

## MEDIA GUIDE

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## INTRODUCTION

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

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.

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.

(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 honoring 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 Mushers 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 793 finishers and a total of 2,224 racers to cross the finish line, as of 2018. 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 138 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 47<sup>th</sup> Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race will begin on Saturday, March 2, 2019. 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 70 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 3, 2019, 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 Tuesday or Wednesday. 2018 Iditarod champion Joar Leifseth Ulsom completed the race in nine days and 12 hours.

### **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 \$850-\$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.

Race 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 canines back to the major pickup points. A group of veterinarians from around the U.S. and the world 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 cutting trail, marking trail, and 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 preparing for and raising the money needed to get to Nome. 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 .....	Mike Mills
Vice President .....	Danny Seybert
Secretary .....	Mike Jonrowe
Treasurer .....	Ryan York
Director .....	Stan Foo
Director .....	Nina Kemppel
Director .....	John Handeland
Director .....	Mike Owens
Director .....	Karen King
Director .....	Clint Johnson
Director Emeritus .....	Joe Redington, Sr.
IOFC Director .....	Andy Angstman

### **STAFF AND VOLUNTEER RACE COORDINATORS**

Interim Chief Executive Officer .....	Chas St. George
Race Director / Race Marshal .....	Mark Nordman
Chief Veterinarian .....	Stuart Nelson, Jr., DVM
Race Coordinator .....	Joe Meyer
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
Start Coordinator .....	Karl Heidelberg
Restart Coordinator.....	Darrell Davis
The Lakefront Anchorage Headquarters Coordinator .....	Cheryl Zachary
Nome Coordinator .....	Mike Owens
Iditarod Insider .....	Greg Heister
Iditarod.com .....	Art Aldrich

## PARTNERS & SPONSORS

### Principal Partners



### Lead Dog Partners



### Team Dog Partners



### Wheel Dog Partners



## MEDIA INFORMATION

Media credential applications due by **Feb. 15, 2019**

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

Media briefing will be held at **1 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 27, 2019**, at The Lakefront Anchorage, at 4800 Spenard Road, Anchorage, AK.

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. **Media are not allowed to use different Iditarod volunteer or dog handler badges to access areas where members of the media are not allowed to visit.**

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 12, 2019**

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.



## 2019 CREDENTIAL AND MEDIA GUIDELINES

When applying for media credentials for the 2019 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 2019 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. 27, 2019, 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.
- Credentialed members of the media, who are also a dog handler or volunteer, cannot use volunteer or dog handler badges to access areas that are off limits to members of the media.
- 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 2019 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.
- Media partners 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.



## Partner Media

- Iditarod partner media have preferential access and positioning and are identified by a credential that indicates they are “Partner 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?** Use of the Iditarod logo in news coverage is permitted but the Iditarod Trail Committee (ITC) does not permit use of the logo in promotional or commercial use unless specific approval is authorized by the ITC in advance. Please note that use of pictures or video from Iditarod.com will most likely require a license agreement and fee for defined use. Iditarod 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 [chas.stgeorge@iditarod.com](mailto:chas.stgeorge@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, we encourage you to [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 \$105.00 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. There are many places in Anchorage that offer complimentary Wi-Fi with purchase. The Nome Mini Convention Center in Nome does have Wi-Fi available.

**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  
[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 2018 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, 793 mushers have completed the race, compared to more than 4,000 people who have summited Mount Everest.

**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.

**Can I use a drone to capture footage on the Iditarod trail?** All drone operators flying along the Iditarod route should operate under FAA-14 CFR Part 107, 336, 333 or 101E. ITC requires that all credentialed media that plan to operate a drone have liability insurance up to \$5 million and submit proof of this in the media credential application process. Credentialed media cannot fly over people or dog teams within a 50-foot horizontal distance. If the Iditarod Air Force is not flying because of weather concerns, then drone operators cannot fly. Any foreign journalists will need to have a drone registered in the U.S. or hire a local operator with proper certifications.

**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.



## MEDIA GUIDELINES FOR DRONE USE

Drone use will be permitted by approved and credentialed members of the media during the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. Media must abide by the following guidelines and submit paperwork in advance of their credential being approved to [media@iditarod.com](mailto:media@iditarod.com).

- All drone operators flying along the Iditarod route should operate under FAA-14 CFR Part 107, 336, 333 or 101E.
- Drone operators should attend a meeting of the Iditarod Air Force and lay out a draft flight plan of their coverage during the race.
- ITC requires all credentialed media that plan to operate a drone to have liability insurance up to \$5 million and submit proof of this in the media credential application process.
- Credentialed media cannot fly over people or dog teams within a 50-foot horizontal distance.
- If the Iditarod Air Force is not flying because of weather concerns, then credentialed media approved to operate a drone cannot fly.
- Drone operators should be listening to air traffic control when their drone is in the air.
- International media members must have a drone registered in the U.S. or hire a local operator as the FAA does not recognize any international drone certifications.

In the event that a race official or musher considers the drone use 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.

For more information about drone use in Alaska contact:

### **FAA**

Contact: Montana Alexander, FAA Special Agent

907-271-2994

[Montana.alexander@faa.gov](mailto:Montana.alexander@faa.gov)

<https://www.faa.gov/uas/>

National Press Photographers Association rules on drone use: <https://nppa.org/magazine/drone-code-ethics>

## IDITAROD FACTS

- The Iditarod ceremonial start begins in downtown Anchorage, Alaska, on Saturday, March 2, 2019, at 10 a.m.
- The Iditarod restarts in Willow, Alaska, on Sunday, March 3, 2019, at 2 p.m.
- As of Jan. 3, 2019, 53 mushers are signed up for the 2019 Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race, including 43 veterans and 10 rookies. Entrants hail from seven states – Alaska, Illinois, Iowa, Michigan, Minnesota, Montana, and Wisconsin – and from six countries – United States, Canada, Finland, France, Norway and Sweden. The record number of mushers starting the race was 96 in 2008.
- The Iditarod traditionally pays the highest purse in sled dog racing. The 2018 purse was approximately \$500,000, distributed between the top 20 finishers with \$1,049 paid to each additional finisher.
- The Iditarod changed the minimum number of dogs starting the race for 2019. Each musher can start with a maximum of 14 canine athletes and must have at least 12 on the lines to start. A team can finish with as few as five sled dogs.
- Five Iditarod champions will be attempting to regain the title. The Iditarod champions are Lance Mackey, Martin Buser, Jeff King, Mitch Seavey and Joar Leifseth Ulsom.
- 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.
- Four teams signed up for the 2019 Iditarod also signed up for the 2019 Yukon Quest – Paige Drobny, Matt Hall, Martin Apayauq Reitan and Jessie Royer.
- 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 2019 there will be over 1,500 volunteers involved in some way or another.
- The 2019 race has more than 50 veterinarians responsible for caring for canines along the race course.
- There have been 793 individual team finishers for a grand total of 2,224 teams to cross the finish

line as of 2018. Mushers 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 138 women.

- Mushers can be shy about talking about themselves; however, they will usually talk your ear off about their sled dogs
- Checkpoints are staffed by volunteers who range from locals to visitors who have traveled thousands of miles to Alaska. Volunteers may provide interesting stories about their communities and/or volunteer work. Some volunteers take their vacation during the race 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 Iditarods.
- 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.
- 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, 2019, then open 24/7 March 6–24, 2019
<b>General Information and Updates:</b> Nome Race Headquarters at Mini-Convention Center	907-443-MUSH (6874)	Open March 11, 2019
<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>	

## 2019 IDITAROD HONORARY MUSHER

INFORMATION COMING SOON



## 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!

### 2019 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

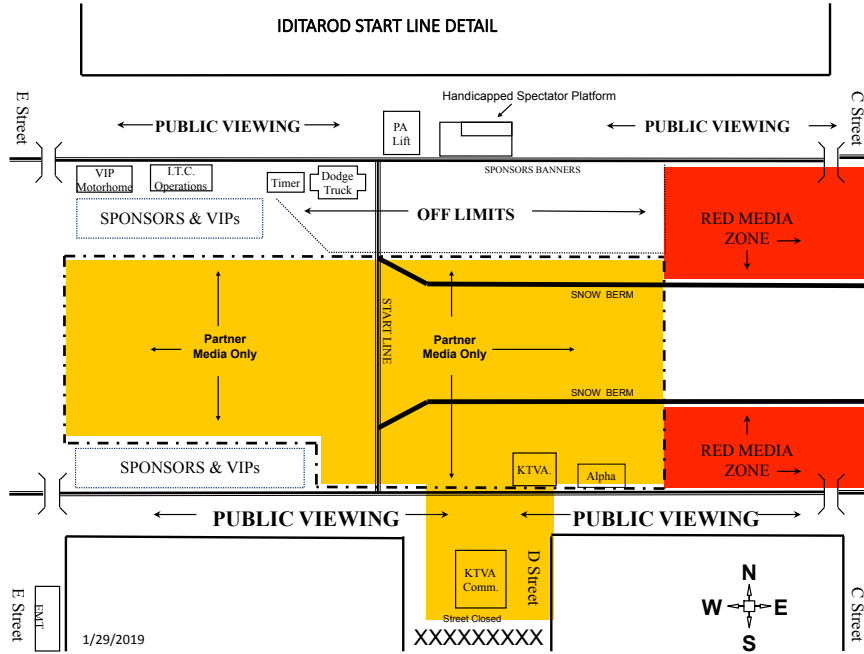
Welcome to the 2019 Iditarod! This portion of the media guide includes a brief event timeline for the ceremonial start in Anchorage along with maps depicting Fourth Avenue and the trail through Anchorage to the Bureau of Land Management complex.

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, volunteers or any other media partners. 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. **ORANGE (partner media):** Priority positions for start-line coverage will be reserved exclusively for partner media. **NO OTHER MEDIA WILL BE ALLOWED ACCESS TO THE AREA BETWEEN THE PARTNER MEDIA 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 Fourth Avenue, running east from the start line, is off limits to any and all personnel, including media.
5. **GOLD ZONE:** All other credentialed media.

