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LEADERS TO FOLLOW



Photo: Courtesy *Scott Billings*

RICK WARD

Rick Ward, *leading hillclimber who won multiple-class titles at several major events*

JOHN FAEO

BOB GILMAN

John Faeo *and* **Bob Gilman**, *who teamed up to win the Alaska Gold Rush Classic Iron Dog to Nome and back*

TROY PIERCE

TODD KRIKKE

Troy Pierce, *MIRA top-points winner who also teamed with* **Todd Krikke** *to win the Sault Ste. Marie I-500*



Photos: Courtesy *Snow Week*

BRAD COFEILL

Brad Cofeill, *who dominated the Rock Maple racing circuit*



Photo: Courtesy *Snow Week*

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The Official Fuel of the 1997 Iron Dog Tesoro Alaska Petroleum Co.

The demands of the Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic on the snowmobiles are extraordinary. That's why Tesoro is the Official Fuel of this race. When it comes to performance, Gold Star Energy from Tesoro Alaska is the choice and that's why it's the choice of the Gold Rush Classic. Refined in Alaska for Alaskans, this fuel is as tough as the Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic.

Yamaha Motor Corporation, U. S. A. The Official Trail Breaker

Yamaha Motor Corporation has sponsored the trail break fund since the first Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic in 1984. Every year, for the past 13, a Yamaha Crew has carved and marked the trail from the Gold Rush Classic start line to Nome. This year "The Yamaha Crew" is on vacation, they will be watching the race from the sidelines and cheering their teams to the finish line.

Iron Dog has used the Yamaha Sponsorship to coordinate volunteers to break and mark the trail. We take this opportunity to thank Yamaha for all its financial support which has helped to make this event all it is and all it will be in 1997.

The Official Radio Stations of the 1997 Iron Dog

KBFX The Fox 100.5 – Anchorage

KENI 550 AM – Anchorage

KIAK AM 970 Sports The News Station – Fairbanks

Listen for up-to-the-minute reports on our Official Radio Stations.KBFX, KENI, and KIAK will give Anchorage and Fairbanks radio coverage throughout the race and will have reporters at the start and finish lines. Keep your radio tuned to the 1997 Official Iron Dog Radio Stations KBFX (100.5 FM), KENI (550 AM), and KIAK (970 AM) and you will get the most up-to-date results of the 1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic.

1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic

The World's Longest Snowmobile Race!
2,274 Miles from Wasilla to Nome and Back
Sunday, February 16, 1997
Best Western Lake Lucille Inn 10:00 A.M.

The purpose of the Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic is to provide a reliable, consistent, safe and honorable cross-country snowmobile race and recreational ride in Alaska. This is a team race, consisting of two persons and two snowmobiles, track driven and ski steered. The Recreational Class teams may include more than two people, but each person must have his or her own snowmobile.

The Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic is the world's longest snowmobile race and it is a true test of machine and rider. These snowmobilers will brave subzero temperatures, bad visibility, and deep snow to push their snowmobiles and bodies to the limits of endurance to reach the finish lines.

Thank you

Iron Dog thanks all the folks it takes to make the race what it is today ... the Longest and Greatest Snowmobile Race in the World. There is always more to do and, it seems, never enough time to get it done. Please take a moment to look at the list of our wonderful donors, supporters and volunteers. They are the ones who have made this race happen. And many of them have been doing it for the past fourteen years! Iron Dog also thanks the other "volunteers" who make this race happen, the families and friends of the riders and racers, who have, no doubt, invested much.

Iron Dog must offer special thanks to Elmer Soule, the "Godfather" of the Iron Dog, who was talked out of retirement to coordinate this year's race. Elmer is back on the board of directors and running the show again, with just a single phone line at home and a cell phone in his pocket. Without Elmer's wisdom, contacts and experience, the race wouldn't be leaving the starting line.

Iron Dog is especially grateful to its sponsors. They carry the "heavy load" by covering the significant cost of putting this race on the trail.

Iron Dog wishes the best of luck to all of the 1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic riders and racers. Iron Dog also wants to *thank* the racers and riders ... without them there would be no race.

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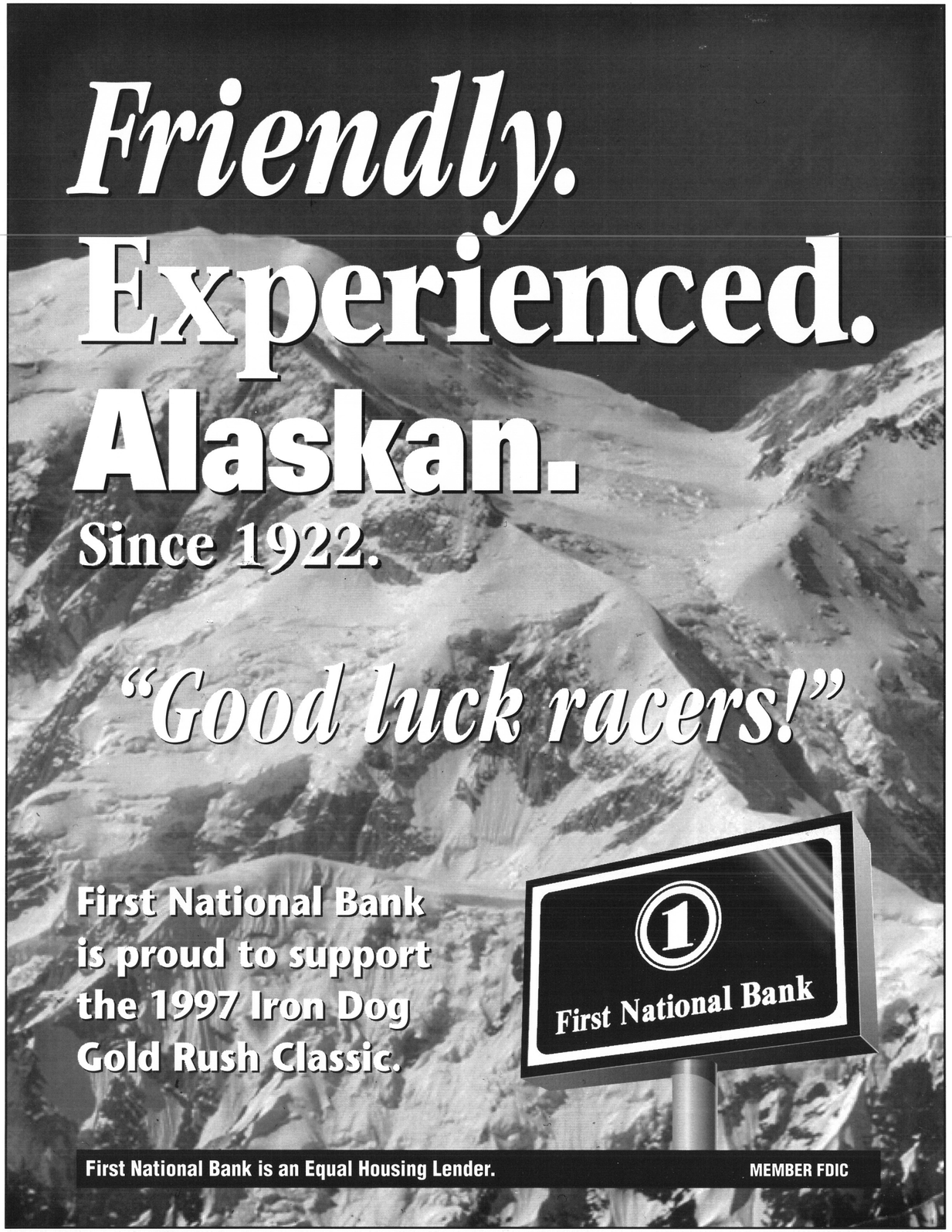
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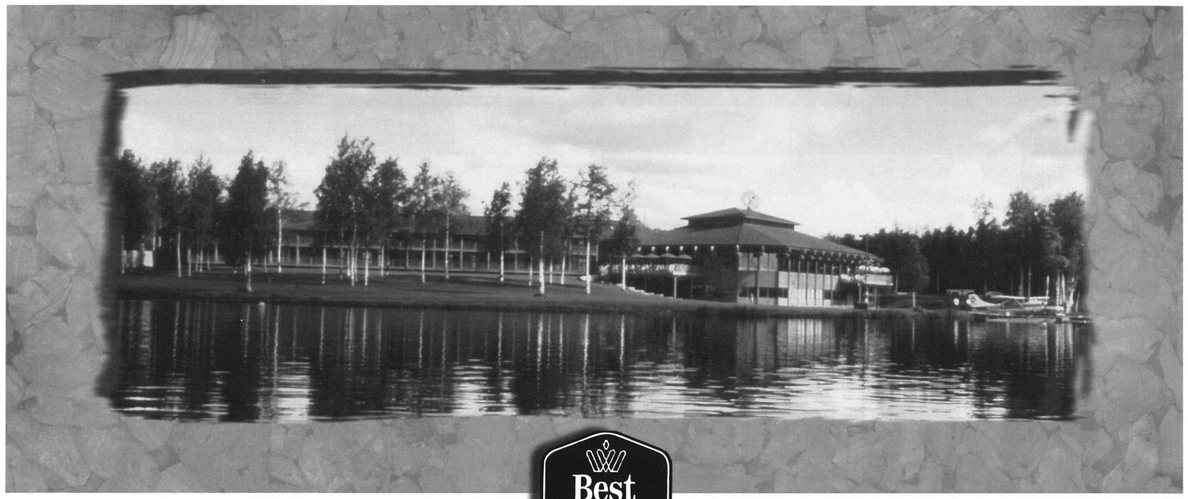
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Pro Class



