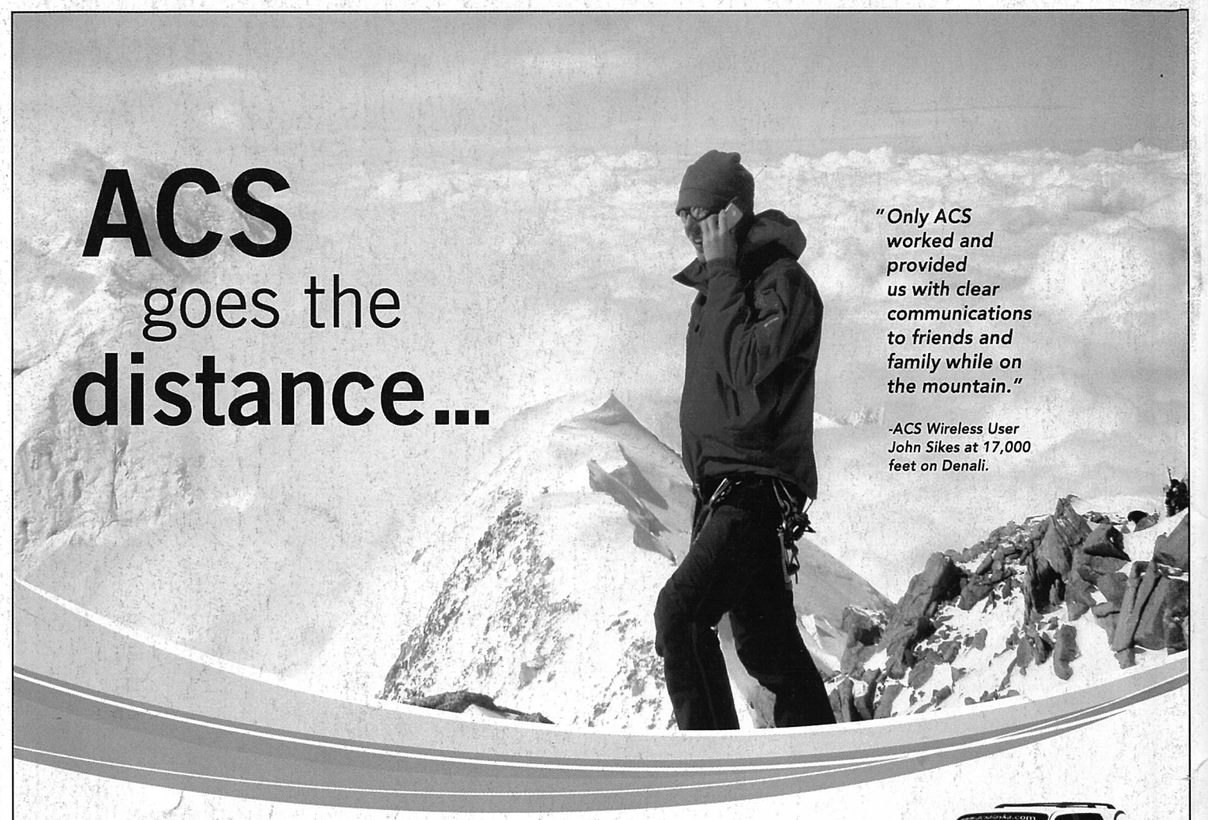
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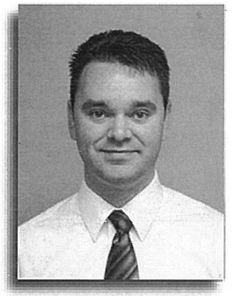
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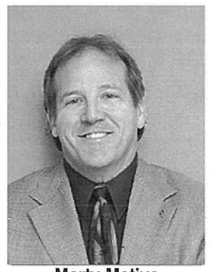
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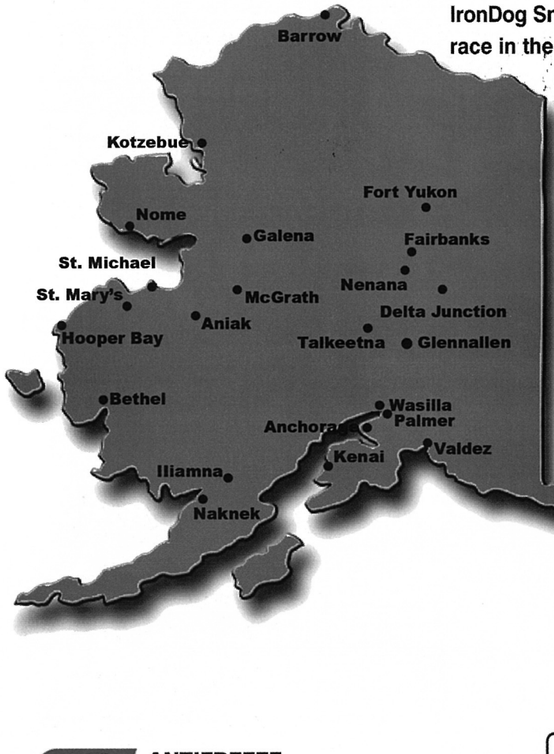
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TIE A ROPE to a heavy spring. Pull the rope repeatedly with each arm until the pain in your shoulders meets somewhere in the middle of your back. This will get you in shape for starting your partner's sled; it's best to do this exercise while someone is spraying starting fluid into your nose and eyes.