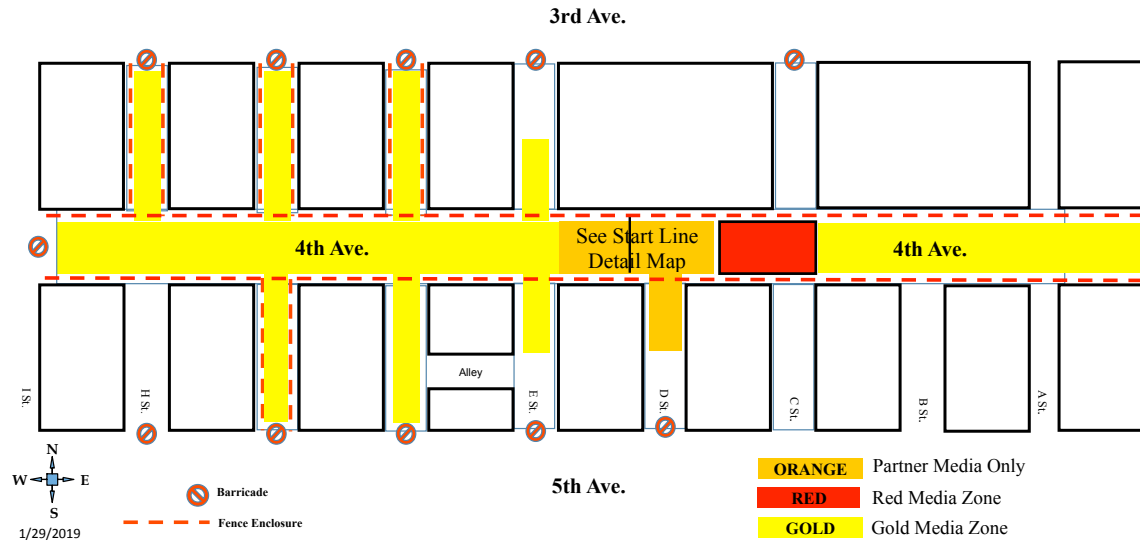
The primary purpose and responsibility of all start volunteers is to provide for the safety and wellbeing of the mushers and the canine athletes – we simply ask that you respect their efforts.

## ANCHORAGE STARTING LINE DETAIL



## 2019 ANCHORAGE COLOR-CODED MEDIA ZONES

### 2019 IDITAROD TRAIL SLED DOG RACE® Media Zones By Type/Color of Credential

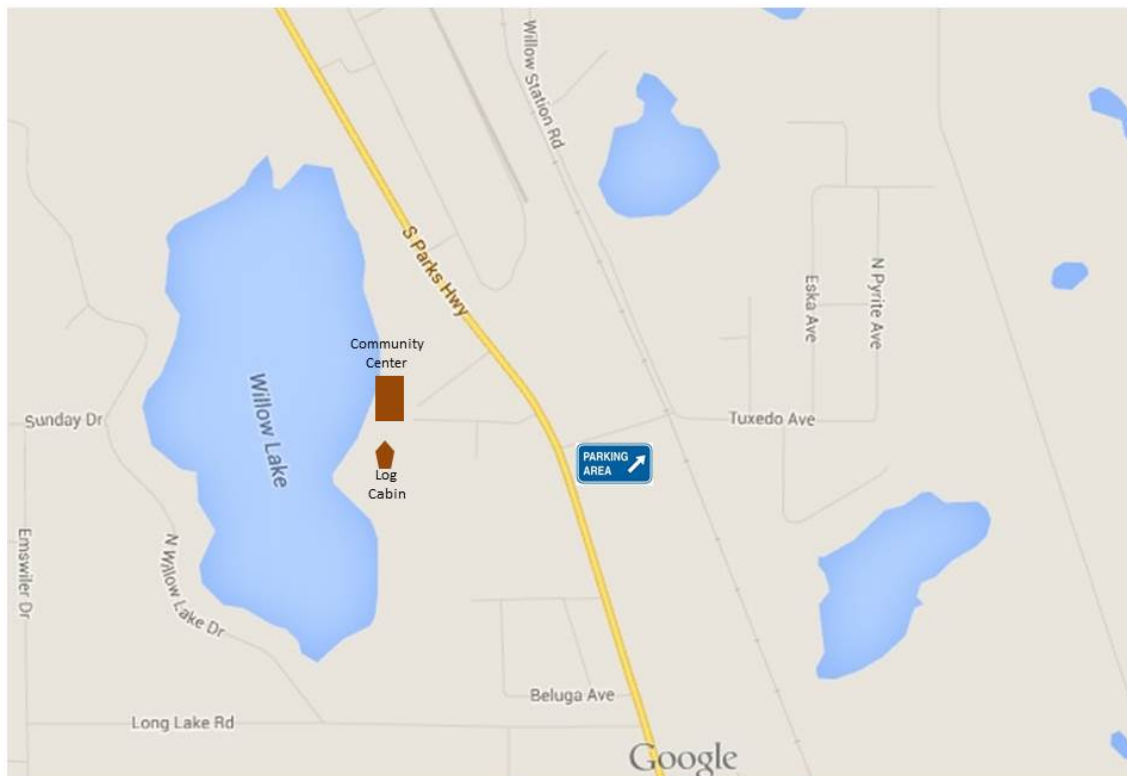


## RESTART - WILLOW MAP

The 2019 Iditarod Restart will begin at 2 p.m. on Sunday, March 3, 2019.

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. **The staging area will close at 1 p.m., one hour before the scheduled departure of the first musher from Willow. All media must depart the staging area at this time.**

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. 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.

**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](mailto:media@iditarod.com)



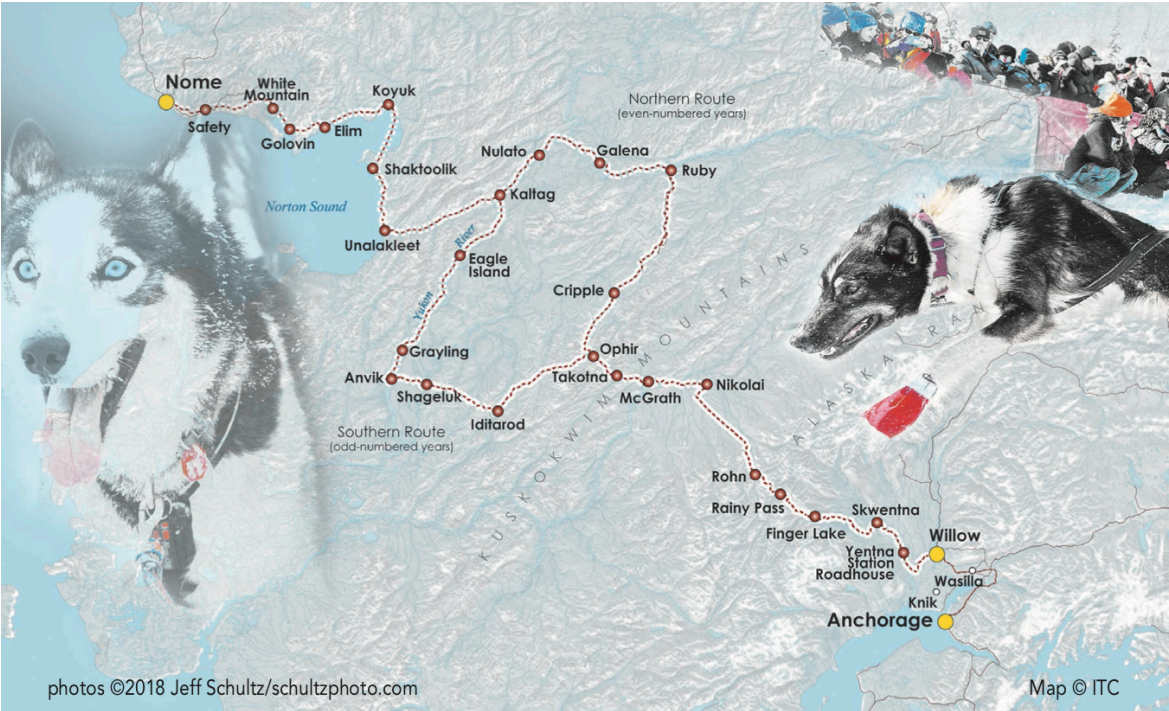


**DO NOT:**

- 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 actual mileage will vary somewhat from year to year

“1,049 miles®” has been a symbolic figure from the inception of the race to signify the 1,000 miles or more of race trail and the number 49 depicts Alaska as the 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. This is the location of the PenAir Spirit of Alaska award where the winner receives a flight credit and a framed print by Iditarod artist John Van Zyle.

***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, minimal accommodations available. The first musher to this checkpoint wins The Lakefront Anchorage First Musher to the Yukon Award, including a five-course meal and \$3,500 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. 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. The Bristol Bay Fish First award is presented here. The prize is \$2,000 and 25 pounds of Bristol Bay salmon.

***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. The Northrim Bank Achieve More Award was presented here for the first time in 2018. The first musher received a check for \$2,500 and a one-of-a-kind print.

***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 turns out to welcome the mushers and visitors to their community. Numerous stores, restaurants and bars line Nome’s infamous “Front Street”, but lodging is at a premium. If the Nugget Inn or Aurora Inn 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-feet 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.

