allen Moore, 60, was born and raised in Northeast Arkansas and received a degree in Biology from Arkansas State University. He worked as a carpenter and a taxidermist before moving to Alaska with his young family in 1990. He began mushing over 25 years ago when his daughters, ages 6 and 9, arrived in Alaska and persuaded their Dad to get a couple sled dogs. Allen still has sled dogs whereas Bridgett and Jennifer are adults with families of their own. Allen and his wife, Aliy Zirkle, own and operate SP Kennel in Two Rivers, Alaska. He has been competitively mushing long distance races for over a decade. He is a two time Yukon Quest Champion and a six time Copper Basin 300 Champion. He ran his first Iditarod in 2007 and has competed every year since; except 2012.

In Iditarod, Allen races a young “Junior Varsity” team. His goals are to teach the SP Kennel rookie dogs to bond as a team, learn how to race and arrive in Nome with as many strong and happy dogs as possible. The idea being that these youngsters will go on to become future SP Kennel Champions. Allen says that it is incredibly rewarding to watch these dogs develop and learn over the 1,000 race miles. Allen has been awarded the Iditarod Sportsmanship Award two times for coming to the aid of other Iditarod Mushers. In the summer, Allen enjoys fishing, hunting and helping his grandkids catch salmon.

Total prize money: \$16,843

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
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2007	36	11:20:45:15	2013	33	10:18:04:21
2008	--	--	2014	27	10:17:27:45
2009	33	12:10:00:00	2015	38	11:16:52:43
2010	35	10:23:25:04	2016	32	09:23:56:45
2011	24	19:07:37:05	2017	39	10:01:24:27

**Award**

2011 .....Fred Meyer Sportsmanship  
 2017.....Sportsmanship



**Tim Multo - Manley Hot Springs, AK**  
**Website:** <http://freeborndogmushing.com>

Tim Muto, 28, was born and raised in Illinois. He attended Western Illinois University where he studied Recreation, Park and Tourism Administration. While still living in Illinois, Tim guided sea kayak trips on Lake Superior. He moved to Alaska in 2013 to handle for Iditarod veteran Karin Hendrickson and later handled for Brent Sass. He says, "Karin and Brent infected me with 'the bug'. He ran his qualifying races in 2016. Tim says, "One of the greatest moments in life is upon me. I have spent the last four years exploring the remote Alaskan wilderness by dog team, daydreaming daily about making it to the big race. My team includes my six dogs, which I acquired from Wild & Free Mushing and 10 Wild & Free super stars. We are entering the Iditarod to live intentionally and to squeeze the marrow out of life and to travel 1000 miles across Alaska. We will strive for a healthy and happy dog team to reach Nome. Tim lists his interests as "volunteerism, reading, Permaculture and Go-Getting."



**Hugh Neff- Tok, AK**  
**Website:** <http://hughneffgypsymusher.com>

Hugh Neff, 50, 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 professional golf caddy in Evanston, Illinois. Since moving to Alaska, he lived in numerous Interior Athabaskan villages and moved to Tok in 2010. He began mushing in 1995 and after reading Iditarod Classics by Lew Freedman, he became interested in running the Iditarod. Hugh has competed in thirty 1,000 mile races since 2000, 17 Yukon Quests and 13 Iditarod's. He won the Yukon Quest in 2012. He lists his occupation as dog musher. He is an Eagle Scout and a member of the Tok Dog Musers and says he enjoys back packing, canoeing and travel. Hugh says, "Dogs are my life. We participate in the Iditarod to have fun. Our goal is to get to Nome and enjoy life as much as possible – Alaskan Huskies are #1's!"

Total prize money: \$166,370.67

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2004	22	10:16:21:01	2011	5	09:03:16:18
2005	26	10:22:59:39	2012	17	10:08:41:52
2006	21	10:06:22:39	2014	--	--
2007	19	10:13:05:15	2015	19	09:20:25:44
2008	25	10:12:12:20	2016	22	09:09:50:47

2009	15	11:01:42:39	2017	27	09:11:40:07
2010	9	09:10:52:24			



**Andrew Nolan- Wasilla, AK**

Andrew Nolan, 19, started mushing when he was 12 and won the Jr. Iditarod in 2017. Nolan won the sportsmanship award for the Jr. Iditarod in 2016 and 2015. He has also won \$16,000 in scholarship money from the race. He enjoys running, trapping, hunting and fishing.



**Aaron Peck- Bezanson, AB, CANADA**

**Website:** <http://www.elevationdogs.com>

Aaron Peck, 38, was born in Cobourg, Ontario. He received his diploma in Agriculture from the University of Guelph. He began mushing in 1992 and says “I was hooked when I saw on ABC Wide World of Sports Susan Butcher winning the Iditarod.” He ran his rookie Iditarod in 2000 with Martin Buser’s yearlings and has since run the race three more times. He won the 2017 Canadian Challenge and the 2013 Wyoming Stage Stop Race. For the last nine years, Aaron has been a bison ranch manager. Aaron and his wife, Eva, and children, Clancy, 3, and Sunny, 1, all run Elevation Dogs, a dog boarding, dog day care, sled dog tour and sled dog racing kennel in Bezanson, Alberta. Aaron says, “I am excited to once again have the opportunity to compete in this great race, and I hope to be competitive in the Iditarod for years ahead.” They would like to thank all their friends, family, the Elevation Dog Crew and especially their sponsors for their support throughout the year.