1996 CHAMPIONS

Robert "Bob" Gilman
Wasilla, Alaska • 1997 Polaris
Racing snowmachines since 1980, this is Bob's tenth time running the Iron Dog. Bob is currently defending last years championship with eight-time partner John Faeo. Bob's racing accomplishments include three Iron Dog victories, with a total of six top three finishes, as well as a number of other place finishes, in a variety of cross-country races. Bob has recently spent several months racing snowmachines in the Lower 48. Bob's other hobbies include, flying, bow-hunting, mountaineering and travel. Bob's current goal is to climb Mt. McKinley in May, 1997. He has one child Garrett, 7.
SPONSORS: Polaris Industries, Woody's Traction Products and NGK Spark Plugs.

John David Faeo
Wasilla, Alaska • Polaris
John, having raced snowmobiles for 28 years, has a little more experience than most. He has competed in every Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic, winning overall in 1996, 1991, 1990, 1988, 1987, 1986 and 1984, placing second in 1992 and 1985, and third in 1989. John has an extensive Championship background in all of his racing years. Born and raised in Anchorage, John now lives in Wasilla where he can enjoy his hobbies, including flying, hunting, fishing and snowmobiling. John has been a machinist with the Alaska Railroad for 22 years. John and his wife, Vicki, have two sons, John, 18, who is attending college in Missouri, and Scott, 13.
SPONSORS: Polaris Industries, Anchorage Chrysler, Kogane Accounting, Deans Automotive, Woody's International, NGK Spark Plugs, Fine Line Upholstery, Carl's Cycle Sales, B & J Custom Aircraft Engines, and the Alaska Railroad.

Tony Richardson
Kotzebue, Alaska • 1997 Polaris 500 EFI
Tony has raced for 15 years statewide, including entering the 1986, 1993, and 1995 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic. In 1986 he placed second, scratched in 1993 and placed third in 1996. Tony is the owner of TRC Construction and enjoys snowmachining, flying, fishing
and hunting. Originally from Oklahoma, he has lived in Alaska since 1980. Tony is married to Janet and lives in Kotzebue.
SPONSORS: TRC Construction, National Bank of Alaska, Hole Shot Products, Morgan Snowmachine and Johnson's Shop.

Donald "Jackie" Johnson
Nome, Alaska • 1997 Polaris 500 EFI
Donald was born in Nome and has raced since 1977 in events including Nome-Golovin, Nome-Kotzebue races 1980-1993. He is married and has six children, three boys and three girls. He works for the State of Alaska Department of Transportation.
SPONSORS: TRC Construction, National Bank of Alaska, Hole Shot Products, Morgan Snowmachine and Johnson's Shop.

Allan G. Anderson, II
McGrath, Alaska • 1997 Polaris XC 440
Allan has experience with local racing and has broken trail for the Iditarod Sled Dog Race. He enjoys mining and snowmachining. Allan is self-employed in McGrath and has two children, Josie Mae, 5, and Allan, III, 1.5 years.
SPONSORS: McGuire's Tavern & Liquor Store, Joe's Bar, Takotna Construction, General Services, Judy Vanderpool, McGrath Auto Repair, Dodge Creek Mining and *"The People of McGrath"*.

Richard C. Strick, Jr.
McGrath, Alaska • 1997 Polaris Indy 500
Rich enjoys boating, moose hunting and trail breaking for the Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic and the Iditarod. Rich is a Water Plant Operator for the City of McGrath.
SPONSORS: McGuire's Tavern & Liquor Store, General Services, Takotna Construction and McGrath Auto Repair.



Bret Brown (R)
Anchorage, Alaska • 1997 Polaris Indy
Bret was born in Oregon and raised in Alaska. He has worked as an Air Traffic Controller for nine years in Anchorage. This will be Bret's second Gold Rush Classic. In 1995, Bret placed fourth and earned Woody's Top Rookie Award and the Tesoro Quantum Perseverance Award.
SPONSORS: Hatcher Pass Polaris, Polaris Industries, Andre at Trans-Connection, Willow Texaco Townsite mile 69.5 Parks Highway, Dayco Products, Inc., NGK Spark Plugs, Woody's Traction Products, his friends Mark Lacy, Gordon Dunn, Roland Jones, Carl Anderson, Frank Zschiegner & Joyce Logan, who helped make this years race possible. Bret would especially like to thank his girl friend Shirley Rohl for supporting him in this venture.

Kenny Kleewein (L)
Willow, Alaska • 1997 Polaris Indy
Kenny is a lifetime Alaskan, is married to Bobbie with four children, Kenny, Dakota, Laken and Kruz. Kenny owns one of the state's top Polaris dealerships, Hatcher Pass Polaris in Willow. Racing six years Kenny has several wins and awards including Outlaw Ovals Points Champ, and USSA Grad Prix Champ. This will be Kenny's third Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic and his second time running with Bret Brown. In 1995 he placed fourth and earned Woody's Top Rookie Award and the Tesoro Quantum Perseverance Award.
SPONSORS: Hatcher Pass Polaris, Polaris Industries, Andre at Trans-Connection, Willow Texaco Townsite mile 69.5 Parks Highway, Skwentna Roadhouse, Dayco Products, Inc., NGK Spark Plugs, Woody's Traction Products, his dad Walt, and all his friends and family. Special thanks to his wife Bobbie for handling all the kids while preparing for the race.

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Laura Carr (L)
Eagle River, Alaska • 1997 Polaris Indy 500
Laura has been riding snowmobiles since 1979. Her longest ride, prior to training for the 1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic, was Tok to Dawson and back in March, 1996. Laura grew up in North Pole, Alaska where she lived for 20 years, before moving to Eagle River in January, 1996. She owned a parts and accessory store for snowmobiles, B&L Sport-N-Rec. She currently works for Cooper Industries as a manufacturers territorial sales representative, and has worked in the auto parts industry for 8.5 years. Her hobbies include all outdoor and team sports, cross country and down-hill skiing, mountain biking, hiking and snowmobiling.
SPONSORS: Omni Freight Services, The Sports Shop, General Communications, Inc., Republic Automotive, KPMG Peat Marwick, LLP, La Mex Restaurant, Motor Doctor, Professional Marine & Snowmachine, B&L Sport-N-Rec.
SUPPORTERS: Alaska Power Sports, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Randy & Mike Bedard-Polaris Industries, Sheila Sasek, Shannon & Mark Titzel, Stanley James, Beth Stehn, Travis, Skwentna Roadhouse, John Faeo and Bob Gilman.