## 1973-2018 CHAMPIONS & RED LANTERN WINNERS

Year	Musher	D:H:M:S	Musher	D:H:M:S
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 Sørli	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 Sørli	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*
2018	Joar Leifseth Ulsom	09:12:00:00	Magnus Kaltenborn	12:20:13:14

\*\* Fastest winning time

\* Fastest Red Lantern time

## ALPHABETICAL MUSHER LIST

FIRST	LAST	CITY	STATE	COUNTRY	STATUS
Cindy	Abbott	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Kristin	Bacon	Big Lake	AK	USA	Veteran
Michael	Baker	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Seth	Barnes	Willow	AK	USA	Vetran
Travis	Beals	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Richie	Beattie	Two Rivers	AK	USA	Rookie
Charley	Bejna	Addison	IL	USA	Veteran
Anna	Berington	Wasilla	AK	USA	Veteran
Kristy	Berington	Wasilla	AK	USA	Veteran
Blair	Braverman	Mountain	WI	USA	Rookie
Brett	Bruggeman	Great Falls	MT	USA	Veteran
Aaron	Burmeister	Nome/Nenana	AK	USA	Veteran
Martin	Buser	Big Lake	AK	USA	Veteran
Jason	Campeau	Rocky Mountain	AB	CANADA	Veteran
Jeff	Deeter	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran
Richie	Diehl	Aniak	AK	USA	Veteran
Sebastien	Dos Santos Borges	Chazey-Bons		FRANCE	Rookie
Paige	Drobny	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran
Matthew	Failor	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Linwood	Fiedler	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Marcelle	Fressineau	Whitehorse	YT	CANADA	Veteran
Cindy	Gallea	Wykoff	MN	USA	Veteran
Matt	Hall	Two Rivers	AK	USA	Veteran
Victoria	Hardwick	Bethel	AK	USA	Rookie
Jessie	Holmes	Nenana	AK	USA	Veteran
Ed	Hopkins	Carcross	YT	CANADA	Rookie
Peter	Kaiser	Bethel	AK	USA	Veteran
Katherine	Keith	Kotzebue	AK	USA	Veteran
Jeremy	Keller	Knik	AK	USA	Veteran
Jeff	King	Denali	AK	USA	Veteran
Jessica	Klejka	Wasilla	AK	USA	Rookie
Michi	Konno	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Joar	Leifseth Ulsom	Mo I Rana		NORWAY	Veteran
Alison	Lifka	Willow	AK	USA	Rookie
Lance	Mackey	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran
Wade	Marrs	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Emily	Maxwell	Iowa City	IA	USA	Veteran

Aaron	Peck	Grande Prairie	AB	CANADA	Veteran
Nicolas	Petit	Girdwood	AK	USA	Veteran
Mats	Pettersson	Kiruna		SWEDEN	Veteran
Anja	Radano	Talkeetna	AK	USA	Veteran
Robert	Redington	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Ryan	Redington	Wasilla	AK	USA	Veteran
Martin	Apayauq Reitan	Kaktovik	AK	USA	Rookie
Jessie	Royer	Fairbanks	AK	USA	Veteran
Ryan	Santiago	Sterling	AK	USA	Rookie
Mitch	Seavey	Seward	AK	USA	Veteran
Lev	Shvarts	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Ramey	Smyth	Willow	AK	USA	Veteran
Sarah	Stokey	Seward	AK	USA	Veteran
Shaynee	Traska	Gladwin	MI	USA	Rookie
Niklas	Wikstrand	Nes I Akershus		NORWAY	Rookie
Aliy	Zirkle	Two Rivers	AK	USA	Veteran



## 2019 ALPHABETICAL MUSER BIOGRAPHIES & PHOTOS



**Cindy Abbott - Seward, AK**

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

Cindy Abbott, 60, was born in Nebraska. After graduating from California State University, Fullerton, she became a professor and taught Health Science and Kinesiology for 23 years. In 2007, she took up mountain climbing with the single goal of standing on the top of the world. A few months after she began training, Cindy was diagnosed with a serious and rare disease (Wegener's granulomatosis), but she was determined to achieve her dream, and on May 23, 2010, Cindy stepped onto the summit of Mt. Everest holding the National Organization of Rare Diseases (NORD) banner. In 2011, Cindy came to Alaska and began learning how to run sled dogs with the single goal of completing the Iditarod. She immediately fell in love with the sport, the Alaskan people and culture, but most all; she fell in love with the world's most amazing athletes – the dogs! On March 3, 2013, Cindy started her first Iditarod. She made it 10 days before she had to scratch due to a broken pelvis. On March 2, 2014, Cindy started her second Iditarod. Unfortunately, Mother Nature made the race course unusually challenging. Cindy injured her shoulder and scratched at Rohn. On March 7, 2015, Cindy started her third Iditarod. After 13 days, 11 hours, 19 minutes and 51 seconds, she crossed the finish line in Nome and received the Red Lantern Award, and she got her NORD banner under the Burled Arch. After 5 years of living and working in California while training and racing in Alaska, Cindy and her husband, Larry, built a house in Willow and now call Alaska home. On March 6, 2017, Cindy started her fourth Iditarod. After 12 days, 2 hours, 57 minutes, 31 seconds, she crossed the finish line and set a new record for the fastest Red Lantern time by 25 hours! The 2019 Iditarod will be Cindy's final run of "The Last Great Race." She says that it is time to spend more time with her family. Cindy will continue to run sled dogs recreationally.

Total prize money: \$2,098.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	--		2017	66	12:02:57:31
2014	--				
2015	66	13:11:19:51			



**Kristin Bacon - Big Lake, AK**

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

Kristin Bacon, 45, was born in Youngstown, Ohio, and resided in various parts of OH until 1997 when she graduated from The Ohio State University with a degree in Physical Therapy. In 1999, Kristin decided to move to Alaska for an opportunity to work at Providence Children's Hospital, as well as a chance to experience a taste of Alaska. Her initial two-year commitment to Alaska has blossomed into an adventurous, passion-filled life she could never have imagined. Kristin was first introduced to a sled dog team the winter of 1999, and then began volunteering at Skwentna Checkpoint for Iditarod in 2005. In 2011, she decided to start her own dog team. That team completed their first Iditarod in 2016. This year will be Kristin's third Iditarod, and she looks forward to her first experience on the Southern Route. Kristin enjoys sharing the joy of mushing with the community during events like Ikidarod, as well as doing adapted mushing activities with her pediatric

clients at Bacon's Acres. Kristin continues to work year-round as a pediatric physical therapist with local families, as well as remote Alaskan school districts. She is on the board of the Aurora Dog Musers Club, and in her free time enjoys photography, gardening, exploring and learning. Kristin is very grateful to all the people who help make this incredible race possible — thank you!

Total prize money: \$2,098

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2016	69	12:23:41:54			
2017	53	11:05:45:43			



#### **Michael Baker - Willow, AK**

Michael Baker, 31, was born and raised in Denver, Colorado. At the age of 20, he moved to Boise, Idaho to be near family. Pursuing his passion for culinary arts, Michael co-founded an artisanal donut shop and bakery in Boise, Idaho. He originally came to Alaska for a summer season in 2009 to learn the art of handling sled dogs. In May of 2014, he returned to Alaska with his sights set on a new goal; becoming a professional Dog Musher and one day racing in the Iditarod, a feat he accomplished in 2017. For the last five years he has spent summers working his way from Dog Handler to Base Operations Manager for Alaska Icefield Expeditions in Juneau, Alaska. During the winter Michael spends his days at 17th Dog/TMF training and racing. Among dog sledding and tending a handsome beard his hobbies are music, exploration, baking, fly fishing, donuts and cribbage. He is the father of an amazing young man, Siris Harlo Michael Baker, age 9.

Total prize money: \$1,049

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2017	58	11:20:16:33			



#### **Seth Barnes - Willow, AK**

Seth Barnes, 39, was born and raised in Alabama. He attended Mississippi State University. He began mushing in 2010 and has completed both the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest. Seth lists his occupation as “adventurer” and his hobbies as “outdoors and adventure.”

Total prize money: \$2,098

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2015	35	11:06:05:21			
2017	37	09:22:33:30			



**Travis Beals - Seward, AK**

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

Travis Beals, 27, 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 has been a tour operator for the last 10 years. He enjoys fishing, hiking and the outdoors.

Total prize money: \$68,435.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	37	11:01:10:51	2016	18	09:06:42:53
2014	37	11:03:18:38	2018	9	10:00:46:51
2015	11	09:13:18:45			

#### Awards

2015..... Most Improved Musher



**Richie Beattie - Two Rivers, AK**

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

Richie Beattie, 45, was born and raised in Owosso, Michigan. He moved to Washington, where he worked as a carpenter's apprentice and climbed mountains. He says the mountains called him to Alaska. So in 2000, he and six Alaskan Huskies came to Alaska chasing a dream. He and his wife, Emily Rosenblatt, have raised all the dogs in their team.

He is a two time finisher of the Yukon Quest and was the Rookie of the Year in 2006. Running the Iditarod and seeing so much of remote Alaska, with a team of his own, bred, raised and trained by them, has been a dream for a long time. "We are excited for that time to finally be here," said Richie. Richie lists his hobbies as fishing, hunting, hiking and biking. His son Osha, is 8 years old.



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

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

Charley Bejna, 45, 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 flew up to see the Iditarod in 2006 and became interested in running dogs from then on. He has been an Idita-Rider (with Bruce Linton), handler (for GB Jones), a tag sled driver (for GB Jones), and now a musher. He has owned Charley's Landscaping Co. for the past 28 years and currently operates the company in the summer months in Addison, Illinois. He also owns 31 sled dogs, including several retired athletes, at his kennel in Knik. Charley has been a type 1 Diabetic (insulin pump dependent) for the past 18 years. "Managing my Diabetes on a daily basis is definitely a challenge. I am entering the 2019 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 seventh Iditarod, and he says "A Big thanks to my dogs, my family, friends and everyone else who support me in running the Iditarod."