Total prize money: \$3,464.88

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2000	51	12:17:48:05	2013	41	11:02:09:37
2005	45	12:03:23:36			
2009	--	--			



**Noah Pereira - Brockport, NY**

Noah Pereira, 21, was born and raised in Brockport, New York. Growing up, he met local mushers and was amazed after talking to them. He began mushing in 2009. He and his dad came to Alaska in winters of '13, '14 and 15 to train dogs. In 2013 he became the first non-Alaskan musher to win the Jr. Iditarod. He says he moved to Alaska to continue training dogs and currently owns 21 dogs. “My team consists of young dogs hoping to make it to Nome for their first time.” When not mushing, he enjoys hunting and fishing.

Total prize money: \$1,049

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
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2016	55	11:10:41:50			
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**Nicolas Petit (Pe' ti) – Girdwood, AK**

**Website:** [www.TeamPetit.com](http://www.TeamPetit.com)

Nicolas Petit, 36, grew up in Normandy and always loved animals. He moved to Alaska in 1992 because he “loved sow.” He adopted “Ugly”, a gorgeous Alaskan Mutt, put a harness on him and the adventure began. He traveled all over the state and began racing while working for Jim Lanier. “In 2011, Jim’s hip gave him trouble, so I took his wonderful white dogs to Nome.” He also lived in Girdwood, Alaska, and worked for Dario Daniels, whose training techniques live on through Nic’s calm mushing demeanor. During the last six years, he has run dogs from Raymie Redington and bred a female to his favorite Redington dogs and created a magnificent group of athletes that have proven that they have what it takes to win the Iditarod and any other race out there. He won the Fastest Time from Safety to Nome award last year and was third to finish the race. He says, “The future looks bright for my dog team.” Nic’s partner is Emily Maxwell, who will be a rookie in this year’s Iditarod. Nic lists his hobbies as “just dogs...”

Total prize money: \$161,762

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	28	10:15:43:01	2015	10	09:11:19:20
2012	29	10:24:23:00	2016	7	08:23:30:10
2013	6	09:11:39:13	2017	3	08:06:29:13
2014	--	--			

**Award**

- 2011 ..... Jerry Austin Memorial Rookie of the Year
- 2012 ..... Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher
- 2013 ..... Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher
- 2015 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 2016 ..... Nome Kennel Club’s Fastest Time from Safety to Nome
- 2017.....Fastest Time from Safety to Nome



**Mats Pettersson – Kiruna, SWEDEN**

**Website:** [www.sleddog.se](http://www.sleddog.se)

Mats Pettersson, 47, was born and raised in Kiruna, Sweden. He has been mushing for the last 26 years and has run all the longest races in Scandinavia, including the Finnmarksløpet in Norway five times. He is the Swedish champion in long distance mushing. He has been in the tourism business in Sweden 35 years and currently runs a tourism business just 20 km away from the world famous Ice Hotel in Sweden, Kiruna Sleddog Tours. This will be his fifth Iditarod. He says he has a passion for wildlife and meeting passionate dog people from all over the world. He loves spending time with his family and being involved in his children’s sports. He and his wife, Charlotta, are the parents of Linnea, Clara, Tilda, and Zeb, 7 and Freja, 3. He is a member of Kiruna Slädhundsklubb and says he is very interested in Alaska Husky bloodlines and breedings and has an operation in northern Sweden for this. He’s also been a “half professional” ice hockey player as a goalie.

Total prize money: \$21,536

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2014	29	10:18:32:05	2016	27	09:20:44:47
2015	25	10:00:11:21	2017	25	09:10:0:22



**Michelle Phillips – Carcross, YT CANADA**

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

Michelle Phillips, 49, was born and raised in Whitehorse, YT. “After traveling the world for 10 years, I decided to settle down in a small cabin in the Yukon Bush. After living for a few years in the Southern Lakes region of the Yukon, I met my partner, Ed Hopkins. Ed introduced the sport of dog mushing to me and I immediately fell in love with the sport. Growing up in a very athletic family and training for many years as a figure skater, I enjoyed challenging myself and working with such an elite and talented group of athletes. After running my first Yukon Quest, I was hooked on long distance mushing and I’ve been doing it since. I love traveling with my team of dogs and spending time with my best friends.” She and Ed own and operate Tagish Lake Kennel. Michelle has run six Yukon Quest races (best finish 4th and Vet’s Choice award in 2009.) For the past 17 years, when not racing professionally, Ed and Michelle, with their son Keegan, 18, (and up to 90 Alaskan huskies) have provided visitors with sled dog adventures of 30 minutes to seven days throughout the year.