DRINK FOUR OUNCES of cod liver oil mixed with a strong laxative. Dress with long underwear, fleece liner, your shell and bunny boots. Walk far into the woods without any paper products and wait for a personal emergency.

GO TO YOUR LOCAL HARDWARE store and buy a package of sandpaper. Duct tape a sheet to your snowmobile seat. In the dark of the night and with no pants, go on a five-mile ride. Do this four times a week. This will prepare your backside for the 2,000-mile trip that your partner promised you would be a good time.

PLACE YOUR HANDS IN A BUCKET of ice water for 20 minutes. Put the carburetor from your sled in the bottom of your deep-freeze. Now climb in the deep-freeze and overhaul the carb while holding a Mag light in your mouth. This gets you prepared to work on your sled in the freezing cold and black of night. NOTE: Advanced riders do this with a Leatherman tool.

DRESS UP IN YOUR NEW $350 snowmobile bibs. Pour two-stroke oil down the right leg, gasoline down the other. Fill your bunny boots with ice cubes. Tie a rag over your face and run around in circles for 10 minutes every four hours. This will prepare you for the remote checkpoints in the Bush.

FIND A PLACE WHERE YOU CAN PAY $5 a gallon for regular gas, $20 per quart of oil and $19 for a hamburger, frozen French fries and a Coke. Pay another $60 to sleep in a cold cabin on a bed with spring sticking through the mattress. Stay for four nights minimum. This will prepare you for the restful nights you can look forward to when you declare a layover.