Total prize money: \$4,196.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	--	--	2017	46	10:21:30:21
2014	41	11:18:01:10	2018	38	11:14:43:06
2015	34	11:02:07:10			
2016	--	--			



**Anna Berington - Wasilla, AK**

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

Anna Berington, 35, has been loving life in Alaska since 2007 with her sister racing sled dogs, commercial fishing, building and constructing homes, landscaping and competing in running races. With her sister, Kristy, 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. Anna started mushing when she was only nine years old. The twins have come a long way from mushing their pet dog in Wisconsin to giving tourists rides in the Sierra Nevada's, 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: \$9,994.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	43	12:02:16:30	2016	40	10:13:58:27
2013	43	11:07:07:55	2017	41	10:02:30:14
2014	39	11:14:15:22	2018	22	10:21:44:20
2015	28	10:11:06:33			

#### Awards

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



**Kristy Berington - Wasilla, AK**

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

Kristy Berington, 35, 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 10th running of the Iditarod. She moved to Alaska 12 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 being a part of it all with her is amazing.” Kristy and Anna pay the bills by doing carpentry work and landscaping. “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 mushers and their amazing dogs.”

Total prize money: \$12,894.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	39	11:06:44:02	2015	29	10:11:10:50
2011	29	10:20:02:47	2016	39	10:13:58:14
2012	43	12:02:17:13	2017	40	10:02:29:53
2013	42	11:07:07:17	2018	36	11:16:08:55
2014	30	10:19:20:26			



**Blair Braverman - Mountain, WI**

Blair Braverman, 30, was born and raised in Davis, California. She received her BA in Environmental Law from Colby College and her MFA in Nonfiction writing from the University of Iowa. As a teenager she went to Norway to learn about mushing and started mushing in 2008. She learned about the Iditarod as a kid and has been working toward running the Iditarod since she got her own dog team in 2014. For the last eight years, Blair has worked as a writer. She is married to Quince Mountain. She enjoys figure skating and wilderness adventure.



**Brett Bruggeman - Great Falls, MT**

Brett Bruggeman, 48, 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. “I am returning to the Iditarod to spend time with friends,...both human and canine.

Total prize money: \$1,049

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2018	39	11:20:21:08			



#### 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: \$310,131.56

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	2018	12	10:04:29:07
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. They have two sons, Nikolai, 30 years old and Rohn, 28.

Martin started and completed thirty-five Iditarod races, thirty-three consecutively (holding the record for consecutive finishes) and entered the 2019 race. He is a four-time Iditarod champion, winning in 1992, 1994, 1997 and 2002. His greatest pride comes with being a five-time winner of the Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award for Best Dog Care.

Martin finds great pleasure in training and traveling with his sled dogs. He shares his knowledge and passion for Alaskan huskies and mushing by speaking in schools, giving summer tours and presenting motivational speeches.

He is on the Board of Directors for the Blood Bank of Alaska; believing in its mission he has donated xxx gallons of blood. He is also an honorary Rotary Member after participating for many years as an active member and being part of the End Polio campaign.

Following Martin's 2002 Iditarod victory, the process for his becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States was completed under the burl'd arch in Nome. 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; his fellow mushers awarded him both the Sportsmanship and Most Inspirational Awards.

Martin was the first musher to complete the Iditarod in less than 9 days and held that record for nine years.

Martin's book, DOG MAN, is the story of self-discovery and takes the reader with him on the adventures, misadventures and lessons learned from his devoted relationship with his canine friends.

Martin is forever in awe of the spirit and ability of the Alaskan husky.

Total prize money: \$816,766.89

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	2018	28	11:09:02:14
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





**Jason Campeau - Rocky Mountain House, AB, Canada**

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

Born and raised in Ottawa, Canada, Jason Campeau, 44, was infused from an early age playing hockey with the ambition of attaining success by hard work. Jason went on to a successful OHL career with the North Bay Centennials where he scored the game 7 overtime goal, earning the team a trip to the Memorial Cup. Jason then attended the Toronto Maple Leaf's training camp in the NHL, prior to his last year with North Bay. Jason believes that sport is one of the best educations a person can get to prepare for the business world and all facets of life. Jason was fortunate enough to be awarded an athletic scholarship at the University of New Brunswick for Hockey, where his team won its first ever National Championship and Jason went on to graduate with his BA in Business. From the hockey rink to the board room, Jason has taken that same drive and determination to reach his goals as the Executive Vice President of Maplesoft Group, a Global systems integration company. Jason is also part owner of RSG Sports, a professional sports agency based out of St. Louis that represents NHL players.

As Jason continually balances his corporate life, he has turned to a more family orientated approach to filling his competitive desires in dog mushing. As a young boy, Jason had a dream of one day having the ability to run sled dogs. Family and teaching his daughters, Jessica and Mackenzie, 15 year old identical twins, about the great outdoors and how rewarding it can be to work with animals, turned that dream into reality. Jason's wife, Jennifer, is now qualified to run both the Iditarod and Yukon Quest. Both Jason's parents, Gail and Jean, are heavily involved with the kennel along with his brother, Jody, who is the kennel's general manager. As you can see it is a true family affair and a boy truly living his dream with his best friends—his dogs.

Jason is a member of the Ottawa Regional Cancer Foundation. He lists his hobbies as horseback riding side by side trips and camping.

Total prize money: \$16,549.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2015	18	09:19:28:11			
2016	35	10:04:10:35			



**Jeff Deeter - Fairbanks, AK**

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

Jeff Deeter, 30, moved to Alaska with his parents at the age of six. His mom took a job teaching in Norvik. Jeff says, "That was my first exposure to sled dogs, and I was immediately hooked. I began seriously mushing at age 15 with family friends, Frank and Claudia Sihler. I ran my first Iditarod at age 19 in 2008, then took a 10 year break. I used that time to figure out what I wanted to do with my adult life.

After attempting college and realizing it wasn't for me, I met my wife, KattiJo, and we started building a kennel together. In 2013 we opened Black Spruce Dog Sledding, a home-based tour business that introduces people to mushing and the unique lifestyle that surrounds the sport. This year-round tour business allows us and our dogs to do what we love every day.

In 2018, I returned to Iditarod with a pretty young group of dogs. It was the toughest race I've run to date, with multiple snow storms, high winds and warm temperatures. It was also some of the most fun I've ever had on a race. I enjoy being in bad weather because it makes me feel removed from the rest of the world, and allows me to really focus on the immediate situation and the animals in my care. Being in the bad weather is the ultimate test of the trust between a musher and their dogs. It's a great way to challenge our team and ourselves. Ironically, those conditions have made me more excited than ever to run Iditarod again this year. I'm looking forward to running a stronger, tougher, more experienced dog team in this year's race." Jeff lists his hobbies as Home design and building, animal husbandry, yard work, running, snowboarding, ax-throwing.

Total prize money: \$2,098.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2008	59	12:13:11:45			
2018	43	12:04:50:40			



#### **Richie Diehl (Deal) - Aniak, AK**

Richie Diehl, 33, 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 nine 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 six times, his best finish being sixth in 2018. He lists his hobbies as hunting, flying, fishing and boating.

Total prize money: \$94,212.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	36	10:22:32:06	2017	24	09:08:33:22
2014	14	09:16:35:40	2018	6	09:23:19:47
2015	22	09:23:26:59			
2016	12	09:02:42:21			

#### **Awards**

2014.....Horizon Lines Most Improved Musher  
 2018.....Northern Air Cargo Herbie Nayokpuk Memorial Award



#### **Sebastien Dos Santos Borges - Chazey-Bons, France**

Sébastien Dos Santos Borges, 46, was born and raised in France. He started mushing in 19998 and ran the 2017 Yukon Quest. He says he started racing with shelter dogs and still has some in his team. They are part of his family and they are his friends and he wants to pay tribute to them by participating in the Iditarod. An Adventure Reporter, Sébastien says his hobby is athletics.



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

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

Paige Drobny, 44, was born in Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania, and says she moved all over growing up. She graduated from Virginia Tech in 1997 with her B.S. in Biology and from UAF in 2008 with her M.S. in Fisheries Oceanography. Before moving to Fairbanks in 2005 for graduate school, she lived in Colorado and was a fisheries biologist. "I enjoy the outdoor lifestyle. I work as a fishery biologist and help my husband, Cody Strathe, build dogsleds for our company, DogPaddle Designs, during the summer. Our mushing started in 2006 as a way to explore the wilds of Alaska with no plan to ever do any racing. We spent several years camping and traveling with our dogs. In 2010, Cody and I decided to give it a whirl and entered the GinGin 200 together...we had a blast, and suddenly we were on the slippery slope." She has run the Iditarod four times and the Yukon Quest three times. Both she and Cody are entered in the 2019 Yukon Quest.

Total prize money: \$13,598.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	34	10:18:15:54	2016	10:15:54:11	
2014	25	10:04:42:26			
2015	27	10:06:15:37			



**Matt Failor - Willow, AK**

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

Matthew Failor, 36, was born and raised in Ohio. He says, "My family taught me a love of the outdoors; camping, fishing, canoeing, backpacking, hunting, were all things we did on family vacations. My mom and dad and brothers and sister all enjoy an active outdoor lifestyle. My three brothers and I are Eagle Scouts." He moved to Alaska in 2006 for a summer college job as a dog handler at Gold Rush Sled Dog Tours. He graduated with a Bachelor of Fine Arts Photography from Ohio State University in 2007. He moved to Alaska permanently in 2008 to train with Matt Hayashida and his dogs. He has worked for various mushers and in 2010, he started handling for Martin Buser and ran his first Iditarod as Martin's handler. He recently moved to Willow to run dogs under 17th Dog, Team Matthew Failor. He is excited and eager to get back out onto dog mushing's greatest stage, the Iditarod. "The dogs and I spend all summer, fall and winter together living as a family and learn to work towards a common goal, improving in everything we do and never stop learning. Twenty eight canines have become my immediate family now, however, Ohio will forever be called home." Matthew is currently a dog trainer and has been manager of Alaska Icefield Expeditions for 12 years. He says he enjoys sports, staying active and is an avid outdoorsman.