Lisa C. Luther (R)
Anchorage, Alaska • Polaris
Lisa has eight years of riding experience. Lisa was raised in Washington state. Her hobbies include scuba diving, skiing, mountain biking, hiking, snowmobiling and pretty much anything outdoors. Lisa is married to husband Ron and is employed as an accountant by KPMG Peat Marwick, LLP.
SPONSORS: Omni Freight Services, The Sports Shop, General Communications, Inc., Republic Automotive, KPMG Peat Marwick, LLP,La Mex Restaurant, Motor Doctor, Professional Marine & Snowmachine, B&L Sport-N-Rec.
SUPPORTERS: Alaska Power Sports, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Randy & Mike Bedard-Polaris Industries, Sheila Sasek, Shannon & Mark Titzel, Stanley James, Beth Stehn, Travis, Tina St. Onge, Skwentna Roadhouse, John Faeo, Bob Gilman and Ron Luther.



Mark Carr (L)
Kenai, Alaska • 1998 Arctic Cat ZR600
This is Mark's fourth Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic. Mark was overall winner of the Arctic Man Ski and Snowmachine Race, overall winner of the Pikes Nenana in 1996, AMMC 440 Class Champion in 1996, and USSA 440 Class Champion in 1996, and he took first place in the Stump Jump in 1996.Marks hobbies include competition shooting and hunting. He is married to Glenda and has two daughters Jennifer, 16 and Jamie, 13. He is also a commercial fisherman and commercial pilot.
SPONSORS: Arctic Cat, Arctic Motor Sports, Kimpex, Woody's, FXR Factory Race Wear, and Sparrow Electric.

Scott Davis (R)
Soldotna, Alaska • 1998 Arctic Cat ZR600
Scott has ten previous top three finishes in the Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic, including three wins. He has raced several times in Kotzebue, taking one overall and two class wins. Scott won the Big Lake 500 and the Snow Cross. Scott has enjoyed competing in snowmachine races all over the State of Alaska for 25 years and enjoys racing motorcycles and three- and four-wheelers. Scott also loves to jet ski, snow ski and mountain ride his snowmachine with his kids.Scott has two children Cory, 8 and Carly, 6. He has lived in Soldotna for 35 years and owns and operates Davis Block Co. in Soldotna and Anchorage with his cousin Chuck and brother Rusty.
SPONSORS: Arctic Cat and Ron Davis.



Jim Cooper (L)
Anchorage, Alaska • 1996 Ski-Doo MXZ
Jim raced his Ski-Doo in the 1995 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic. He enjoys hunting, fishing and snowmachining and works for Shoreside Petroleum.
SPONSORS: CC Ski-Doo and Frontier Automotive.

Paul H. Sindorf, Jr. (R)
Palmer, Alaska • 1997 Ski-Doo MXZ
Paul was the AMRA State Pro Class Champion, ATV, in 1991 and 1990 and the AMRA City Pro Class Champion, ATV in 1991 and 1990. His hobbies include Motocross racing, skiing, hockey, mountain biking and snowmachining. He is married to Lisa and has two daughters and two sons, Heather, 8, Melanie, 6, Kristofer, 4 and Jonathan, 4 months. He works as an Inventory Analyst for ARCO Alaska, Inc.
SPONSORS: Frontier Automotive and CC Ski-Doo.

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Pro Class Cont.



Ray Debenham (L)
Anchorage, Alaska • 1997 Arctic Cat 580
Ray will race in the Pro Class again for the 1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic, as he did in 1996, having competed in the Trophy Class in 1995.Ray is President of Kiana Investments, Inc. and Debenham Investments and is managing partner of Debenham Family Partnership, Debenham-Alaska Scholarship and MODEB Properties. His business focus is real estate management and real estate construction. Ray received Alaska's Small Business Entrepreneur Award in 1996 and also was awarded the Alaska Small Businessman Award in 1984. He is on the Board of Trustees of Alaska Pacific University. Ray got his Bachelor of Arts degree from Alaska Methodist University in 1972 and participated in the Harvard Business School OPM Program in 1984. Ray is married to Rita, his wife of 37 years, and has four children, Debra, Julie, Michael, and Shaun.
SPONSORS: Debenham Investments and Randall Moss Insurance.

Randall "Randy" Moss (R)
Anchorage, Alaska • 1997 Arctic Cat ZR 580 This is Randall's third Iron Dog, having participated in the 1995 and 1996 races. Randall has lived in Anchorage for 27 years and owns Moss Insurance Agency. He enjoys flying and riding motorcycles. He is married to Sharon and has five children, Kelly, 29, Eric, 27, Blake, 24, Bradley, 21 and Aimee, 18.
SPONSORS: Debenham Investments and Randall Moss Insurance.

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James "Jimmer" Dick (L)
Seward, Alaska • 1997 Yamaha 600
Jimmer was born and raised in Seward, he has been riding snowmobiles since he was three years old. He started racing in 1987, has placed third three times in the Iron Dog Rush Classic and 1997 will be the sixth time he has entered the race. Jimmer has raced in the I-500 in Minnesota 1989, 1990 and 1991. Jimmer works as a truck driver for Marathon Fuel Company. He is married to Lisa, and has three children, Jenna, 4, Chelsey, 3, and Amber 4 months.
SPONSORS: Randy's Ramada, Yamaha Motor Corporation and Seward Ship's.

Dusty Van Meter (NS)
Kasilof, Alaska • 1997 Yamaha 600
Dusty finished in first place in this years Open Money Snowcross and first place in the Open Trophy Snowcross. He finished first in the Stump Jump 250 in **Dusty Van Meter cont.**
1995. He holds the record for the fastest time from Wasilla to Nome in 1995, finished fourth in the Klondike 400 in 1995, fourth in the Tug Boat 250 in 1994 and fourth in the 1994 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic.His hobbies include fishing, hunting and snowmachining. He is married to Evelyn and has two daughters, Kaitlyn, 4, and Shailyn, 10.5 months. He is a commercial fisherman.
SPONSORS: Randy's Ramada, Yamaha Motor Corporation, Kenai Golf Course and Northland Wildlife Studios.

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Dwayne Drake (L)
Galena, Alaska • 1997 Polaris
Dwayne Drake is an avid rider on the Yukon River near his home in Galena. The 1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic will be his fourth with partner Todd Palin. The Palin Drake team set a new course record in route to their 1995 Victory. Dwayne and his wife, Florene have five children, Crystal, 12, Dwayne II, 11, Normon, 8, Carole, 5, and Tyler, 4. Dwayne works as a mechanic for his family's business, Huntington Ventures. ***Todd and Dwayne race in tribute to their Alaska Native Heritage.***
SPONSORS: L & M Supplies - Dillingham, Peter Pan Seafoods, Huntington Ventures, Frontier Flying Service, Service Oil & Gas, Silvertip Design, Wasilla Shop-Rite, Torco Oil, Valley Polaris, Woody's, Sports Tech, Poker Run III Gang, The Windy Corner, Soft™Rack Powder Products, Anchorage Hilton Hotel and BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.