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- I will treat the outdoors with respect. I will not litter or damage trees or other vegetation.
- I will respect other peoples' property and rights and lend a hand when I see someone in need.
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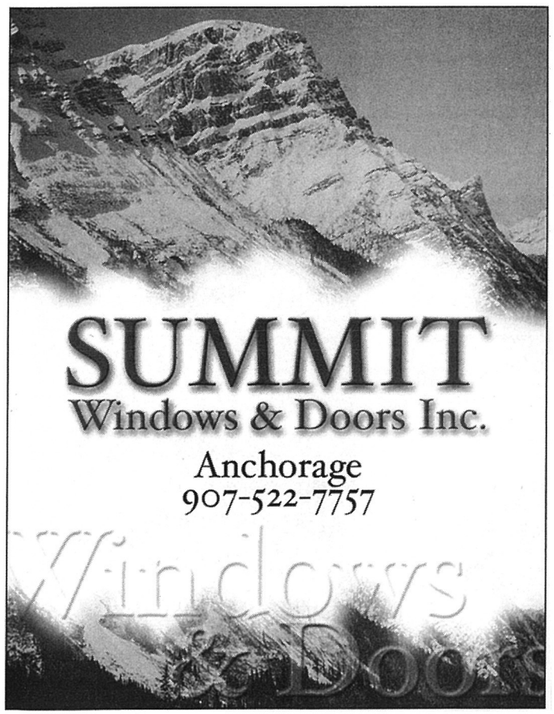
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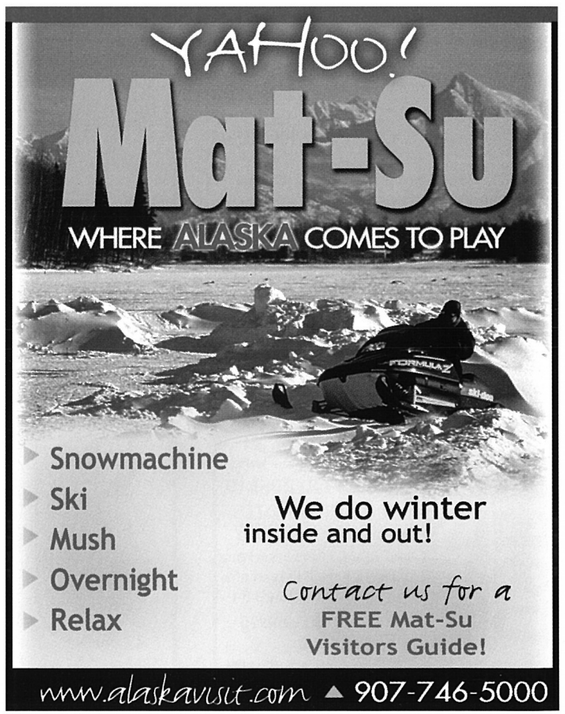
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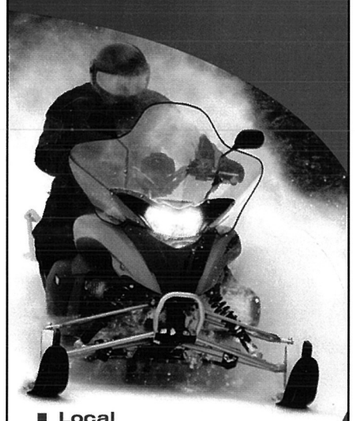
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Cover page: In 2008 the Iron Dog will be celebrating its 25th anniversary. The race was conceived in 1983, with the first race held in March 1984.

from page 46

creek if it's not frozen over," she said.

The Trail Class is much like the Pro Class in many aspects, except they finish their ride in Nome instead of Fairbanks. Teams are required to have a minimum of two people and start their trek across Alaska two days before the Pro Class starts. Trail Class riders must adhere to a strict six-day schedule.

"It used to be more open, we used to just send riders out right after the racers," Bedard said. "They became forgotten out there. They'd get to Nome and there'd be nobody there to greet them."

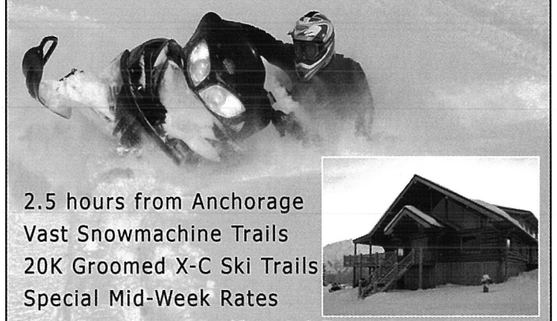
She said a few years ago the Iron Dog board decided that it was important to recognize the efforts of the Trail Class riders just as much as the Pro Class competitors. That is when they decided to send out the Trail Class two days ahead of Pro Class teams to give them a head start. When Trail Class riders got to Nome they join in the fun at the Nome Halfway Banquet.

Bedard said there were some safety reasons for starting out the Trail Class ahead of the Pro Class because it was easy for them to get lost out on the trail. She said each Trail Class team has to hit "milestones" within a certain time period in order to continue on down the trail. This helped keep riders on the six-day schedule and allows officials to track all of the racers getting into Nome.

"Riding 200 miles a day in the saddle is hard. It makes for a long day," Bedard said. "They're hearty people."