Total prize money: \$44,608

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2012	48	12:18:10:20	2016	61	11:18:54:45
2013	28	10:13:39:46	2017	59	11:20:19:03
2014	15	09:16:42:30	2018	13	10:05:53:52

2015	41	11:22:42:42			
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#### Awards

2016 .....Most Inspirational  
 2018.....Matson Most Improved Musher



#### Linwood Fiedler (FEED' ler) - Willow, AK

Linwood Fiedler, 65, 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 24 Iditarods, placing in the top ten several times and was a second place finisher in 2001. For the last 19 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: \$242,825.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1989	26	13:13:37:37	2002	--	--
1990	8	12:01:19:16	2003	6	10:07:02:55
1991	25	15:23:45:15	2007	--	--
1992	25	12:21:59:50	2009	23	11:13:44:45
1993	17	12:21:02:50	2010	--	--
1994	18	11:15:57:30	2013	29	10:15:00:52
1995	13	10:08:27:00	2014	--	--
1996	17	10:07:25:00	2015	37	11:18:28:35
1997	17	10:14:58:20	2016	24	09:14:57:26
1998	8	09:22:29:32	2017	20	09:06 09:52
1999	13	10:18:30:40	2018	10	10:01:27:54
2000	19	10:04:01:31			
2001	2	10:03:58:57			

#### Awards

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



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

**Website:** [www.marcelle-fressineau.com](http://www.marcelle-fressineau.com)

Marcelle Fressineau, 64, was born in Switzerland. She attended college there, 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 and was so impressed by these great dogs and by beautiful Alaska land that she set her sights on one day taking part in the race. She moved to Canada in 1995 looking for more space for dog mushing. She now lives in the Yukon where she raises her own Alaskan Huskies and operates an adventure outfitter business. Her goal was to enter one time, but as it turned out to be the best experience she had had with sled dogs, she is entering her fourth Iditarod. Marcelle says, "I like the challenge and I like to share this adventure with my dogs. 2019 will be my last Iditarod." She lists her hobbies as "outdoor activities and writing books."

Total prize money: \$2,098.00

#### Awards

2014.....Red Lantern

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2014	49	13:04:42:08	2018	--	--
2015	62	12:18:31:45			



**Cindy Gallea - Wykoff, MN**

Cindy Gallea, 67, grew up on a farm in Minnesota where she experienced the pleasure of the outdoors and the good feeling of interacting with animals. She was first introduced to mushing in northern Minnesota in the late 1980's. Initially she says she enjoyed recreational mushing and then began to enjoy racing. Her passion for mushing grew as she ran longer and longer races. "I love running dogs in a variety of situations and sharing the sport with others. But nothing is quite like the experience of running Iditarod and traveling with my team across Alaska. So, in spite of deciding, at least twice before, to retire from Iditarod, I'm back for one more run. I look forward to running my team which is a mix of some of my old buddies and some promising younger dogs. I hope we are blessed with good snow and can all work together to decrease our carbon footprint." She graduated from the University of Washington in 1990 with a Master's degree in nursing. She has worked as a nurse practitioner for the last 27 years. Cindy is the mother of two adult sons: Iditarod veteran, Jim, who still participates as a race official during the Iditarod, and Brian. She lists her hobbies as bicycling, canoeing, politics, family and friends.

Total prize money: \$12,588.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1998	48	14:00:48:36	2009	41	12:19:15:05
2000	--	--	2010	40	11:08:12:01

2001	38	12:21:46:53	2013	51	13:02:24:13
2003	33	12:07:48:52	2014	--	--
2004	41	11:07:58:10	2015	64	13:00:57:28
2006	54	12:07:20:02	2016	70	13:03:46:26
2007	45	12:16:50:17			
2008	39	11:07:56:20			



#### **Matt Hall - Two Rivers, AK**

**Website:** [www.smokinacekennels.org](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."

Total Prize Money: \$19,212.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2018	11	10:03:36:51			



#### **Victoria Hardwick - Bethel, AK**

Victoria Hardwick, 33, was born and raised in Colville, Washington. Growing up, she spent almost all her time outside adventuring with her copper-colored dog, Beau. She says that they did everything together. He was her first "small" sled dog pulling her around on roller blades. Neither of them were great at stopping. Many things changed for her over the years but her love of dogs and being outside and adventuring always remained constant. "I can't imagine a more perfect adventure than racing across Alaskan wilderness with my four-legged family in 'The Last Great Race.'" She received her BS in Biology from Gonzaga University and then went to the University of Washington School of Dentistry. Five years ago, after finishing dental school in Seattle, Victoria moved to Alaska to mush sled dogs and practice public health dentistry in rural Alaska. She began mushing in 2014 and became interested in running the Iditarod that winter. Victoria lists her hobbies as hiking, fishing and exploring.



#### **Jessie Holmes - Nenana, AK**

Jessie Holmes, 37, was born and raised in Alabama. He left there at the age of 18 to go see Alaska, but he ended up in Montana where he worked as a carpenter for three years.



He came to Alaska in 2004 looking for adventure and found it running dogs on a remote trap line on the Yukon River. This love for the wilderness and dogs eventually led to his competing in many races, both sprint and distance. He won the Kobuk 440 in 2017 and placed seventh in the 2018 Iditarod, taking home the honor of being the “Rookie of the Year” in that Iditarod. A subsistence resident of Nenana, Jessie currently works as a carpenter and TV personality, appearing the “Life below Zero,” a documentary television show about the daily lives of people living in remote Alaska. He lists his hobbies as running ultra-marathons, hunting and fishing.

Total Prize Money: \$25,812.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2018	7	09:23:39:40			

#### Awards

2018.....Rookie of the Year



**Ed Hopkins - Carcross, YT, Canada**

Ed Hopkins, 54, was born and raised in Quebec, CANADA. He says he left there in 1974 to look for “greener pastures.” He first became interested in dog mushing while watching the first Yukon Quest finish in Whitehorse. After that he broke trail between checkpoints and worked as a handler for Iditarod veteran, Harry Sutherland. He built his first team in 1987 and has been mushing since. For the last 35 years, he has been a landscaper as well as a dog musher. Ed is married to Iditarod veteran, Michelle Phillips and they have one adult son, Keegan. Ed lists his hobbies as cars and classic trucks and hunting.



**Peter Kaiser - Bethel, AK**

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

Peter Kaiser, 31, 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 eleven 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. He and his wife, Bethany, are the parents of six-year-old Ari and one-year-old Aylee.

Total prize money: \$243,701.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2010	28	10:11:13:59	2015	14	09:15:44:35
2011	8	09:07:06:06	2016	5	08:20:24:55
2012	5	09:11:06:23	2017	9	08:23:05:38
2013	13	09:17:36:34	2018	5	09:22:09:02
2014	13	09:15:28:30			

#### Awards

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



**Katherine Keith - Kotzebue, AK**  
**Website:** [www.katherinekeith.com](http://www.katherinekeith.com)

Katherine Keith, 40, was born in Minnesota and lived there until completing high school. During her teenage years, her rock climbing interests took her all over the country, including Devils Tower and the Needles in South Dakota, Vedauwoo in Wyoming, as well as other climbing spots in Colorado and Arizona, among other places. She also loved wilderness hiking, which led her to the Pacific Crest Trail in 1998 on a solo quest to hike from the Mexico border to Canada.

At 21, Katherine purchased an old ice cream truck, which she drove up to Alaska to learn how to run a dog team. After the devastating loss of her first child and her husband, Katherine pushed to start her life over by enrolling in the University of Alaska in Fairbanks, where she got her pilot's license, became an EMT, and graduated with an interdisciplinary degree in Renewable Energy Engineering. Katherine also began training for and participating in endurance training pursuits. Six full Ironman Triathlons later, Katherine and her fiancé John Baker raise and train more than 70 dogs. Katherine began racing dogs herself in 2012 and has since run the Iditarod five times, as well as competing in the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest in 2017 and 2018.

Katherine and John own a few small businesses including Remote Solutions, Team Baker Kennel, and a non-profit, Alaskans Changing Together, which allows them to professionally help meet the needs of rural Alaska. Katherine is a certified Bulletproof and Integrative Nutrition health coach. As an advocate for wellness, she is committed to supporting Alaskans to build capacity through responsible, sustainable development in communities large and small. An endurance sled dog racer and Ironman triathlete, she provides clients with help in establishing, reaching, and exceeding their goals. Professionally, she is an expert facilitator, planner, organizational development leader, and coach. Katherine also is a private pilot, fishes commercially for salmon above the Arctic Circle, while also operating the dog kennel. Katherine currently lives in Kotzebue, Alaska, with John and 15-year-old daughter Amelia.

Total prize money: \$17,468.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2014	32	10:20:43:15	2017	19	09:05:50:31
2015	--	--	2018	26	11:05:35:10
2016	31	09:23:30:05			



**Jeremy Keller - Knik, AK**  
**Website:** [www.allroadsleadto.dog](http://www.allroadsleadto.dog)

Jeremy Keller, age 47, ran the 2007 Iditarod and then focused on farming and raising a family with his lovely wife, Alison. Their older son, Bjorn, is thirteen and running this year's Junior Iditarod. Their younger son, Liam, is keeping everyone laughing! "The boys" are all three training together this winter and documenting the entire process on



Jeremy's website. Jeremy was born in Iowa, but lived all over the United States growing up. He attended college briefly in Madison, Wisconsin, before coming to his senses and running to Alaska to chase adventure! He found it and then some. He and Alison met in McCarthy, Alaska and lived in those remote mountains for twenty years before moving back to Jeremy's old home in Knik where he first learned the craft of raising and training dogs. A brilliant caricature of Jeremy can be viewed on Discovery Channels' "The Edge of Alaska"!

Total prize money: \$1,049.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2007	54	15:15:55:46			



**Jeff King - Denali Park, AK**

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

Jeff King, 63, was born and raised in California, and moved to Alaska in 1975 in search of adventure. He quickly became interested in dog sledding and Alaskan huskies, devoting all his spare time and money to building his own team, while developing a construction business. He began racing in 1980. His competitive nature and athleticism had found a new outlet, and Jeff set his sights ever higher, entering his first Iditarod just one year later. In 1992 he decided to devote his full time and energy to training and racing, setting aside his construction business. He won his first Iditarod the following season.