Todd M. Palin (R)
Wasilla, Alaska • 1997 Polaris
Todd is entering his fifth Iron Dog. He finished as top rookie in 1993 and won the 1995 Iron dog with partner Dwayne Drake, setting a course record along the way! Todd is co-owner of Valley Polaris in Big Lake. He and his wife Sarah live in Wasilla with their children Track, 7, Bristol, 6, and Willow, 2. Todd and his family commercial fish is Bristol Bay, near Todd's hometown of Dillingham.
SPONSORS: L & M Supplies - Dillingham, Peter Pan Seafoods, Huntington Ventures, Frontier Flying Service, Service Oil & Gas, Silvertip Design, Wasilla Shop-Rite, Torco Oil, Valley Polaris, Woody's, Sports Tech, Poker Run III Gang, The Windy Corner, Soft™Rack Powder Products, Anchorage Hilton Hotel and BP Exploration (Alaska), Inc.

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Racers Masek & Stimpfle are too old and too slow to photograph.

Jan Masek
Willow, Alaska • 1996 Polaris EFI 500Jan raced in the 1996 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic, scratching 50 miles from Ophir after his partner's snowmachine broke down and they were out of parts. Jan has entered the Iditarod Sled Dog race seven times. Jan is married to Beverly Masek, Republican Legislator from District 28 and a four time Iditarod racer. His 11 year old son, Michael has ridden with Jan since he was three. Jan is an international consultant with Gillette, International, Pratt & Whitney Canada, Anheuser-Busch, Miller Brewing, Breckenridge Microbreweries, Pilsner-Urquell International.
SPONSOR: MASEK Group International.

Jim Stimpfle
Nome, Alaska • 1995 Polaris Indy EFI 500Jim raced in 1994 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic Trophy Class, and the 1995 Recreational Class, having cheeseburgers and a warm bunk every night. Jim is 48 years old and lives in Nome. He says one of his hobbies is not sleeping at night "during the winter months". He is a Real Estate Broker and is married to Bernadette, has six

cont. on next column

Stimpfle cont.
children Megan, 12, Ian, 11, Maddy, 5, Eric, Sean and Josh, 25.
SPONSORS: Thank you to Evan Booth for setting up a race ready Polaris 500 EFI and MY VISA card.

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Jorge Simmons (L)
Tok, Alaska • 1997 Yamaha VMAX 600 SX
Jorge raced the Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic in 1996 and 1995, participated in the Trek Over The Top in 1996, and was a member of the Iron Dog Trail Breaking Crew from Bear Creek to Ophir in 1994, 1992, 1991, and 1990. Jorge grew up in McGrath before moving to
Tok with his family two years ago. His hobbies include riding snowmachines, playing basketball and making wood crafts. Jorge works road construction in the summer and relaxes and plays in the winter. He is married to his wife Michelle and has a daughter, Dominique.
SPONSOR: 40-Mile Country Recreation.

Michael E. Simmons (R)
Tok, Alaska • 1997 Yamaha 600 SX
Mike raced in the 1996 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic. His hobbies are flying and trapping. He has six children, Jorge, 23, Shawn, 22, Tisha, 18, Misty, 16, and Michael and Steven age 8. Mike works as an Air Traffic Controller for the FAA.
SPONSOR: 40-Mile Country Recreation.

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Mark Torkelson (L)
Wasilla, Alaska • 1997 Yamaha 600A
lifelong Alaskan, Mark has been racing since 1972 and has a long list of snowmachine racing championships. His first Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic was in 1985 and he won the 1989 race. This year marks his 11th entry in the world's longest snowmobile race. He won the Talkeetna-Anchorage Race in 1987 and the Hatcher Pass Race in 1984 and 1985. Marks owns North Shore Enterprises in Big Lake, Alaska. He spends his free time snowmachining, hunting, fishing and riding four-wheelers. He has a son Travis, 17 and daughter Lyndsay, 14.
SPONSORS: Anchorage Yamaha and North Shore Enterprises. Special thanks go to Cort Phalp and Bob Kowalke.

Daniel R. Zipay (NS)
Anchorage, Alaska • Yamaha
The 1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic will be Dan's 12th entry in the race. His winning years include 1986, 1987, 1988, 1992 and 1994.
SPONSORS: Anchorage Yamaha & Cort Phalp, Zipay Trucking Co., Hickel Contruction & Engineering, Jaybird Trucking Co., J&R Ent., Ingram Investments, Annettes Trucking Co., Palmer Bar, Special thanks Bob Kowalke of Yamaha USA.

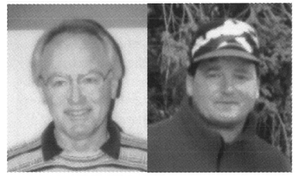
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Jeff S. Whitstine
Wasilla, Alaska • 1997 Polaris EFI
Jeff has 15 years of recreational riding experience. His hobbies include raising two daughters, drag-racing, riding snowmachines, riding ATV's and riding personal watercrafts.
SPONSORS: Whitstine Family Racing, Valley Polaris, Tug-A-Lug Zugg Trucking, K.S. Outfitters, and Lynden Air Freight.

Ron Zugg
Palmer, Alaska • 1997 Polaris Indy 500
Ronnie is a recreational rider. He enjoys snowmachining, skiing, golfing and race car driving. Ronnie is married to Trish and has one year old daughter Eliza Brooke. He is employed by BP Exploration Prudhoe Bay, Alaska and is the owner of Tug-A-Lug Zuggs Trucking.
SPONSORS: Valley Polaris, Lynden Transport, Dynamic Detailing & Tug-A-Lug Zuggs Trucking.

. . . . . .

Trophy Class



David Barber (L)
Anchorage, Alaska • 1972 Polaris Jet Ski
David raced the Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic in 1992 and 1991, the Wasilla Lake 500 in 1992 and the Talkeetna to Anchorage Race in 1990, 1989, 1988 and 1987.
SPONSORS: "Me, myself and I" and CNJ Mechanical, Inc.

Jim Reynolds (R)
Anchorage, Alaska • 1988 Polaris 250 2X4 ATV with Stud
Jim is originally from Wisconsin, but has been in Alaska for 11 years. This is his first Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic but he has other racing experience including the Talkeetna Race in 1988 and 1987 and the Hatcher Pass Race in 1989 and 1988. Jim is married to Liz, and has one daughter, Stephanie.
SPONSORS: North Coast Electric Supply, Control Craft and CNJ Mechanical, Inc.

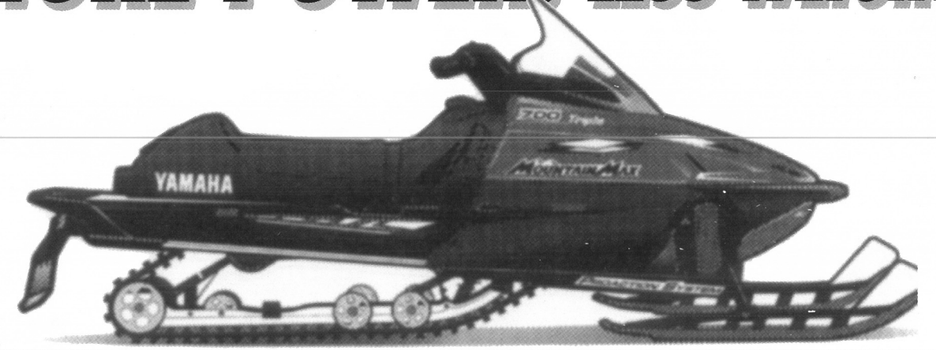
. . . . . .

Robert Himschoot, Jr.
Bethel, Alaska • 1997 Polaris XLT SKS
Robert has spent the past five years riding "Bush" wilderness out of Bethel. He has two seasons of Motocross racing in Iowa in 1982 and 1981. Robert grew up in rural Iowa and is a Technician with Prime Cable/ General Communications, Inc. in Bethel. He is married to Barbara and has a son, Alex and a daughter Elizabeth.
SPONSORS: Swanson's, General Communications, Inc., and Bonnie and Robert Himschoot, Sr.