Total prize money: \$91,273

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	27	10:08:31:12	2014	20	09:18:55:00
2011	17	09:20:22:22	2015	20	09:21:17:30
2012	16	10:08:18:01	2016	25	09:16:07:18
2013	24	10:02:22:06	2017	13	09:02:02:45

**Award**

- 2012.....Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk
- 2017..... Northern Air Carbo Herbie Nayokpuk



**Andy Pohl - Wasilla, AK**

**Website:** <http://www.seeingdoublesleddogracing.com/>

Andy Pohl, 43, may be listed as a rookie, but not to the Iditarod Trail. His experience includes riding a bicycle two different years in the winter to explore the trail. In 2014 he set out on a self-supported adventure to follow the Iditarod race riding his Fatback snow-bike, from Willow to Galena. He returned in 2015 with unfinished business, and followed the length of the Iditarod trail to the finish from Fairbanks to Nome along the alternate route. Along the first journey he met Kristy Berington at the Ophir checkpoint. Little did he know then how his life would be changed. Andy a lifelong Alaskan born and raised in Palmer, Alaska, is now married to Kristy. With the help of both Kristy and Anna Berington of Seeing Double Sled Dog Racing he started learning to train for sled

dog racing and raising puppies in Knik. The entire family has now become involved. Vicki Pohl helped get the new kennel established and designs and sews much of the needed mushing gear, and Raymond Pohl runs support and helps behind the scenes. Andy's primary race experience includes many years of racing bikes on the Speedway Cycling Team, in Anchorage, specializing in ultra-distance cycling events, like 24 mountain bike races, Susitna 100, Soggy Bottom 100, and the Fireweed 400. Dog sled racing experience includes Willow 300, Northern Lights 300, and Gin Gin 200. His other resume lists him as a University of Alaska Fairbanks graduate and Mechanical Engineer working on building projects in all regions of Alaska from Ketchikan to Barrow.



**Anja Radano-Talkeetna, AK**

Anja Radano, 43, was born and raised in a small village near Munich in Germany. She earned her nursing degree in Germany and went on to worked as a nurse there for 10 years. In the summer of 2003, she came to Alaska as a tourist and “fell in love with Alaska.” She returned in 2004 and began her mushing career as a handler for Iditarod veteran Melanie Gould. In 2008, she started her own kennel, training and breeding dogs from a variety of bloodlines. After several years of mid distance racing, she decided to pursue the Iditarod dream and “am excited to be at this point.” Anja went to vet tech school in the United States and is working as a licensed veterinary technician in Talkeetna where she lives with her husband, Peter Radano. She says she enjoys ‘hiking, camping, and other animals, especially horses ( grew up with horses), and being with friends.”



**Ray Redington, Jr. – Wasilla, AK**

**Website:** [www.teamredington.com](http://www.teamredington.com)

Ray Redington, Jr., 42, was born and raised in Alaska. He is a third-generation Iditarod musher. Ray's grandfather, Joe Redington, Sr., is known as the “Father of the Iditarod” for helping to establish “The Last Great Race.” Ray's grandfather, father, uncle and brothers have all competed in the Iditarod, which many believe embodies the rugged independence that defines Alaskans and their respect for a traditional way of life that goes back many generations. Running dog teams comes easily to Ray. He began as a young boy under his father's direction. Ray entered is first Iditarod race in 2001. Since then, he has finished all 16 races he entered. Ray's best finish to date was in 2013 when he finished fifth. It was not surprising that Ray should meet the love of his life while racing in the Jr. Iditarod. That was back in 1991. Ray and Julia married in 1998 and have two fantastic kids, Ellen and Isaac. As to be expected Ellen and Isaac also enjoy running dogs. Ray lists his hobbies as hunting and fishing.

Total prize money: \$319,039

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	35	12:18:14:42	2010	11	09:12:53:44
2002	14	09:21:26:18	2011	7	09:05:41:05
2003	15	10:19:04:08	2012	6	09:12:19:11
2004	20	10:14:21:31	2013	5	09:11:04:54

2005	25	10:17:04:00	2014	8	09:04:11:10
2007	17	10:12:43:10	2015	16	09:16:27:00
2008	18	10:05:38:16	2016	19	09:08:01:32
2009	20	11:09:59:15	2017	7	08:21:13:04

### Awards

2008 .....Fred Meyer Sportsmanship  
 2010 .....Fred Meyer Sportsmanship  
 2014 .....Nome Kennel Club’s Fastest Time Safety to Nome



### Robert Redington – Willow, AK

Robert Redington, 29, was born and raised in the Knik area outside Wasilla. He is the youngest of Joe Redington, Sr.’s grandsons running the 2018 Iditarod. He started mushing seven years ago and says he had a feeling he would run the Iditarod since he was a kid. In the summers, he does tours at Alaska Excursions Dog Sled Discovery and Musher’s Camp in the Juneau area.