Jeff enjoys living just outside of Alaska's Denali National Park and sharing his life with his 40 sled dogs, one of which spends a lot of time on the couch. In the summer months, Husky Homestead welcomes visitors from around the world to watch his sled dogs in action, hear stories of adventure, learn about Alaskan Huskies, the tradition of dog mushing and the life and spirit of Alaska, the last frontier.

Jeff has three grown daughters, Cali, Tessa and Ellen, and is a proud grampa to three grandchildren. All three daughters ran the Jr. Iditarod and Cali finished the Iditarod.

Jeff has an outstanding race record, including a Yukon Quest victory in 1981, nine Kuskokwim 300 victories, and four Iditarod victories.

Total prize money: \$949,796.78

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

2001	3	10:07:19:43	2017	11	09:00:49:42
2002	6	09:10:42:19	2018	24	11:01:36:32
2003	3	09:23:17:00			
2004	2	09:14:40:59			

### 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



**Jessica Klejka - Wasilla, AK**

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

Jessica Klejka, 29, was raised in Bethel, Alaska. She grew up mushing with her six younger siblings and her family's dog team. When she was 12, she decided that someday she'd run the Iditarod. Jessica spent her childhood and high school years training with a sibling or two in her sled and entering as many of the local Kuskokwim 300 race committees races as she could. In high school, she won the Jr. Iditarod. Jessica attended the University of Alaska Fairbanks so she could continue mushing during school breaks.

She spent her summers on Norris Glacier working for Alaska-Helimush and was lucky enough to take her dog team down to the glaciers with her. After graduating from UAF, Jessica went to Washington State

University's Vet School to learn the science and medicine behind caring for and racing sled dogs. She currently works as a Veterinarian in Big Lake, Alaska. Jessica enjoys running, hiking, camping, flying with her husband Sam, and caring for their hobby farm of chickens and a rabbits.



**Michi Konno - Willow, AK**

**Website:** [m6n27t.wixsite.com/project-michi](http://m6n27t.wixsite.com/project-michi)

Michi Konno, 56, 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.'" He has one adult daughter, Haluna. Michi's hobbies and interests include hiking, fishing and camping.

Total prize money: \$1,049.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2018	23	11:00:35:02			



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

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

Joar Leifseth Ulsom (32) is from Mo I Rana in Norway by the Arctic Circle. In 2011 Joar traveled with his dogs from Norway to Alaska where they reside in Willow. He works full-time with his small kennel of dogs while heading up Team Racing Beringia for the non-profit GoNorth! Adventure Learning. Racing Beringia is an online education program exploring the region of Beringia spanning from the Yukon in Canada, across Alaska to Chukotka, Russia ([RacingBeringia.com](http://RacingBeringia.com)).

The 2018 Iditarod Champion, Joar has started Iditarod six times so far—and he has finished in top-seven in all six starts. He is the only musher to have ever done that. Joar has raced with his dogs throughout Beringia starting with the Yukon Quest in 2012. The same year, Joar became the first non-native winner of Nadezhda Hope race in Chukotka (Russia)—the "toughest race in Eurasia." Joar is now a 2-time Nadezhda Hope champion, with a second victory in 2014 and holds the fastest race record. Joar and his team also placed 1st in 2012 Chukotka Sprint Championship. Back in Norway Joar started out as a kid by borrowing his neighbors two house dogs to pull him around on skis. Watching Iditarod movies is what fueled his dreams growing up.

In 2007 Joar started mushing and building up his own team. He received a degree from an agricultural college in Norway and worked as a cowboy while he ran the great races of Scandinavia before coming to Alaska. With this seventh Iditarod, the run for Racing Beringia continues in 2019. Joar is a member of Rana

Trekk-og Brukshundklubb. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping and “the North.”

Total prize money: \$253,146.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2013	7	09:12:34:00	2017	4	08:11:00:40
2014	4	08:19:01:01	<b>2018</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:12:00:00</b>
2015	6	09:05:21:01			
2016	6	08:22:12:38			

#### Awards

2013 ..... Jerry Austin Memorial Rookie of the Year  
 2018.....Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Official Truck  
 2018.....Northrim Bank Achieve More Award  
 2018.....GCI Dorothy G. Paige Halfway Award  
 2018 ..... Golden Harness Award



**Alison Lifka - Willow, AK**

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

Alison Lifka, 27, was born in Ohio and raised in North Carolina. She grew up in the Blue Ridge Mountains where she spent her childhood exploring the outdoors and dreaming of adventures and exploration. She left North Carolina to go to college at Sweet Briar College where she received her BS in Environmental Science. Three days after she received her, she took off for Alaska with sled dogs on her mind.

She had become interested in Iditarod when she was younger and her father followed the Race, and that interest became solidified once she started working as a handler for mushers. While working as a kayak guide in Prince William Sound, she met a friend of Iditarod veteran, Lev Shvarts. Since then she has spent her winters handling for Iditarod mushers and summers giving sled dog rides on the Juneau Icefield. “I owe a big thanks to Lev, Linwood (Fiedler) and my family. Without their mentorship, support and encouragement, I wouldn’t have found myself on the path to pursue my Iditarod dream. I will be running a young group of Linwood’s dogs in the race this year.” Alison lists her hobbies as mountain biking, backpacking, photography, kayaking, horse back riding and archery.



**Lance Mackey - Fairbanks, AK**

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

Alaska born and raised, Lance Mackey, 48, grew up with dogs and Iditarod. He started his current kennel in Kasilof, Alaska, in 1999 and entered his first Iditarod in 2001, finishing 36th. He spent all of 2002 and 2003 recovering from stage four throat cancer, and returned to Iditarod in 2004 where he traveled the entire trail with his younger brother and two puppy teams. In 2005, he entered both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod, racing both from 2005 – 2009. Lance won both races back to back in 2008 and 2009.

Since 2011, he says, “My race record has been and not much fun; my last Iditarod was in 2016. It ended in Galena, and I haven’t been the same since. So for me, 2019 is about having fun, enjoying the checkpoints and the people of our state and its sport, about my dogs, fans, sponsors, friends and my family. More than anything, I’m doing the 2019 Iditarod ‘because I can!’” Lance is a member of Mush with PRIDE, North Pole Speedway and Alaska Race Way Park. He says his hobbies are car racing, fishing, and anything outside. He is the father of three: one adult daughter, Alana, Atigun 2 and a half and Lozen, 5 months.

Total prize money: \$369,942.44

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	36	12:18:35:13	<b>2010</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>08:23:59:09</b>
2002	--	--	2011	16	09:17:55:34
2004	24	10:18:27:37	2012	22	10:20:17:27
2005	7	10:00:21:00	2013	19	09:20:52:14
2006	10	09:22:08:38	2015	43	12:00:32:37
<b>2007</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:22:08:38</b>	2016	--	--
<b>2008</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:11:46:48</b>			
<b>2009</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:21:38:46</b>			



**Wade Marrs - Wasilla, AK**

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

Wade Marrs, 28, was born and raised in the Knik area outside of Wasilla, Alaska. “I have been behind a dog team since I was born. The biggest influences for his mushing were his late uncle and the Redingtons.” Wade says, “I was a quiet kid, learning the ropes of mushing, not asking many questions, just listening to words of advice from the many mushers visiting the Redington home in Knik.” Having now served on the Iditarod’s Board of Directors and as the IOFC president, I look forward to continuing being an advocate for the mushing lifestyle and the future of this sport.” Wade moved to Willow in 2014 to expand his growing kennel and for greater training opportunities. When he isn’t with his dog team, Wade likes to adventure, fish, hunt, build and spend time with his fiancée, Sophie, and their Irish Wolfhound, Reggie.

Total prize money: \$143,613.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2009	47	14:11:6:25	2016	4	08:20:22:02
2012	--	--	2017	6	08:18:43:40
2013	32	10:17:05:18	2018	--	--
2014	16	09:17:27:35			
2015	8	09:08:15:17			

### Awards

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



#### **Emily Maxwell - Iowa City, IA**

Emily Maxwell, 34, was born and raised in Iowa. She grew up in Iowa City, Iowa, where she earned degrees in Spanish, Journalism, and Literary Translation at the University of Iowa. She worked for years as a trucker, a studio model and a bartender and took part in every adventure that presented itself. She suffered a severe burn injury in 2013, which set her on the path to Alaska and mushing in January of 2016. She worked as a dropped dog volunteer in 2016 and 2017, gaining valuable experience working with dogs and other volunteers on the trail.

Emily ran her rookie Iditarod in 2018, and she is proud and thankful to be running her friend Jessie Holmes' dogs in the 2019 Iditarod. She thanks Team Petit and the many family and friends, mushing and non-mushing alike, who have helped her get to the trail. She currently works as a waitress and a Pilates instructor and said her hobbies are Pilates and surfing the Bore Tide.

Total Prize Money: \$1,049.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2018	33	11:13:55:56			



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

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

Life began for Aaron in southern Ontario Canada in 1979. Growing up on his parents little farm Aaron was exposed to animals of all kinds. Life was full of excitement for Aaron. Working with animals and all of the care that it requires seemed to be just what Aaron was meant to do. After Aaron was able to witness the Iditarod on TV as a boy he developed a keen interest in the awesome sport of dog mushing. Already a dog lover, combined with Aaron's love for winter and adventure made the idea of running sled dogs too hard to resist.

In 1992 when Aaron was 13 years old an old sled dog team joined the family farm. Training his dogs and going to mid distance races around Ontario was Aaron's primary focus during his teenage years. Looking back Aaron thanks his sled dogs for keeping him out of trouble and teaching him to focus on setting and achieving goals. After several years of running his dogs in Ontario Aaron realized his dream of running the Iditarod in Alaska was strong enough for him to head north. So when Aaron was 18 years old in 1998, he moved to Alaska to apprentice under Martin Buser, a 4 X Iditarod Champion. Aaron spent two years under Martin's guidance learning about what it really takes to prepare for and compete in the Iditarod. After 2 years of training with Martin, Aaron ran in his first Iditarod. Aaron returned home to Ontario with a plan.