Chris Provost
Bethel, Alaska • 1997 Polaris XLT SKS
Chris has extensive wilderness travel experience from his Bethel base. This includes a post-Iditarod trip from Bethel to Big Lake and back. He has been across Rainy Pass four times and has done dozens of multi-night camping trips. Chris has logged more than 12,000 miles on sno-gos. Chris was born and raised in California and has lived in Bethel since 1990. His hobbies included winter sno-go camping, down hill skiing, dog mushing, back packing and

cont. on next column

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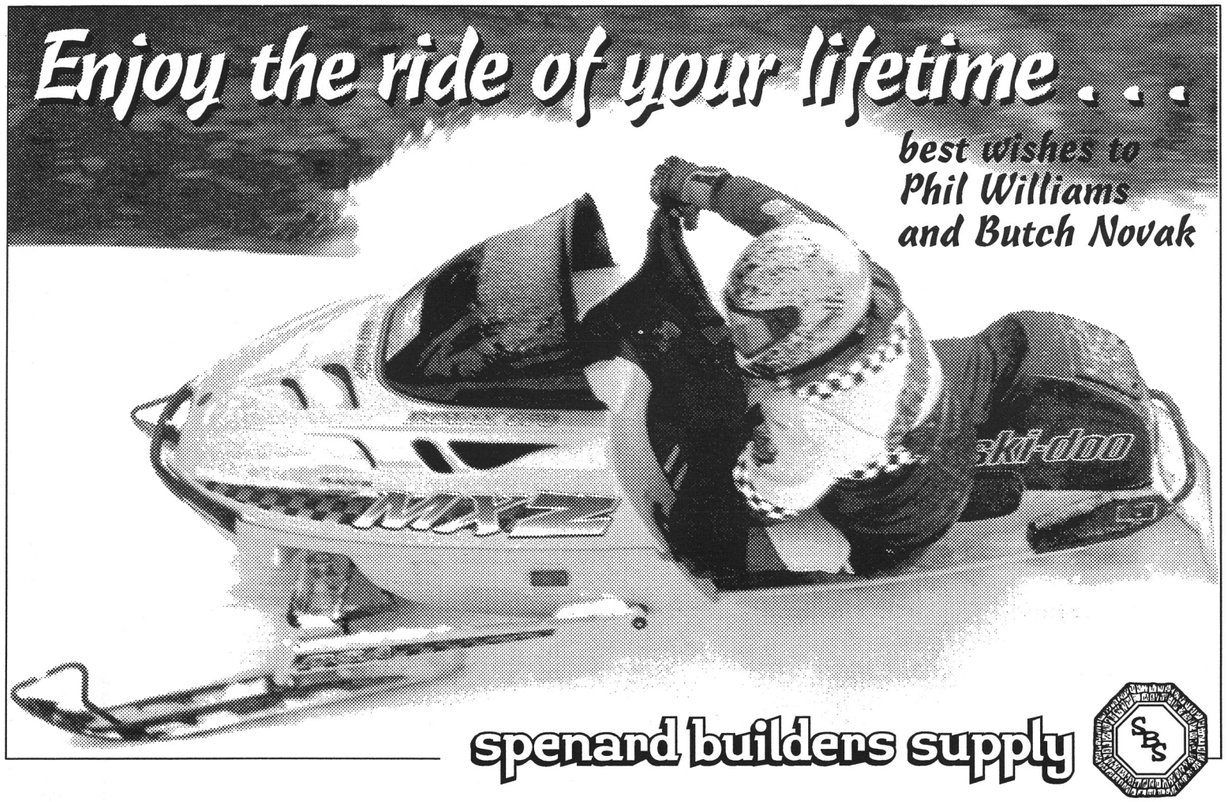
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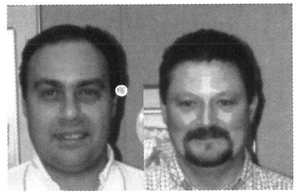
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Provost cont.
exercise. Chris is married to Dr. Ellen Provost and has one daughter, Rachel, 3. He is an attorney practicing law in Bethel. He had a prior twelve-year career as a deep sea oil-field diver, specializing in hyperbaric welding and non-destructive testing.
SPONSORS: Swanson's, General Communications, Inc., Bonnie and Robert Himschoot, Sr., and The Law Office of Chris Provost.

Eric S. Johnson
Skwentna, Alaska • 1997 Ski-Doo MXZ
Eric did extensive racing in the 1970's and had first and second place finishes racing Talkeetna to Anchorage and had two first place finishes in the Big Lake 500. Eric was born in Anchorage in 1951. He is President of Northwood Services, Inc., dba Northwoods Lodge, and is the owner operator of Northwoods Lodge, a full service fishing and snowmobile facility. He is also owner and operator of Susitna/Yentna River Barge Service. His hobbies include fishing, hunting, trapping, woodworking and snowmobiling. He is married to Shan, and has four children, Brent, 19, Tyson, 17, his partner in this year's Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic, Stacy, 13, a dog musher and Eric, II, 8.
SPONSORS: Northwoods Lodge, Dewey's Cook Inlet, Crawford Aviation, Alaska Paper, Rust's Flying Service, R.C. Johnson, ATU - LD, Fish Creek Sales and Blue Diamond Gauntlets.

Tyson Johnson
Skwentna, Alaska • 1997 Ski-Doo MXZ
Tyson has ridden snowmobiles for more than seven years, putting more than 5000 miles per season in the Skwentna area the past four years. The 1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic is his first race experience.Tyson's hobbies include fishing, hunting, trapping, snowmobiling and snowboarding. His father, Eric, is his race partner. His mother is Shan, and he has two brothers and a sister, Brent, Stacy, and Eric, II. Tyson works as a fishing guide in the summer for Northwoods Lodge.
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Steve J. "Butch" Novak (L)
Anchorage, Alaska • 1996 Ski-Doo MXZ
Butch has lots of experience pleasure riding and he started the 1996 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic, but was forced to scratch in Galena. Butch was born in Salem, Ohio and has lived in Anchorage for the past 37 years. He enjoys snowmachining, carpenter projects, old cars and boating. He is married to Becky and has two sons, Trevor, 26, and Jeremy, 20. Butch works for Spenard Builders Supply.
SPONSORS: SBS Outdoor Lifestyles, Gary's Truck Sales, Fine Line Interiors, P&S Snowplowing, B&B Snowplowing and his wife Becky and his partner's wife Sandy.

Phillip S. Williams (R)
Anchorage, Alaska • 1996 Ski-Doo MXZ
SPONSORS: SBS Outdoor Lifestyles, Fine Line Interiors, Gary's Truck Sales, P&S Snowplowing, B&B Snowplowing and my wife Sandy and my partner's wife Becky.

Recreational Class

Gary Baugh
Anchorage, Alaska • 1997 Polaris 700 SKS
Gary's hobbies include flying, fishing, hunting and skiing. He is President of Baugh Construction & Engineering Co. He is married to Barbara and has three children, Kathleen, Andy and David.
SPONSOR: National Bank of Alaska.

Bruce H. Boyd
Wasilla, Alaska • 1997 Arctic Cat Powder Extreme
Bruce has lived in Alaska since 1973. He is a salmon and halibut commercial fisherman, in waters of Bristol Bay and off the coasts of Kodiak and Dutch Harbor. His hobbies include hunting, hunting and hunting according to his wife, Marcia. Bruce has been riding snowmobiles for 25 years logging thousands of miles, but his longest trip to date is the Tok to Dawson trip in 1996.

David Baumann
Palmer, Alaska • 1997 Polaris 600 XC
David has spent every weekend and other available time on the Yentna River, riding to and from his cabin at Skwentna. David was born in Minnesota and currently lives in the Hatcher Pass area. His hobbies are fishing, hunting and spending his weekends at his cabin in Skwentna. David is employed by Spenard Builders Supply in Wasilla.