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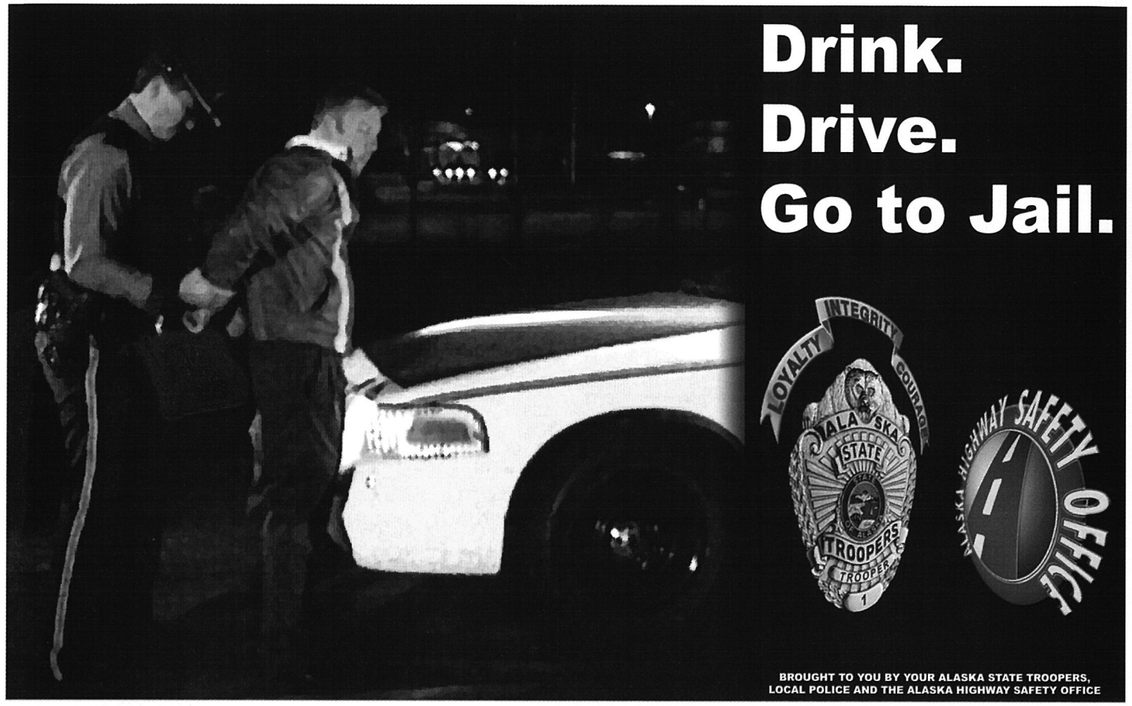


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