In 2005 Aaron made it to the Iditarod once again, but this time with his own dogs. The logistical challenges of competing with his dogs in Alaska while living in southern Ontario needed to be solved. So in 2006 Aaron moved to Grande Prairie in northern Alberta. The Adam Buffalo Ranch was an ideal location for Aaron to continue building his Iditarod team. Over the next few years Aaron and his dogs competed in numerous long distance races and also operated sled dog tours in Lake Louise and Panorama ski resort. Aaron's skills with his dogs continued to develop during these years. In addition to running the Iditarod

two more times in 2009 and 2013, Aaron won the 2011 Canadian Challenge 320 mile race in northern SK, also after 5 attempts Aaron won the prestigious International Pedigree Stage Stop Sled Dog Race in 2013, a gruelling 7 day stage race in the mountains of Wyoming.

In 2012 Aaron began managing the Kleskun Hills Bison Ranch, also near Grande Prairie. Soon thereafter Aaron met his wife Eva while racing in Yellowknife in the Canadian Championships. Eva who is from Switzerland was no stranger to snow and competition, Aaron credits his marriage with Eva for taking his professionalism with his dogs to the next level. In 2014 Aaron and Eva re-branded their sled dog team as Elevation Sled Dogs. In addition to racing, Elevation Sled Dogs also offers tours to the Grande Prairie region. Aaron and Eva also began a dog boarding business in 2014.

Currently Aaron and Eva have two children, Clancy 4 years-old and Sunny 2 years-old. After a 5-year absence from Iditarod Aaron returned to compete in the 2018 race. Aaron and Eva along with all of the supporters are taking their dogs to a new level. The goal is to be competing at the front of Iditarod within the next 3-4 years with the ultimate goal of becoming the first Canadian team to win the toughest race on earth – the Iditarod.

Total prize money: \$4,513.88

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2000	51	12:17:48:05	2013	41	11:02:09:37
2005	45	12:03:23:36	2018	34	11:14:42:06
2009	--	--			



**Nicolas Petit (Pe' ti) - Girdwood, AK**  
**Website:** [www.TeamPetit.com](http://www.TeamPetit.com)

Nicolas Petit, 38, grew up in Normandy and always loved animals. He moved to New Mexico in 1992, where he finished high school and then to Alaska because he “loved snow.” 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 in 2017 and again in 2018 and was the second musher to finish the race in 2018. Nic lists his hobbies as snow, dogs and travel!

Total prize money: \$204,224.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2011	28	10:15:43:01	2016	7	08:23:30:10
2012	29	10:24:23:00	2017	3	08:06:29:13
2013	6	09:11:39:13	2018	2	09:14:15:03
2014	--	--			
2015	10	09:11:19:20			



### Awards

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.....	Nome Kennel Club's Fastest Time from Safety to Nome
2018.....	The Lakefront First Musher to the Yukon Award
2018.....	Bristol Bay Native Corporation Fish First Award
2018.....	Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome



**Mats Pettersson - Kiruna, SWEDEN**

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

Mats Pettersson, 48, was born and raised in Kiruna, Sweden. He worked as a paramedic for 15 years and was a professional ice hockey player (goalkeeper), but a bad snowmobile accident ended his hockey career. Since then he has focused completely on the dogs and has has worked full time with his sled dog company, Kiruna Sleddog Tours. He ran Norway's Finmarksløpet seven times and this will be his sixth Iditarod. He loves being outside in the nature, fishing, and is also interested in 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 Kirunasleddogtours.

Total prize money: \$33,198.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2014	29	10:18:32:05	2017	25	09:10:0:22
2015	25	10:00:11:21	2018	18	10:10:55:23
2016	27	09:20:44:47			



**Anja Radano - Talkeetna, AK**

Anja Radano, 44, was born and raised in a small village near Munich in Germany. She earned her nursing degree in Germany and went on to work 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.

Total Prize Money: \$1,049.00



YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2018	51	12:20:00:10			



#### Robert Redington - Willow, AK

Robert Redington, 30, was born and raised in the Knik area outside Wasilla. He is the youngest of Joe Redington, Sr.'s grandsons running the 2019 Iditarod. He started mushing eight years ago and says he had a feeling he would run the Iditarod since he was a kid. In the summers, he conducts tours at Alaska Excursions Dog Sled Discovery and Musher's Camp in the Juneau area, and he trains sled dogs every day in the winter.

Total prize money: \$10,403.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2016	--	--	2018	--	--
2017	22	09:07:33:16			



#### Ryan Redington - Wasilla, AK

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

Ryan Redington, 36, was born and raised in Knik, Alaska, and he returns there every year to train for and race the Iditarod. Ryan and his family, wife Erin and children Eve, 4, and TJ, 3, now make their home in Skagway, Alaska. Ryan has been running dogs since he could reach the handle bars. His grandfather, Joe Redington Sr., founded the Iditarod. Dog mushing is a family tradition. Ryan, his father Raymie, and brothers, Ray and Robert, have all competed in the race. Ryan has run many races across Alaska and the lower 48 states and enjoys running the Iditarod for the challenge it provides. Ryan also has a daughter, Raynee 17, who lives in North Carolina. Ryan says he enjoys hunting, fishing, trapping and spending time with family.

Total prize money: \$42,235.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	--	--	2010	--	--
2004	44	11:19:10:15	2012	--	--
2006	39	11:06:59:18	2016	--	--
2007	18	10:12:46:00	2017	14	09:02:52:07
2008	--	--	2018	--	--
2009	36	12:14:27:25			

#### Awards

2017.....Most Improved Musher



**Martin Apayauq Reitan - Kaktovik, AK**

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

Martin is a 21 year old Inupiaq and Norwegian musher. He went to school in Norway where his family had a dog mushing tourism business in Narjordet, close to Røros. He started mushing when he was four years old, with one dog and a tiny sled. In the summers he lived in Kaktovik where he went hunting, camping and fishing.

Martin ran the Femund Jr. Race, a 220 km race, in 2012 and 2013, with six dogs. In 2015, the family moved their racing dogs to Alaska. His dad, Ketil Reitan, has finished the Iditarod seven times. Now Martin is running with some of the dogs they brought from Norway in 2015. They bought other dogs and have two from a litter born in 2015 while they were driving the Dalton Highway. In 2016, Martin started working with the family business, Kaktovik Tours, taking people to watch and photograph polar bears from a boat near Kaktovik. He has worked as a captain on his boat ever since.

During the winter of 2017, Martin finished the Knik 200, the Copper Basin 300, the Two Rivers 200 and the Kobuk 440. Our family goes camping and sheep hunting in the Brooks Range with the dog team and Ketil drives a snowmachine. Martin says, "Traveling around rural Alaska with the dog team is special to me because that's how my Inupiaq ancestors used to travel. Martin lists his interests other than mushing as photography, music, sailing and climbing.



**Jessie Royer - Fairbanks, AK**

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

Jessie Royer, 42, 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 of 1998. She won Montana's Race to the Sky when she was only 17, and she was the winner of the invitational La Grande Odyssée in France in 2005. She says her hobbies are horses, hunting and mounted shooting.

Total prize money: \$390,999.11

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	14	11:23:04:40	2011	10	09:09:23:17
2003	20	11:04:09:08	2013	18	09:20:20:15
2004	21	10:14:23:32	2014	7	09:04:03:25
2005	8	10:01:03:30	2015	4	09:15:51:09
2006	11	09:23:23:04	2016	15	09:03:42:33
2007	21	10:15:25:05	2017	5	08:13:08:54
2008	14	10:01:00:20	2018	16	10:07:59:10
2009	8	10:15:07:25			
2010	15	09:16:04:40			

#### 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  
 2018.....Most Inspirational Musher Award



**Ryan Santiago – Sterling, AK**  
**Website:**

Ryan Santiago, 35, was born and raised in California. He attended college in Santa Cruz where he received a degree in History in 2006. He spent the next eight years living in Santa Cruz and working in sales for large distributors in the restaurant industry. He moved to Austin, Texas in 2011 to continue his career. In 2013, he says he decided to stop participating in life and start living it. He dropped everything and started adventuring abroad in Nepal and New Zealand. In 2014, had had the opportunity to work with sled dogs at Nature's Kennel, with the Stielstra's. Things took off from there and he moved permanently to Alaska in 2016 and is working at the Seavey's Iditaride Sled Dog Tours, where he has been a shop manager for the last three years. He lists his hobbies as hiking, water sports and traveling.



**Mitch Seavey - Seward, AK**  
**Website:** [www.iditaride.com](http://www.iditaride.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 21 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: \$813,091.33

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

2001	42	13:07:56:06	2014	3	08:15:39:40
2002	11	09:14:25:10	2015	2	08:22:22:56
2003	12	10:14:12:100	2016	2	08:12:05:25
<b>2004</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>09:12:20:22</b>	<b>2017</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>08:03:40:13</b>
2005	3	09:19:20:58	2018	3	09:17:11:15
2006	9	11:07:39:27			

### 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 ..... Bristol Bay Native Corporation Fish First Award  
2017 ..... Lolly Medley Golden Harness  
2017 ..... Anchorage Chrysler Dodge Jeep Ram Official Truck  
2018 ..... PenAir Spirit of Alaska Award

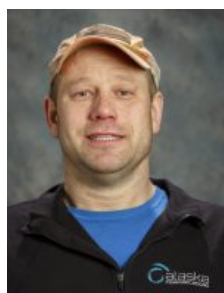


**Lev Shvarts - Willow, Alaska**  
**Website:** [www.teamollie.com](http://www.teamollie.com)

Lev Shvarts, 39, was born in the Ukraine in the Soviet Union and is now a proud U.S. citizen. He grew up in the Boston area and got a BS in Electrical Engineering at Carnegie Mellon in Pittsburgh. He went back to work in Massachusetts, but while sitting in an air conditioned office, he decided to leave a perfectly good career in engineering to pursue dog mushing. He moved to Willow, Alaska in 2011. He is now a self-employed contractor and operates a short-run manufacturing shop. He is married to Melissa. His hobbies include tinkering, tools, and tattoos.