Total prize money: \$10,403

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2016	--	--	2017	22	09:07:33:16



### Ryan Redington -- Wasilla, AK

**Website:** <http://callintraillkennel.com>

Ryan Redington, 35, was born and raised in the Knik area outside Wasilla. He says he began mushing when he could walk. “I was born to race Iditarod,” said Ryan. He last finished the Iditarod in 2009 and has done “every style of racing, from Fur Rondy, stage racing to the Iditarod.” He and his two brothers, Robert and Ray are the sons of Iditarod veteran, Raymie Redington and grandsons of Joe Redington, Sr. and all three are racing the Iditarod this year. Ryan is married to Erin and they have two children, Eve and T.J. Ryan also has a daughter, Raynee who lives in North Carolina. Ryan says he enjoys fishing, trapping and hunting.

Total prize money: \$42,235

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	--	--	2009	36	12:14:27:25
2004	44	11:19:10:15	2010	--	--
2006	39	11:06:59:18	2012	--	--
2007	18	10:12:46:00	2016	--	--
2008	--	--	2017	14	09:02:52:07

### Awards

2017.....Most Improved Musher



**Ketil Reitan-Kaktovik, AK**  
**Website:** <http://www.kaktoviktours.com>

Ketil Reitan, 57, was born in Trondheim, Norway. He received his Master’s Degree in Fisheries Science from the University of Tromso. He came to Alaska in 1986 to work on his Master’s thesis about Inupiat whaling and to mush from Ambler to Alelaviik. He met his wife, Evelyn, in Kaktovik. Since 2010, he’s been taking people out by boat to photograph the polar bears around Kaktovik. When he was in high school in Norway he became a member of the mushing club. He ran the Finnmark race in 1986. Now he is the only musher to have finished the five longest sled dog races: the Iditarod six times, the Yukon Quest, La Grande Odyssee, the Hope Race from Nome to Anadyr, Chukotka, and the Finnmarksløpet. Ketil says, “I am the only musher that trains my Iditarod team on the north coast of Alaska. In the summer, I train dogs with a four-wheeler on the gravel roads and beaches by the Arctic ocean in Kaktovik. In October and November, I use my dog team for hunting caribou on the tundra and hunting Dall sheep in the Hulahula Mountains in the Brooks Range. The dogs get used to running through blizzards, ice and overflow. Our sons, Vebjorn, 21, and Martin, 20, also help train the dogs.” After last year’s Iditarod, Ketil and Martin went from Nome to Kaktovik with Martin running the dog team and Ketil on the snow machine.

Total prize money: \$27,004.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1991	16	16:13:14:54	1994	23	12:07:48:10
1992	10	11:14:38:00	2016	28	09:21:18:33
1993	36	14:17:57:42	2017	31	09:14:48:58



**Jessie Royer – Fairbanks, AK**  
**Website:** [www.huskypower.com/jessie](http://www.huskypower.com/jessie)

Jessie Royer, 41, was born in Idaho. She grew up on a cattle ranch in Montana where she lived for 21 years. She worked on ranches as a horse wrangler and horse teamster. 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. She won Montana’s Race to the Sky when she was only 17, and she was the winner of the invitational La Grande Odyssee in France in 2005. She says her hobbies are horses, hunting and mounted shooting.

Total prize money: \$377,237.11

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	14	11:23:04:40	2010	15	09:16:04:40
2003	20	11:04:09:08	2011	10	09:09:23:17
2004	21	10:14:23:32	2013	18	09:20:20:15
2005	8	10:01:03:30	2014	7	09:04:03:25
2006	11	09:23:23:04	2015	4	09:15:51:09

2007	21	10:15:25:05	2016	15	09:03:42:33
2008	14	10:01:00:20	2017	5	08:13:08:54
2009	8	10:15:07:25			

**Awards**

- 2001 .....Nome Kennel Club’s Fastest Time Safety to Nome
- 2001 .....Rookie of the Year
- 2009 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Memorial Golden Harness Award – Lead Dog
- 2014 .....Nome Kennel Club’s Fastest Time Safety to Nome
- 2017.....Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian



**Tom Schonberger – Chugiak, AK**

Tom Schonberger, 50, was born in North Dakota and raised in New Mexico. He attended New Mexico State University, where he earned a BS in Secondary Education in 1990 and a commission as a second Lieutenant in the US Air Force. He followed that with an MS in Management in 2000 from Troy State University. He was stationed at Elgin Air Force Base in Florida and was then transferred, courtesy of the Air Force, to Alaska in 2000. He soon found a way to stay in Alaska and continue to serve his country by accepting a position in the Alaska Air National Guard. Tom and his wife, Mary, are the proud owners of TouchMeNot Siberians, a small working and showing kennel located in Chugiak, Alaska. The “Pack” as they are commonly referred to, was awarded the Siberian Husky Club of America’s Working Showing Trophy in 2014 and again in 2015. Tom began mushing in 2001 and has been working toward his first Iditarod since 2015 when he started running qualifying races. He is a member of the National Eagle Scout Association, the Philmont Staff Association, the Siberian husky Club of America and the Siberian Husky Club of Anchorage, Alaska. Tom is an Eagle Scout and shares this honor with his Father and his 2 brothers. He lists his hobbies and interests as fishing, hiking and “beer tasting”.