Rodney A. Reese
Big Lake, Alaska • 1997 Polaris XC
Rodney has competed in the following races: 1995 Lake Lucille 300; 1994 Sam & Son Memorial; 1994 Skwentna; 1994 Talkeetna; 1994 Hatcher Pass; 1993 Talkeetna; 1993 Hatcher Pass; and 1993 Sheep Creek Stump Jump. Rodney enjoys snowmachining, jet skiing, boating, winter and summer activities, and all sports. He is married to Toni and has three children, Kyleigh, 6, Arron, 4, and Katelyn, 1.5 years.
SPONSORS: ME.



Jaime C. Schaefer
Wasilla, Alaska • 1996 Polaris XLT
Jaime lives in Wasilla and works construction. His hobbies include snowmachining, hunting and fishing. He is married to Cyndi and has one son Jesse, 4, and one daughter Cassie, 11.

Curtis Green
Wasilla, Alaska • 1996 Polaris 500 EFI
Curtis has lived in Alaska for 41 years. Curtis has been riding for three years, his first snowmobile was a 1987 Polaris Trail. His longest trip to date covered the 160 miles to Skwentna and back to Big Lake in December, 1996. Curtis is a pilot and enjoys tennis and hockey. He is married to State Senator Lyda Green.
SPONSOR: State Farm Insurance.



William E. Long
Palmer, Alaska
Bill has raced the Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic in 1996, 1993 and 992. He rode from Tok to Dawson City in 1996 and 1995. He went along with the first snowmachines to Antarctica, 1961. Bill's hobbies include snowmachining, power boating, rafting, horse riding and photography. He is married to Katie and has six adult children, four sons and two daughters. Bill is a retired scientist.
SPONSOR: State Farm Insurance.

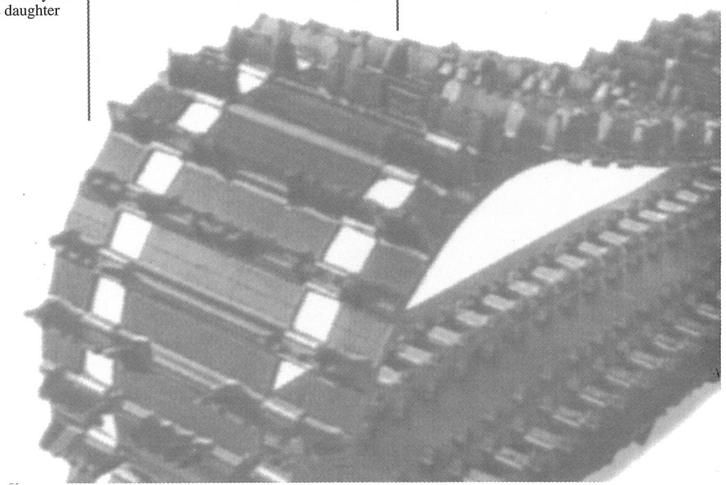
Mike Foldager
Anchorage, Alaska • 1995 Polaris Indy 500 EFI SKS
Mike was born and raised in Alaska. He has been snowmobiling for as long as he can remember, his longest trip to date is Naknek to McGrath and back to Naknek. Just a couple years ago, Mike logged 4,000 miles in the Western Alaska Region. Mike's entry in the 1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic Recreational Class will be the trail ride of his lifetime. He purchased his entry at the Iron Dog Auction in November, 1996, successfully bidding against Doug Longacre and Jim Wilke. Happy Trails to Mike and his trail riding partner Howard Patten.

Howard Patten
Anchorage, Alaska • 1995 Polaris Indy 500 EFI SKS
Howard works for NAPA Auto Parts. Howard and Mike have been riding partners for the past five years in the Naknek area. He moved to Anchorage last year. He is excited about the trail ride of his life, from Wasilla to Nome, with his riding partner Mike.

Doug Longacre
Anchorage, Alaska • 1997 Polaris XLT
Doug started snowmobiling in 1986 and can't believe how winters fly by since he took up riding. His best ever cross-country run was from Eureka to Cordova and back. Doug was born in Anchorage and enjoys snowmachining, water sports, motorcycling and woodworking. Doug has worked at First National Bank of Anchorage since 1974. He is married to Suzie and has three children, Linda, 20, Heather, 17, and Chris "The Man", 15, who is Doug's partner in the 1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic.
SPONSOR: Alaska Power Sports.

Chris Longacre
Anchorage, Alaska • 1997 Polaris XLT
Chris was born in Anchorage and enjoys snowmachining, mountaineering, white water kyaking and cross-country skiing. Chris will ride with his dad, Doug and Jim Wilke in the 1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic.
SPONSOR: Alaska Power Sports.

James R. Wilke
Anchorage, Alaska • 1997 Polaris XLT SKS
Jim has extensive racing experience all over Alaska including: 1987 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic; Kotzebue 250, six times; Nome to Golovin, 9 times; Nome to Teller, 3 times; and the Midnight Sun 600, twice. Jim was born in Nome and lived there for 30 years before moving to Anchorage. He got into the snowmobile business as a salesman for Mike Zipay and formed Alaska Power Sports as a corporation in 1988. Since becoming the largest Polaris dealer in the United States by 1982, Alaska Power Sports has been the number one or number two Polaris dealer ever since. Jim became the sole owner of Alaska Power Sports in September, 1996. Jim is married to Lisa, who is a Registered Nurse and an administrator at the Anchorage Pioneer Home.
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Poorman, adopted by Spenard Builers Supply, is the seventh checkpoint on the trail. Spenard Builders Supply employees will man the "most remote" of our gas stops, hauling in two 10-man tents and supplies to last more than ten days. They promise to keep the coffee warm, have a hot pot of delicious stew and chili cooking at all times, and provide comfort if racers or riders need to take an extended rest after the long haul from Ophir to Poorman. The trail will be well marked and broken, into and out of Poorman, thanks to Spenard Builders Supply and their wonderful crew of employee volunteers.

Ruby, adopted by BP Exploration-Alaska, is the eighth checkpoint. Ruby is at the entrance to the Yukon River and is a hub to the many villages in the surrounding area. The racers have traveled 596 miles north from the start line. Ruby is a gas stop only, the next layover is Galena.

Galena, adopted by Dayco Products, Inc. and VIP Distributing, is the ninth checkpoint. Galena is a great layover location for most racers and riders. Lodging is available for participants at Huntington's Venture, where Carol and Roger keep the soup hot and provide a warm bed and hot showers. Galena is the last layover opportunity until Unalakleet.

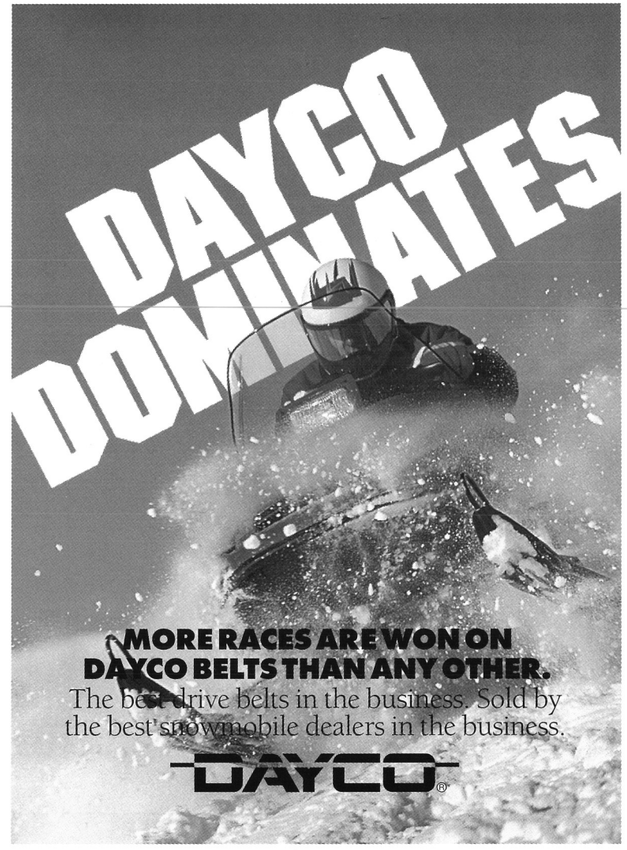
Kaltag, adopted by General Communications, Inc. (GCI), is the tenth checkpoint. Kaltag trail marking, breaking and maintenance will be provided by a great group of volunteers headed up by Lawrence Saunders. The racers will exit the Yukon River and start overland toward Unalakleet. Kaltag is a gas stop only; there are no accommodations.