Total prize money: \$2,098.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2015	54	12:06:03:39			
2018	41	11:22:12:14			



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

Ramey Smyth, 43, 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 26 times placing in the top 10 ten times. He won the Kuskokwim 300 in 1995 and has raced in, and won, many other events throughout the state. He began mushing "as soon as I could walk" and won

the Jr. Iditarod twice before his first Iditarod in 1994. 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 to test myself and give my dogs a chance to run and compete. I race to encourage people to donate to cancer research and to drug and alcohol free lifestyle. I would like to thank my friends, family and sponsors who have loyally supported my racing endeavors. Ramey operates Smyth Racing Team-Homestretch Kennel, which is 70 dogs strong, with his wife Becca Moore and their children, daughter Ava 12 years old, son Banyan 8 years and baby Coral,2. Ramey says his hobbies are "hunting, fishing, soccer and boxing."

Total prize money: \$530,065.33

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
1994	21	12:06:46:10	2007	169	10:10:20:18
1995	19	11:00:07:07	2008	36	09:18:52:06
1997	15	10:14:11:20	2009	92	10:17:52:08
1998	6	09:21:47:23	2010	63	09:07:47:50
1999	12	10:15:37:10	2011	220	08:19:50:59
2000	11	09:22:08:26	2012	--	09:06:04:04
2001	13	11:22:16:40	2013	20	09:20:54:56
2002	7	09:12:02:29	2014	--	--
2003	7	10:07:10:33	2017	12	09:01:47:08
2004	4	09:16:23:50	2018	8	10:00:10:35
2005	20	10:16:12:59			
2006	173	10:03:32:40			

#### Awards

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  
 2008 ..... Golden Harness  
 2009 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome  
 2013 ..... Nome Kennel Club Fastest Time from Safety to Nome



**Sarah Stokey - Seward, Alaska**

Sarah Stokey, 30, was born and raised in Massachusetts. She received her BA from Northeastern University in Sociology. She moved to Seward in 2010 "to pursue a dream of running dogs." She had wanted to run the Iditarod since she was six and saw the movie, "Iron Will." In 2011, she met Travis Beals, and they began running dogs together. She has been a tour operator for the last 10 years and says she enjoys writing, boating and hiking.

Total Prize Money: \$1,049.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2016	66	12:02:59:51			



**Shaynee Traska - Gladwin, MI**

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

Shaynee Traska, 30, 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 my 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 in 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 and many adventures, God blessed me an amazing journey to Nome in the 2018 Iditarod.

This year we will return to once again explore the wild country the trail offers and to draw closer to the Lord than we ever have through the highs and lows of mushing 1,000 miles. Howling ridge Kennel can't wait to be a part of the beauty and toughness of the Iditarod again this year.

Total Prize Money: \$1,049.00

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2018	48	12:16:08:25			



**Niklas Wikstrand - Nes i Akershus, Norway**

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

Niklas Wikstrand, 28, was born and raised in Romerike, NORWAY. He first became interested in dog mushing while watching "Iron Will" as a kid. But his first experience came when he started a class called "Mushing & Outdoors Life" at the school, Folkehøgskolen 69° Nord! Then he had one year as a handler and soldier in the Norwegian Air Force-K9. After that he studied biology for one year and ran a recreational team. In 2013, he moved to Svalbard to become an Arctic Nature Guide.

After graduation, he worked as a guide taking guests out with dog sleds, kayaking, hiking, skiing, snowmachining, glacier walking and camping, until he came to Alaska in 2016 to be Pete Kaiser's handler for one year (and has now been there three years). When he is in Norway, he still works as a guide and the

last year as an assistant at the local veterinarian clinic. Niklas lists his hobbies as climbing, biking, reading, Ice Hockey, snowmachining, hiking and camping.

He says, "I am looking forward to the adventure of travelling through Alaska with the dogs I've gotten to know for the last three years. I don't know which of Pete's dogs I will be running, but it doesn't matter, because I like them all and I think we'll have fun out there."



**Aliy Zirkle - Two Rivers, AK**

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

Aliy Zirkle, 49, was born in New Hampshire and was raised in New Hampshire, Puerto Rico, St. Louis and Pennsylvania. She graduated with a degree in biology from the University of Pennsylvania. When she was in her early 20's, she moved to a small Alaskan town north of the Arctic Circle. During her first winter, she adopted six huskies, built a dog sled and explored the surrounding wilderness with her dog team. The

challenges of this first winter taught her many of the skills that she uses today.

This solitary, independent, wilderness lifestyle that Aliy fell in love 25 years ago has now ironically, thrown her into the media spotlight. While she has had many successes in her dog mushing career, she has also had notable disappointments. Aliy finished 2nd place in the Iditarod three times in a row. She is the first, and only, woman to win the Yukon Quest (a 1,000 mile remote mushing adventure race.)

Aliy and her husband, Allen Moore, an Iditarod veteran and Yukon Quest winner, own and operate SP Kennel – a premier sled dog kennel in Two Rivers, Alaska. They strive to be the best they can through complete dedication to their canine teammates and to the sport. They are also committed to the Alaskan community that has given them unwavering support and incredible encouragement through the years. Aliy's life has revolved around dogs for many years. She says they are the center focus of pretty much all that she and Allen do. She also loves coffee and says grinding and brewing the perfect cup every morning makes her happy!

Total prize money: \$425,599.11

YEAR	POSITION	TIME	YEAR	POSITION	TIME
2001	33	12:17:53:33	2011	11	09:10:22:31
2002	29	10:28:01:45	2012	2	09:05:29:10
2003	14	10:17:17:38	2013	2	09:08:93:35
2004	34	11:02:04:44	2014	2	08:13:06:41
2005	11	10:01:46:30	2015	5	09:04:44:25
2006	14	10:00:36:50	2016	3	08:18:42:36
2007	28	10:19:57:07	2017	8	08:22:49:42
2008	21	10:07:10:21	2018	15	10:06:42:22
2009	17	11:02:28:45			
2010	16	09:18:05:10			

#### 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  
2018 ..... Leonahard 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 according. An intelligent leader is an absolute necessity. At times it appears that there is E.S.P. between musher and the leader.

### Mushing Vocabulary:

- **Alaskan Husky** - "Breed" generally used as sled dog. Not recognized by the American Kennel Club.
- **Booties** - Type of sock made to protect 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 temporarily 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

## 2019 TEACHER ON THE TRAIL – BRIAN HICKOX



Brian Hickox believes that one's identity and personality is often shaped through experiential learning and positive interactions with role models. Growing up, the many influential educators in his life helped him to understand the frameworks of society. He just knew that teaching would be his calling. In April of 2018, Brian received the call that would bring his successful teaching career to the next level. Brian was informed that he was chosen as the 21st Iditarod Teacher on the Trail.

Brian is from Weymouth, Massachusetts, a large town approximately 20 miles south of Boston. He teaches in a middle school, eighth grade English Language Arts, in Canton, Massachusetts. He loves being a teacher and enjoys every minute of teaching. He is an energetic, compassionate, humorous, encouraging, passionate, and engaging teacher. Brian has also been a lacrosse coach for kids at the youth level and students in high school. Brian's professional goal is to inspire youth to become lifelong learners, positive role models, and difference makers in their communities and in the world. Brian is interested in helping to broaden the scope of learners following the race to include a greater presence in middle and high schools. Brian's hobbies and interests include boating, hiking, snowboarding, camping, rafting, traveling, and sky diving.

Brian says, "As a teacher and a coach, it has been rewarding being able to teach youths the value of teamwork, leadership, goal-setting, resilience, and perseverance- all qualities which mushers often possess and exhibit! The Iditarod has been a tremendous learning resource which has intrigued and captivated all of my students. The lessons which can be learned from the race, the culture, Alaska, and the Alaskan history, are significant and valuable. I am looking forward to sharing my experiences and knowledge with other students and teachers as well as sharing the tremendous love and adoration for this unbelievable race."

Brian has always been known as an active thrill-seeker and nature-lover. Some of his invaluable experiences include boating in Buzzards Bay, snowboarding in New Hampshire, Vermont, and Maine, camping in the White Mountains, hiking Acadia National Park, whitewater rafting down the Kennebec River, and skydiving through the New England skies. Several summers ago, Brian had the opportunity of driving across the United States with a couple of his friends. They drove from the East Coast, to the West Coast, and back again. They visited numerous national parks, hiked many trails, witnessed amazing wildlife, and interacted with some unbelievable people. Destinations included Zion National Park, the Redwood National Forest, Yellowstone, Yosemite, and the Arches. Even with all of these adventures in his experiential pocket of life, the root of who Brian is, comes from his family. When you get to know Brian, you also understand that having adventures is an amazing aspect of one's life, but the root of what's important comes down to family. Brian has a close relationship with his family and treasures the adventures and time that they've had together, especially a recent trip last summer through parts of Alaska with his dad. Family is everything. The adventures one experiences along the way are opportunities for professional and personal growth, making you who you are.

During the past school year, Brian has been creating educational materials and projects for students in elementary and secondary classrooms. Those lessons can be found at the ITC EDU website in the Iditarod Teacher on the Trail section. <https://iditarod.com/edu/category/teacher-on-the-trail/>

Don't miss his great STEM lesson on solar cookers and coolers! Once the race begins, Brian will be traveling by small plane from checkpoint to checkpoint, experiencing firsthand a behind-the-scenes look at the race. He will continue his work as liaison between the Iditarod trail and classrooms around the world through his daily postings during the 2019 Iditarod.

Brian is the 21st Iditarod Teacher on the Trail. The Iditarod Teacher on the Trail began in 1999 when Andrea Aufder Hyde, a now retired educator from Indiana and creator of the program, served as the first Teacher on the Trail.