**Mitch Seavey – Seward, AK**

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

Mitch Seavey, 58, 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 and 2017. 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 19 and won the Jr. Iditarod in 2012 & 2014. Mitch says his hobbies are “writing, hunting and whatever the grandkids are up to.”

Total prize money: \$773,979.33

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
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1982	22	17:10:27:00	2006	9	11:07:39:27
1995	20	11:07:00:00	2007	9	09:19:30:23
1996	15	10:06:27:00	2008	7	09:20:42:31
1997	16	10:14:31:55	2009	4	10:14:18:00
1998	4	09:12:18:00	2010	10	09:12:08:54
1999	11	10:14:26:29	2011	--	--
2000	9	09:19:15:45	2012	7	09:13:10:58
2001	42	13:07:56:06	<b>2013</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:07:39:56</b>
2002	11	09:14:25:10	2014	3	08:15:39:40
2003	12	10:14:12:100	2015	2	08:22:22:56
<b>2004</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:12:20:22</b>	2016	2	08:12:05:25
2005	3	09:19:20:58	<b>2017</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>08:03:40:13</b>

### Awards

- 2004 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Memorial Golden Harness
- 2004 ..... Wells Fargo Winner’s Purse
- 2013 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Official Truck
- 2013 ..... Wells Fargo Winner’s Purse
- 2013 ..... City of Nome Lolly Medley Memorial Golden Harness
- 2013 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast
- 2015 ..... PenAir Spirit of Alaska
- 2016 ..... Bristol Bay Native Corporation Fish First Award
- 2017.....First Fish
- 2017 ..... Lolly Medley Golden Harness
- 2017.....Official Truck



**Lev Shvarts—Willow, Alaska**  
**Website:** <http://teamollie.com>

Lev Shvarts, 38, says he was born in a country that no longer exists, and is now a proud US citizen. He grew up in the Boston area, got a BS in Electrical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh. He went back to work in Massachusetts but decided to leave a perfectly good career in engineering to pursue dog mushing. He moved to Willow, Alaska in 2011. “I am now a self-employed contractor and operate a short-run manufacturing and light fabrication / machine shop. I’m coming back to the race I love with a young team, which will prove interesting. I’m married to my lovely and supportive wife Melissa, who puts up with more than she should.” His hobbies include tinkering, tools, and tattoos.

Total prize money: \$1,049

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2015	54	12:06:03:39			



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

Ramey Smyth, 42, was born and raised in Alaska. He is the son of Iditarod mushers Bud Smyth, who raced in the first Iditarod and the late Lolly Medley who raced in the second Iditarod. Ramey has lived all over the state but says he moved to Willow to put down roots and build a home for his family. Ramey has raced the Iditarod 21 times placing in the top 10 nine times. He won the Kuskokwim 300 in 1995 and has raced in, and won, many other events throughout the state. He is a full time log home builder and owns and operates Smyth Logwork and Construction in Willow. He says, "I am entering the Iditarod because I love sled dogs, and I'm building a team to win the Iditarod. I would also like people to be aware of Alaska's drug and alcohol problems and am racing in honor of abstinence. My mother died at the age of 50 from cancer and I would like people to donate to cancer research any chance they get." Ramey operates Smyth Racing Team-Homestretch Kennel, which is 70 dogs strong, with his wife Becca Moore and their children, daughter Ava 10 years old, son Banyan 6 years and baby Coral, who will be a year old at race time. Ramey says his hobbies are "subsistence hunting and fishing, all sports and helping family friends."

Total prize money: \$505,803.33

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1994	21	12:06:46:10	2006	173	10:03:32:40
1995	19	11:00:07:07	2007	169	10:10:20:18
1997	15	10:14:11:20	2008	36	09:18:52:06
1998	6	09:21:47:23	2009	92	10:17:52:08
1999	12	10:15:37:10	2010	63	09:07:47:50
2000	11	09:22:08:26	2011	220	08:19:50:59
2001	13	11:22:16:40	2012	--	09:06:04:04
2002	7	09:12:02:29	2013	20	09:20:54:56
2003	7	10:07:10:33	2014	--	--
2004	4	09:16:23:50	2017	12	09:01:47:08
2005	20	10:16:12:59			

### Award

- 1995 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome
- 1997 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome
- 2001 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome
- 2002 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome
- 2003 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome
- 2004 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome
- 2009 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome
- 2013 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome



**Jason Stewart- Wasilla, Alaska**

Jason Stewart, 42, was born and raised in the Washington, DC area. He received his Associates of Arts Degree from Hagerstown, Maryland in 2002. When he was 12, he had started spending summers in Alaska visiting his dad and his brother, Since he got tired of feeling homesick whenever he left Alaska, he left Maryland permantly in 2004 and moved to Alaska. He got started running dogs with an overnight camping trip in 2000. In 2011 he became a handler for another musher. In 2012, Jason met his future wife, Melissa Owens, and began

getting as serious about her as he was about dogs. He ran his first race in 2015 and “hasn’t stopped since.” He and his wife own and operate Owl Creek Kennel, which was started by her parents in Nome in the mid 80’s. Jason has worked as a Corrections Officer for the past three years. He is also an Advanced Glock Armorer. He enjoys building dogsleds in the off season ad helpng his wife withh her business ventures. Jason and Melissa welcomed their newest member, Ellen Patricia, to Team Stewart in August of 2017. Jason also has a son, Caswell who is 12.