Unalakleet, adopted by First National Bank of Anchorage, is the eleventh checkpoint. Racers have reached the head of Norton Sound when they arrive at Unalakleet. Unalakleet has a variety of stores and accommodations, and is a gas stop and layover option for the racers.

Koyuk, adopted by all the Sponsors and Volunteers of the 1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic, is the twelfth checkpoint. Koyuk is on the North Shore of Norton Sound, a village of about 200 residents. The trail is well traveled by locals riding their snowmobiles to and from Unalakleet and to and from Nome. Koyuk is only 169 miles to the finish line for the Trophy Class Racers. It's also their last opportunity to satisfy their mandatory layovers. Lodging for the racers is provided by the Koyuk School.

White Mountain, adopted by Nome-Golovin Racing Association, is the thirteenth checkpoint. At White Mountain, the Pro Class Racers are only 75 miles from the half-way point. They'll find Davis Lincoln up at all hours, swapping racing stories with those who slow down enough to listen. The Nome-Golovin Racing Association has marked, broken and maintained the trail.

Nome, dedicated to the City of Nome and Jim West, Jr., is the last checkpoint and the half-way mark for Pro Class Racers. It's the finish line for the Trophy Class Racers and the Recreational Trail Riders! Nome is a first class city, home to more than 3,499 people. It is a 24 hour mandatory layover point for all Pro Class Racers. Nome, the furthest point North on the trail, has a full assortment of accommodations for our racers and participants. The Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic wouldn't be the great race it is without the Nome-Golovin Racing Association, Jim West, Jr., Jim Stimpfle, Warren Little, the Nome Volunteer Fire Department, Wes Perkins, and the many other volunteers identified in our program. Thanks for all your help.After the Pro Class Racers have completed their 24 hour layover they will point their skis toward Norton Sound for the return trip of 1,137 miles, up and over the Alaskan Range again, more bumps and bounces into the interior, onto the Yukon, back through the checkpoints where our sponsors wait with more hot coffee ... to the finish line at Wasilla, Alaska ... where it all began on February 16, 1997



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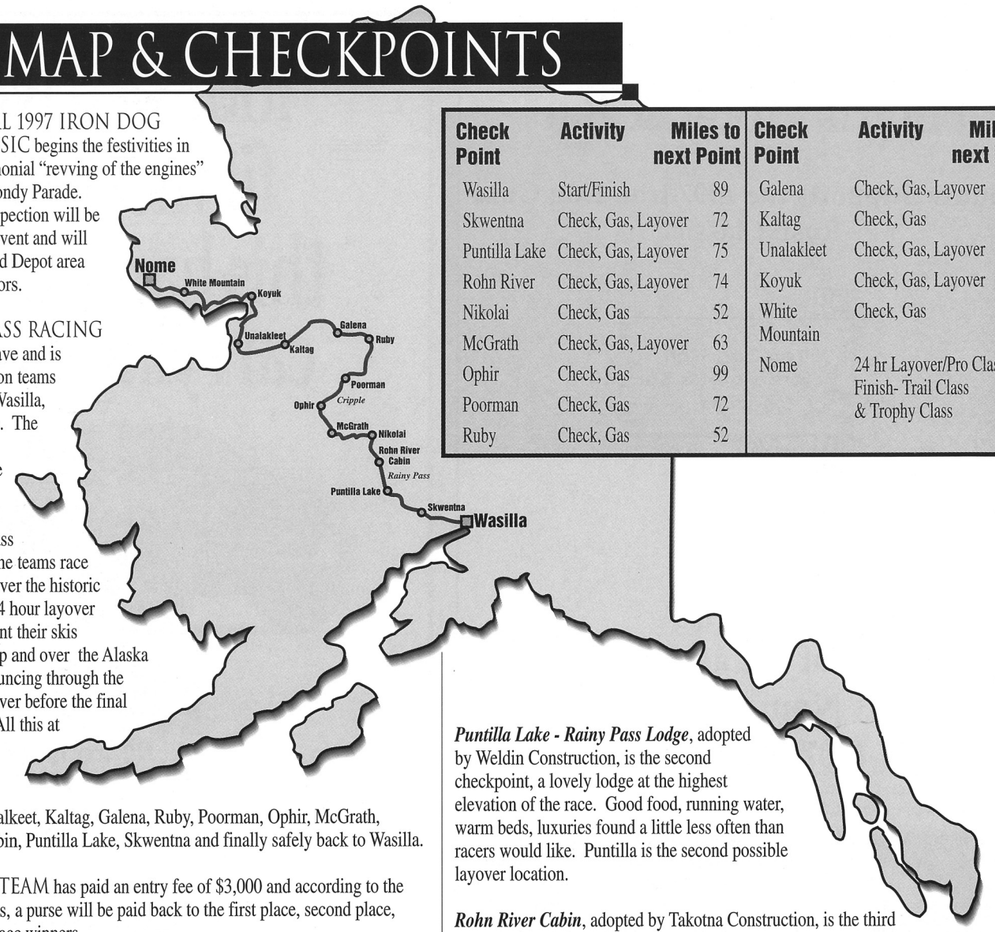
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1997 Official Race Program
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TRAIL MAP & CHECKPOINTS

THE 14TH ANNUAL 1997 IRON DOG GOLD RUSH CLASSIC begins the festivities in Anchorage with a ceremonial "revving of the engines" in the Anchorage Fur Rondy Parade. The Iron Dog Safety Inspection will be an Official Fur Rondy Event and will take place at the Railroad Depot area next to the Snow Sculptors.

THE 1997 PRO CLASS RACING FIELD is the first to leave and is made up of 15 two-person teams racing round-trip from Wasilla, Alaska to Nome, Alaska. The green flag drops for the Gold Rush Classic at the Best Western Lake Lucille Inn every two minutes until all Pro Class racers have departed. The teams race 2,274 miles round-trip over the historic Iditarod Trail. After a 24 hour layover in Nome, racers will point their skis toward Norton Sound, up and over the Alaska Range, bumping and bouncing through the interior on the Yukon River before the final push to the finish line. All this at full throttle – full brake, without missing any of the checkpoints, White Mountain, Koyuk, Unalalkeet, Kaltag, Galena, Ruby, Poorman, Ophir, McGrath, Nikolai, Rohn River Cabin, Puntilla Lake, Skwentna and finally safely back to Wasilla.



Check Point	Activity	Miles to next Point
Wasilla	Start/Finish	89
Skwentna	Check, Gas, Layover	72
Puntilla Lake	Check, Gas, Layover	75
Rohn River	Check, Gas, Layover	74
Nikolai	Check, Gas	52
McGrath	Check, Gas, Layover	63
Ophir	Check, Gas	99
Poorman	Check, Gas	72
Ruby	Check, Gas	52
Galena	Check, Gas, Layover	98
Kaltag	Check, Gas	95
Unalakleet	Check, Gas, Layover	98
Koyuk	Check, Gas, Layover	94
White Mountain	Check, Gas	75
Nome	24 hr Layover/Pro Class Finish- Trail Class & Trophy Class	

EACH PRO CLASS TEAM has paid an entry fee of $3,000 and according to the 1997 Official Race Rules, a purse will be paid back to the first place, second place, third place and fourth place winners.

THE 1997 TROPHY CLASS RACING FIELD will follow the Pro Class racers up the trail, racing one-way to Nome and covering 1,137 miles. There are four teams entered in the Trophy Class field and they will leave the Wasilla start line in two minute intervals.