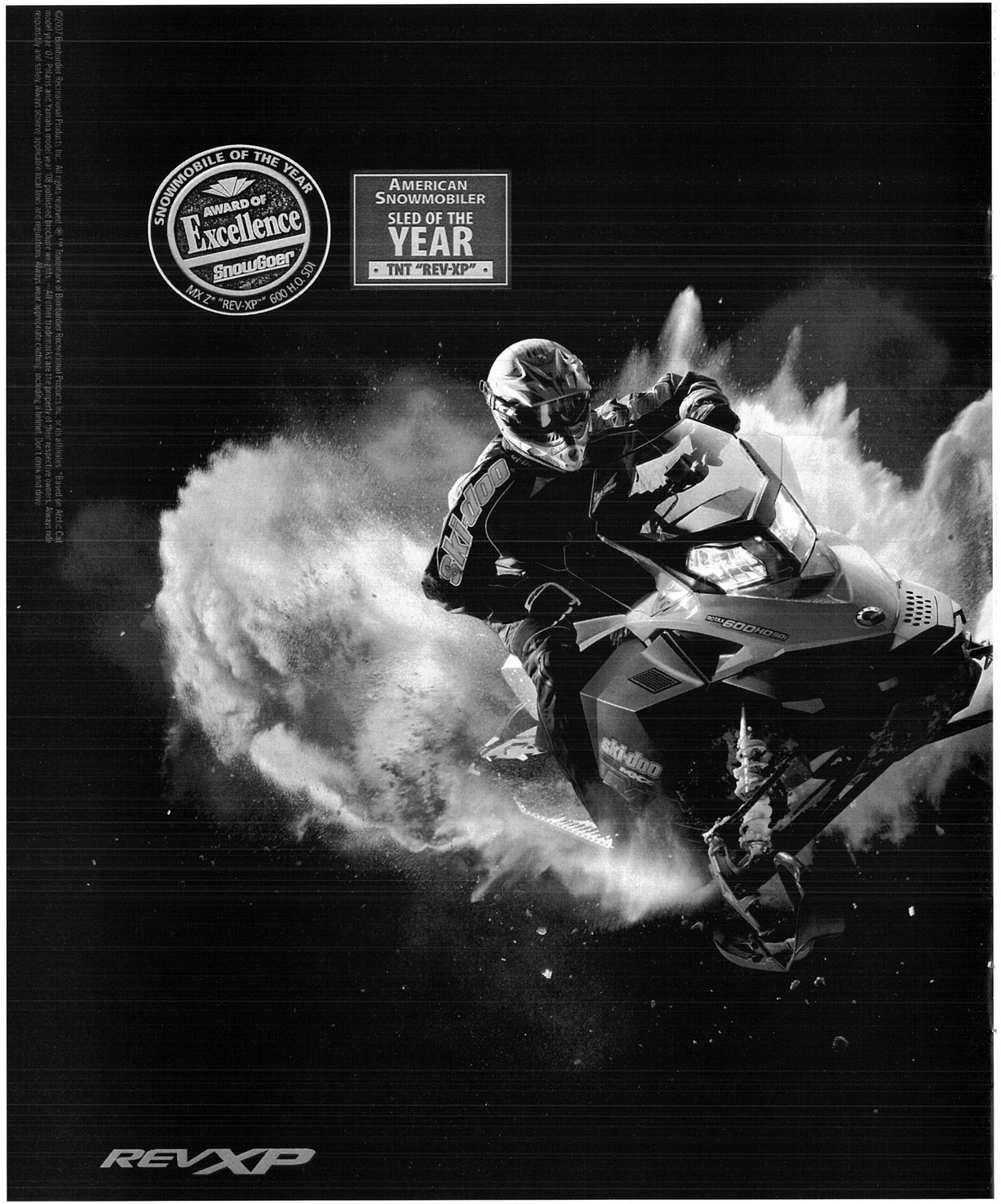
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Iron Dog fans a rare breed