**Cody Strathe – Fairbanks, AK**  
**Website:** [www.squidacres.com](http://www.squidacres.com)

Cody Strathe, 40, was born and raised in Iowa and Wisconsin. He received a BS in Natural Resource Management from the University of Wisconsin, Stevens Point, in 2001. He first came to Alaska after college in 2001 as a canoe and backcountry guide and “got hooked.” He moved to Fairbanks to go to graduate school for archaeology, where he graduated with a Masters in anthropology in 2009. He has been working as a sled builder and archeologist for the last 11 years. Cody says, “I am an explorer at heart. Being out in the wild areas of Alaska is what makes me happiest, regardless of the season.”

During the summer, Cody wears many hats when it comes to a profession. Cody and his wife, Paige, also an Iditarod veteran, own Spearfish Research, a fisheries and archaeology consulting company. This past summer, Cody worked with subsistence salmon fishers along the Yukon River to teach them how to collect scientific data from their catch. Some summers, he does archeological survey work in very remote areas of Arctic Alaska. In between field jobs, Cody builds custom dogsleds for other mushers through his company, DogPaddle Designs. He also builds custom handcrafted paddles and wooden boats. When fall comes, all of Cody’s time and energy is devoted to the mental and physical training of himself and of Team Squid.

He began mushing in 2006 and says, “I first became interested in running the Iditarod He became interested in running the Iditarod after finishing the 2013 Yukon Quest. Both Cody and Paige ran the 2016 Yukon Quest and the Iditarod, becoming the first couple to run both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod in the same season. After the race season, Cody and Paige guide sled tours at their kennel. In his spare time he enjoys white water kayaking, pack rafting, backpacking and hunting.

Total prize money: \$2,973

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2016	42	10:15:53:43	2017	30	09:14:34:41



**Shayne Traska- Gladwin, MI**  
**Website:** <http://www.howlingridgekennel.com>

Shayne Traska, 29, was born and raised in Michigan. When she was nine years old, her aunt and uncle met Joe Redington, Sr. and told her about the race and the sled dogs. She then told her parents that she would race the Iditarod someday. She says, “After years of dreaming and praying, at the age of 14, I obtained my first sled dogs and started my own kennel in m y hometown of Gladwin, Michigan. It was always my dream to run the Iditarod with a team of

dogs I had raised and trained myself. I raced my team in Michigan for many years, eventually starting my own breeding program when I was 19. As the kennel size and the yearning to race in Alaska increased, I looked for ways to move the kennel north.

In the spring of 2012, I loaded up my 25 dogs and drove the 4,000 miles to Alaska. When she got to Alaska, she began working as a dog sledding guide I Juneau and found her winter home in Two Rivers. Shaynee continues, “That first winter I trained my dogs completely on my own while learning the trails. The team and I also competed in our first qualifying race, the Two Rivers 200 and earned the Vet’s Choice award.” Shaynee and Jeremy were married in the fall of 2014, and their kennel has grown to 40 dogs, the majority of which they have raised from newborns. “I have always imagined myself and the dogs traveling across the Lord’s beautiful creation and meeting the wonderful people in the villages along the way.

After 20 years of dreaming, hard work ad many adventures, God has blessed me with the opportunity to run the Iditarod with my best friends. Howling Ridge Kennel can’t wait for our biggest adventure yet to begin in March.”



**Steve Watkins – Topeka, KS**

**Website:** <http://SteveforKansas.com>

Steve Watkins, 41, was born in Texas and raised in Kansas. He left high school to join the army and was stationed in Alaska in 2000. He received an engineering degree from Westpoint and holds advanced degrees from MIT and Harvard. Steve is currently running for the US Congress in Kansas. He says he enjoys mountaineering, adventure travel and fitness.

Total prize money: \$1,049.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2015	58	12:10:57:36			



**Scott White-Snohomish, WA**

**Website:** <http://www.lostlakeracing.org>

Scott White, 53, was born in Buffalo, New York. He graduated from State University of New York at Buffalo in 1986 with degrees in Philosophy and Design. In 1989, he left New York, looking for a place where he could enjoy the culture of a city and the adventure of the outdoors at the same time and ended up in Washington “to be in the mountains and wilderness.” For the last 20 years a general contractor for Krekow Jennings, Scott says that most of his free time has been spent outside — camping, hiking, backpacking, skiing, sailing, mountain biking and even playing hockey. But he says, “There are few connections with the outdoors as strong as when running dogs. The connection with a team of competitive sled dogs is like no other, and that intense relationship amplifies the connection to the wilderness. That is why I run dogs. Plus the fact that all my childhood, I wanted a dog and my mother never would let me have one.” For the last 20 years, Scott has spent most of time, when not working, training and racing sled dogs in the winter and traveling or sailing in the summer.