THE TROPHY CLASS TEAMS are racing for trophies, prizes and certificates of completion. This year the first place team will receive a trip to Reno, compliments of RENO Air. Entry fee for the Trophy Class team is $1,500.

THE 1997 RECREATIONAL CLASS TEAMS of two or more will ride the historic Iditarod Trail for pleasure and accomplishment. This is the trail ride of a lifetime. The entry fee for a Recreational Class group is $750 per person.

THE IRON DOG GOLD RUSH CLASSIC provides all the fuel, isopropyl, oil and anti-freeze needed along the trail.

Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic's 14 Checkpoints

Wasilla, adopted by the City of Wasilla, is the official start and finish line of the Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic. Racers will begin the race at 10:00 A.M., February 16, 1997, at the Best Western Lake Lucille Inn and head to the first checkpoint.

Skwentna, adopted by MACtel, is the first checkpoint on the trail, a bustling community of over 100 residents, a favorite summer and winter recreation spot. John and Joyce Logan have hosted this checkpoint since the race began in 1984. Skwentna is the first possible layover location.

Puntilla Lake - Rainy Pass Lodge, adopted by Weldin Construction, is the second checkpoint, a lovely lodge at the highest elevation of the race. Good food, running water, warm beds, luxuries found a little less often than racers would like. Puntilla is the second possible layover location.

Rohn River Cabin, adopted by Takotna Construction, is the third checkpoint, a remote BLM Cabin and tent location. This checkpoint is one of the most remote on the trail. Hauling fuel, food, and equipment to such a remote location requires expert planning and coordination, and Takotna Construction will come through. The cabin was built in the 1930's but was recently remodeled. Racers tend to find the cabin a bit crowded, so Takotna Construction will erect an additional wall tent for added accommodations. Frank Torres, Ed Cruise, Robert Magnuson and Steffen Strick will have warm beverages, stew on the stove, and a roaring fire in the woodstove. The Takotna Construction Crew broke trail from Poorman to Rohn, keeping them busy for the past ten days. Rohn River Cabin is the third possible layover location.

Nikolai, adopted by Best Western Lake Lucille Inn, is the fourth checkpoint, and will offer friendly folks cheering at the first Alaskan village on the trail. Nikolai is a gas stop only and there is no layover opportunity.

McGrath, adopted by National Bank of Alaska, is the fifth checkpoint on the trail. McGrath is the home of the Takusko House, our official gas stop and checkpoint. New owners Buck and Sharin have the stew pot steaming. Racers can even take a hot shower, while they take advantage of the last possible layover until Galena.

Ophir, adopted by All Alaska Construction, is the sixth checkpoint on the trail, Roger Roberts "The Loafer from Ophir" graciously donating his cabin for the last gas stop before Poorman. A team of students from Takotna High School, led by Erroll Miller, will be official checkers, trail maintenance workers and general all around good cheer volunteers for the 1997 Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic.



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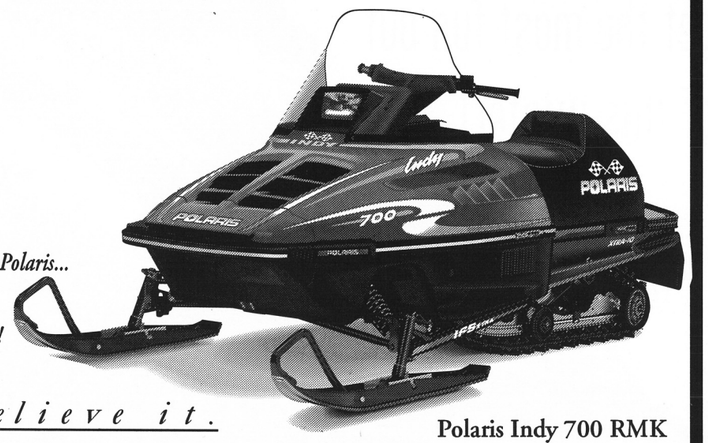
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From one Long-Distance competitor to another,
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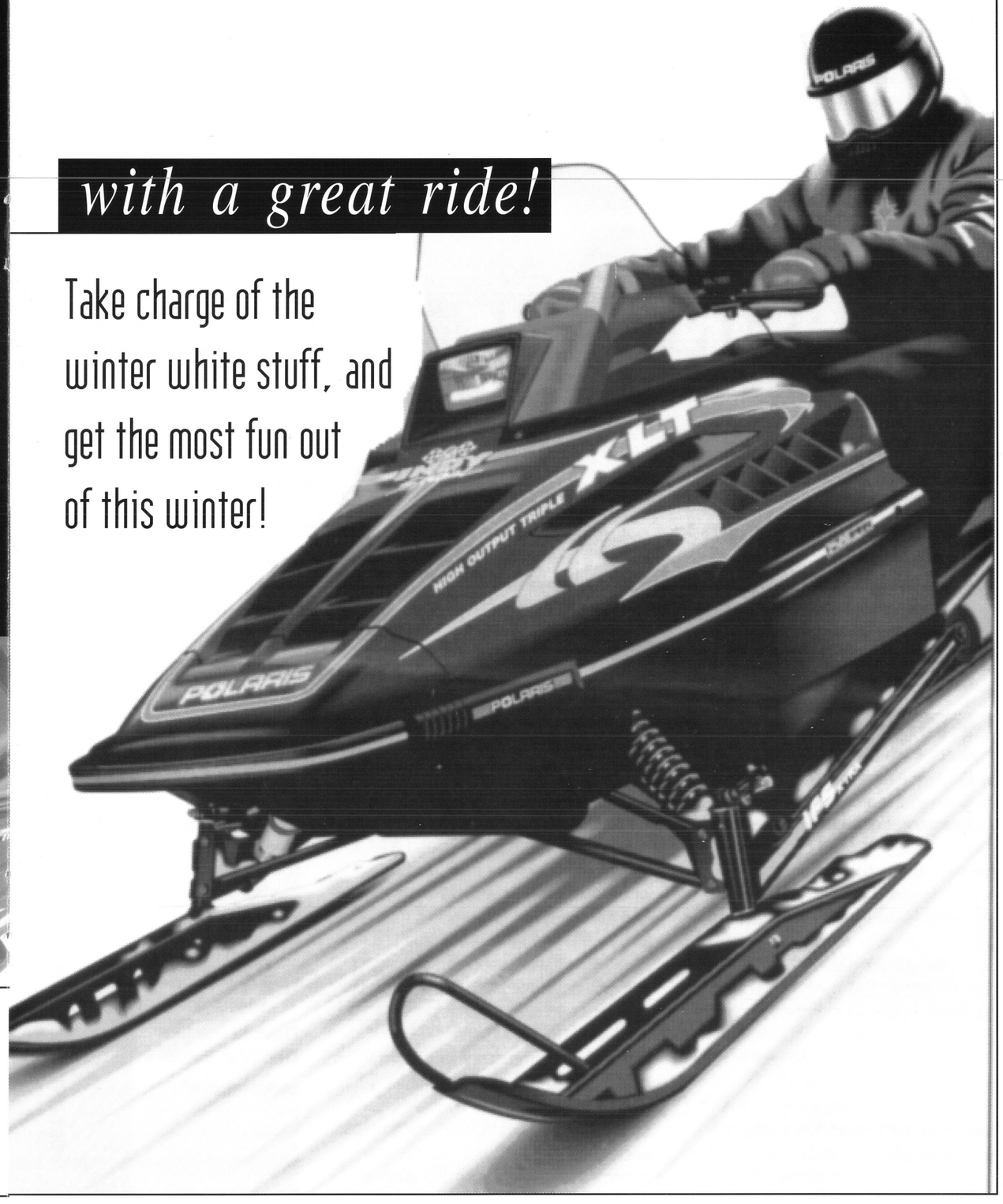
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