By John Klapperich

Iron Dog Fans are a rare breed, but let me expand: fans of the Greatland are a rare breed.

As I write this editorial of my thoughts on Alaska and the 2008 Tesoro Iron Dog, we are in the middle of winter. Yes, we have already been blessed this season with lots of snow and several weeks of below zero weather in the Mat-Su Valley — a great start to the winter recreation season. Swamps and springs have tightened up, a nice base layer is in place and the most gorgeous sunrises and sunsets in clear December days make my heart throb with excitement.

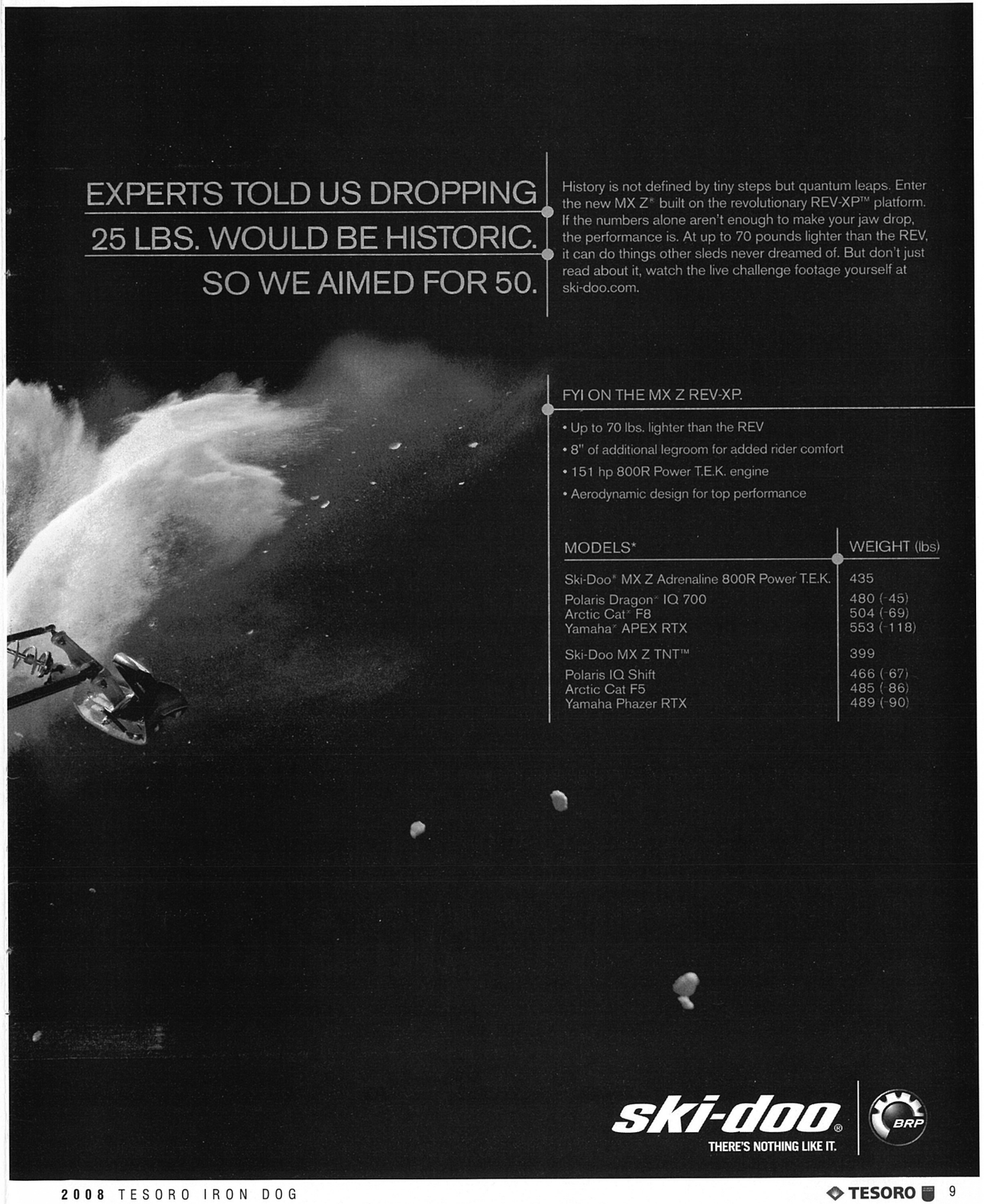
But I am like many of you; our passion sets us apart from most of our Lower 48 counterparts. They announce "bad weather" as snow and cold, we applaud it. Their plans for weekends and time off include items of sunscreen, bathing suits, golf clubs and tennis shoes. Our plans need helmets, gauntlets, two-cycle oil, goggles, avalanche beacons and a GPS. Who's got it right here?

All I can say is, I have never come onto shore on a surfboard on the Big Island, but it can't be any better than cresting a summit between Trapper Creek and the Roadhouse, then reliving it all with friends by the fire, and can't wait to do it all over again in the morning.

So, as former president of the Greater Wasilla Chamber of Commerce, past business person of the year, and owner of the Voice of the Valley Q99.7 — the official radio station of the 2008 Tesoro Iron Dog — I am honored to be associated with a passionate fraternity of fans of Alaska, where we have the opportunity to soar, to accelerate, to conquer, to enjoy one of the eight great wonders of the world: The longest, toughest snowmobile race on earth — the Tesoro Iron Dog.

See you at the start and the finish. I am excited to hear about your trial and tribulations from start to finish on Valley Radio Q99.7 FM and Smart Talk AM 700.





2008 TESORO IRON DOG

Harriett Fenerty

February 10-16, 2008
Big Lake • Nome • Fairbanks — 1,971 miles
11 a.m. start
Trail Class starts at 9 a.m. February 8

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www.IronDog.org
(24-hour race updates)

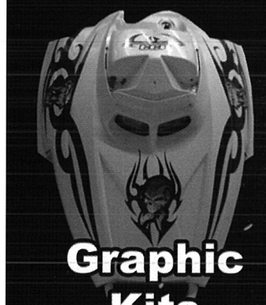
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Voice of the 2008 Tesoro Iron Dog

For live updates from start to finish, tune into Q99.7, Valley Radio, during race week. Get up-to-the-minute reports and live coverage from Community Radio of Alaska member stations KIYU Galena and KSKO McGrath. KIYU also contributes updates to Alaska-wide APRN public radio. Award-winning KNOM Radio, broadcasting to Nome and vicinity, provides live race coverage and racer interviews throughout the race. You can also listen in on your computer at www.KMBQ.com.