“My dogs are all Mark Stamm bloodline. Mark and I have been training ‘side-by-side’ for 13 of my 20 years mushing. This year, though, we will be training and racing one team made up of the best of all our dogs.”  
 “Running across 1,000 miles of Alaska by dog team is one of the most invigorating, profound, and enlightening things one can do and I’ve been trying to get back to the Iditarod ever since my 2010 finish. Finally, the pieces are in place to be able to do it. I definitely hope to compete this Iditarod better than I did last time, but the primary goal will be doing the best I can for the dogs, as it always is.” Scott is married to Francesca Letterly and lists his hobbies as traveling and sailing.

Total prize money: \$1,049

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2007	--	--			
2010	54	13:04:21:44			



**Misha Wiljes – Willow, AK**

**Website:** <http://wwsleddogkennel.com>

Misha Wiljes, 49, was born and raised in Prague the capital city of the Czech Republic, a beautiful and ancient city in the heart of Europe. After attending trade school in graphic design, she worked as a sign writer, and several years as a painter for movies, TV advertisements and billboards. She has always loved to travel. Her spare time was spent hiking and exploring with her dog and a backpack. While sleeping under the star’s blanket, she developed the desire to explore other country sides. She has traveled extensively in Australia and the Yukon Territory, finally coming to rest in Alaska, making it her permanent home in 2003. Naturalized in 2009, she now holds USA and Czech citizenship. She began mushing in 2000 and learned about it while handling for Charlie Boulding, Vern Halter and Judy Currier. After several mid distance races, she completed the 2012 Yukon Quest and the 2017 Iditarod. The 2018 Iditarod is her next challenge and it is a goal she has firmly in her mind. Together with her husband, Gerhard, she built WW Kennel in Willow, Alaska, and now lives her dream while running with her own dogs in distance races like the CB 300, the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod. She has worked for the post office in Willow for the last two years. She says she enjoys fishing and sewing.

Total prize money: \$1.049

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2017	54	11:09:37:20			



**Michael Williams Jr. – Akiak, AK**

Michael Williams, Jr., 32, was born in Bethel and raised in Akiak, Alaska. He says, “I have been involved with mushing since birth and have trained and raced dogs ever since I can remember. My dad has been racing the Kusko 300 and the Iditarod for many years and I helped train his team while he was attending meetings.” He graduated from Galena High School and attended AVTEC for one year. He is married to Phyllis Charlie and they are the parents of four, Paeton,7, Daniel and Kohl.3, and Anna 1. Michael says he enjoys hunting and fishing and spending time with his family. He is looking forward to running the Iditarod again and says a big “thank

you” to all his friends, family and sponsors for their help.

Total prize money: \$84,949

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	26	10:06:44:36	2013	23	10:01:57:30
2011	13	09:11:59:05	2014	11	09:11:50:02
2012	8	09:13:12:18	2016	48	11:02:17:45



**Monica Zappa- Kasilof, Alaska**  
**Website:** <http://teamzappa.com>

Monica Zappa, 34 was born and raised in Wisconsin, where she lived until she went to graduate school in Oklahoma. After finishing grad school in 2010, Monica moved to Alaska to try mushing and fishing. She says she sort of began mushing as a kid but started for real in 2010 and decided she wanted to run the Iditarod when she watched the 2012 start. She says, “I feel very fortunate to be participating in my fifth Iditarod and am excited to hopefully see the southern route for the first time. I love nothing more than the serenity of being out in the wilderness for days on end with my canine companions. The trail is the only place my mind can be quiet, away from the endless chatter of modern society. In addition to taking in wild Alaska from the back of a dog sled, I take pride in doing what I can to protect the Alaskan wilderness and its precious resources from exploitation. My partner, Tim Osmar, and I commercially salmon fish in the summer and we care deeply about protecting the wild salmon habitat in Alaska. Over the past six years, we have collaborated with various advocacy groups including Trout Unlimited, Renewable Resource Coalition, Musicians United to Protect Bristol Bay, Cook Inlet Keeper, Earth Justice, Alaska Community Action on Toxics, Stand for Salmon, Northern Center for the Environment, and more.” Last year, Monica was recognized as Alaska’s Activist of the Year for her persistent commitment to challenging foreign mining companies that threaten our Alaska way of life.

Total prize money: \$3,147.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2014	47	13:04:08:15	2017	--	--
2015	47	12:03:13:00			
2016	47	11:00:17:32			



**Aliy Zirkle – Two Rivers, AK**  
**Website:** [www.SPKDogLog.com](http://www.SPKDogLog.com)

Aliy Zirkle, 48, was born in New Hampshire and raised in Puerto Rico then Missouri. She graduated from University of Pennsylvania (Go Quakers!) with a degree in Biology. She came to Alaska 25 years ago to work for US Fish and Wildlife. Aliy traveled around Alaska assisting with studies on fish, moose, caribou, beaver, wolves and other wildlife.

She then settled in a small village above the Arctic Circle, Bettles, for her first winter.

Aliy adopted her first sled dog, Skunk, and built a sled. She then spent several years exploring the Arctic by dog team while living in Bettles. Aliy and her dogs moved to Two Rivers, Alaska and lived in a cabin along the Yukon Quest trail. In 1998, Aliy raced her first 1,000 mile sled dog race, the Yukon Quest. She went on to win the Yukon Quest in the year 2000. Aliy began racing the Iditarod in 2001 and has started, and finished, every Iditarod since then. Aliy and her husband, Allen Moore, own and operate SP Kennel in Two Rivers, Alaska.

Aliy’s goal is to win the Iditarod with the wonderful dogs that she breeds, raises, and trains. She says that she began mushing years ago because she simply enjoyed being with dogs, she still does. Aliy considers the Iditarod the ultimate statement for the dog-human bond. “Until you go out along the Iditarod trail and find your team in an extreme blizzard or an impossible wilderness situation, you will never truly know how awesome Alaskan Huskys are and their incredible dedication to us as human beings. I am amazed year after year by my dogs.”

Total prize money: \$410,687.11

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	33	12:17:53:33	2010	16	09:18:05:10
2002	29	10:28:01:45	2011	11	09:10:22:31
2003	14	10:17:17:38	2012	2	09:05:29:10
2004	34	11:02:04:44	2013	2	09:08:93:35
2005	11	10:01:46:30	2014	2	08:13:06:41
2006	14	10:00:36:50	2015	5	09:04:44:25
2007	28	10:19:57:07	2016	3	08:18:42:36
2008	21	10:07:10:21	2017	8	08:22:49:42
2009	17	11:02:28:45			

**Awards**

- 2005 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 2011 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian
- 2012 ..... PenAir Spirit of Alaska
- 2012 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast
- 2014 ..... Bristol Bay Native Corporation First Fish
- 2014 ..... Wells Fargo Gold Coast
- 2016 ..... Alaska Airlines Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian

## 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 canine to pull the team out straight from the sled. Used mostly while hooking canines 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 accordingly. 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 canines’ feet from small cuts and sores. They are usually made out of a light weight pack cloth.
- **Dog in Basket** – Tired or injured canine carried in sled.
- **Double Lead** – Two canines 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 and are generally must be both intelligent and fast.
- **Swing Dog/Dogs** – Canines that run directly behind the leader and help “swing” the team in the turns or curves.
- **Malamute** – A 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** – A line that connects a dog’s collar to the 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 canines are attached and includes towline, tug lines and necklines.
- **Runners** – Two bottom pieces of the sled that come in contact with the snow and extend back to the basket for the driver to stand on. Runners are usually wood, covered with plastic or Teflon, which is 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** – A heavy piece of metal attached to sled by line and 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 temporary and applies to both mushers and canines.
- **Tether Line** – A long chain with shorter pieces of chain extending from it and 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 also through an extensive program of pre-race veterinary screening.

- A licensed veterinarian performs a complete pre-race physical examination on each canine athlete within 14 days of the race start. Within 30 days of the race start, each canine 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) is 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, more than 50 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.
- 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.

- Over the past two decades, the ITC has been involved with veterinary research studies at Oregon State University, Oklahoma State University, Ohio State University, University of Illinois, Colorado State University and Cornell. The information from these studies, focusing on cardiovascular, muscular, skeletal and gastrointestinal health and overall nutrition of sled dogs, have benefited canines around the world.
- 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

## 2018 TEACHER ON THE TRAIL – HEIDI SLOAN



Heidi Sloan, a fifth grade teacher from Virginia, will serve as the 20th Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™. Heidi arrived in Alaska for the 2017 Iditarod Summer Teacher’s Camp. Over the two-week camp she participated in training for her duties on the trail during the 2018 Iditarod and participated in Teacher’s Summer Camp picking up new ideas and sharing her own best practices with other participants.

“My goal is to reach more students and teachers with the wonderful experience of using the

Iditarod as a tool to make learning required standards much more engaging! Using math problems that go along with the race makes math more interesting and real. Reading articles on mushers, their dogs, and other Iditarod articles keep interest high for comprehension and writing activities. I want all students, even those who have no concept of cold, snow, and mushing, to learn about Alaska and its terrain, climate, and lifestyle as well as the Iditarod! Meeting the many villagers in the checkpoints and listening to their stories is something I hope for as well.”

Heidi is very excited about her duties at the 2018 Iditarod Teacher on the Trail™. She looks forward to connecting teachers and students to the Iditarod trail and the amazing sled dog athletes. Sloan was selected from three finalists during a ten-day interview conducted in Alaska prior to the 2017 Iditarod.

When asked about the enormity of the job of Teacher on the Trail™ Heidi replied, “This incredible opportunity to teach in a very large arena struck me right after I received the news at school. My students broke into loud applause and cheers. The word spread quickly around the building and many of my colleagues and administrators were right there to offer their congratulations.”