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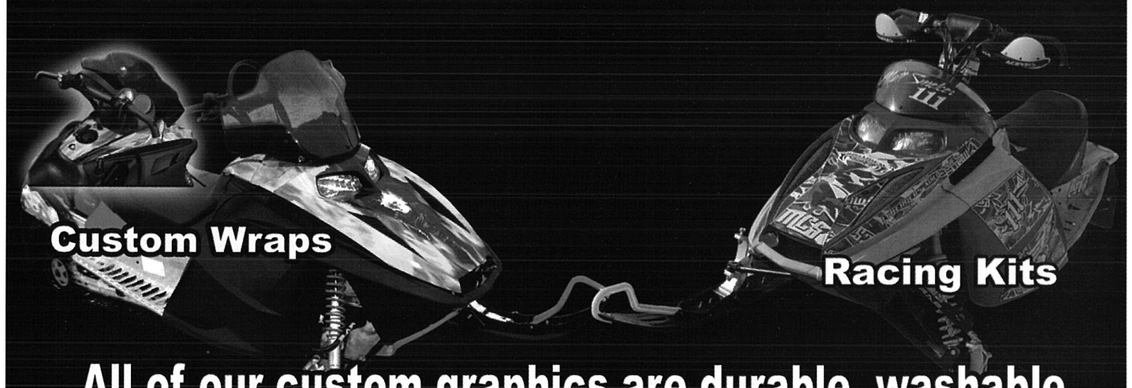
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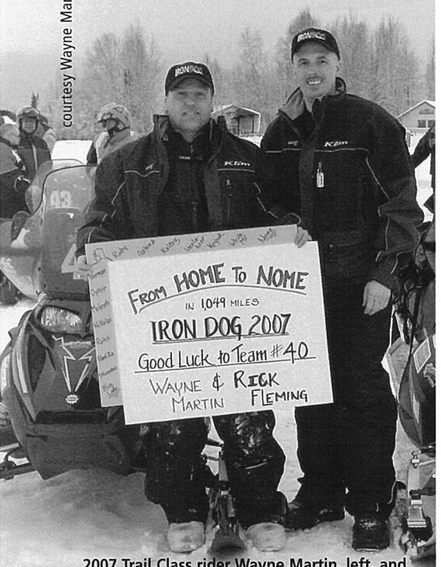
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courtesy Wayne Martin

2007 Trail Class rider Wayne Martin, left, and Rick Fleming prepare to embark upon their Tesoro Iron Dog adventure. Fleming is racing in the Pro Class in the 2008 event.

Savvy riders

Trail Class lets experienced snowmobilers enjoy race on a noncompetitive level

Pro-Class snowmobilers are not the only one's who want to experience the speed, perseverance and glory of finishing a Tesoro Iron Dog; sometimes your regular ol' Joe wants to join in on the fun as well.

That's why the Tesoro Iron Dog board created the Trail Class, a non-competitive aspect of the race that lets snowmobilers who are a little more experienced than the rest of the crowd but not compelled to race in the Pro Class.

"There's a variety of people who ride," said Laura Bedard, Iron Dog's executive director and a snowmachiner who competed in the race from Wasilla to Nome in 1997. "Husbands, wives, young and old. You experience the terrain, but not at a competitive level."

Bedard said the race is not for the weak-hearted and that in order to participate in the Trail Class one should have some knowledge of riding snowmachines over long distances, or ride with someone who does.

"It's definitely hearty, you can't just send anyone down the trail," Bedard said. "You must have some knowledge."

She said it's important for these riders to be as educated as the Pro Class racers, because they are basically riding over the same rough terrain as well as logging almost as many miles. Bedard said she wouldn't just recommend anyone to go out and give it a shot without backcountry survival and mechanical skills.

"You need to know to get across the

see page 51

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CALENDAR OF EVENTS

Snowmobile Safety & Educational EXPO • February 2, 2008
10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Wasilla Sports Complex

Tesoro Iron Dog Trail Class Start • February 8, 2008
World's Longest Snowmobile Poker Run
9 a.m., Big Lake

Tesoro Iron Dog Race Start Events • February 10, 2008
Pro Class Race Start Festivities
AMMC Kids Iron Pup
AMMC Gold Rush Classic Vintage Race
11 a.m. to 5 p.m., Big Lake

Nome Halfway Banquet Festivities • February 13, 2008
6 p.m. to 9 p.m., Nome Mini Convention Center

Race Finish/ Awards Banquet in Fairbanks • February 16, 2008
Race Finish, Noon – 4 p.m.
Awards Banquet, 6 p.m. to 10 p.m., Pike's Waterfront Lodge/ Binkley Room

Greetings from Alaska!



It is with great pleasure that I welcome all racers and fans to the 2008 Tesoro Iron Dog.

This race has long been near and dear to my heart, and over the years it has become a big part of family life at my house.

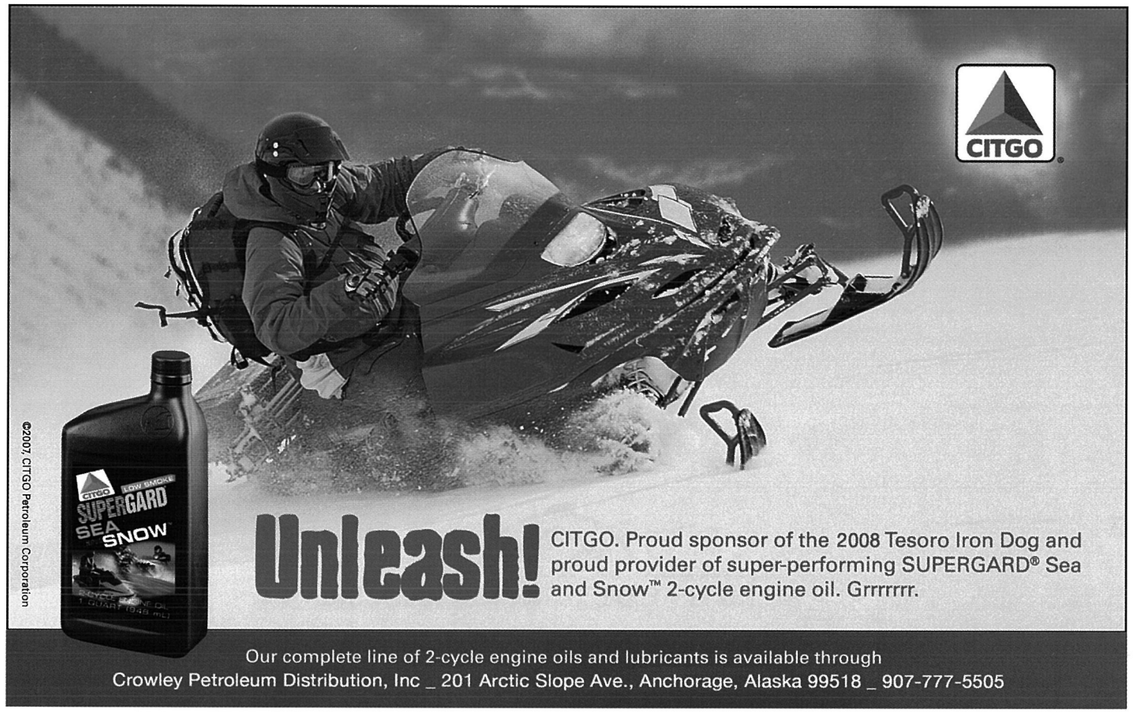
Personal considerations aside, this is a great race and an excellent showcase for our state and its people. It is also a distinctly Alaska competition that celebrates the specialness of this Great Land and the greatness of the human spirit present in those who love Alaska and call it home.

A competition of this magnitude cannot be undertaken without a variety of skills and strength of character. This race is not only a competition among racers. It also pits racers against the elements and the unforgiving and dangerous terrain that makes up this rugged and beautiful land. As such, the Iron Dog is as much about survival as it is about speed and endurance.

Those who undertake this immense challenge are winners even before they reach the finish line. On behalf of the State of Alaska, I salute you all and wish you well on the journey that lies ahead.

Sincerely,

Sarah Palin
Governor



Iditarod. He said it is an opportunity for people to get more intimately involved in the race, know the competitors and listen to "tales from the trail," by the riders.

Another aspect of inviting the Nome community into the Iron Dog race is creating a finish that allows spectators to see the racers come through town.

"We're creating more of a spectator-friendly finish. It's tough when you have a race out in the middle of nowhere," Peacock said. "They [riders] finish down Front Street and we have news crews, radio and interviews with the racers right there."

Peacock said it was important for him as a volunteer to give Nome more recognition as the halfway point and ending point for Pro Class and Trail Class riders, respectively.

He said even though he is not volunteering this year he has great respect for those who are and says that it's important to not only recognize who give their time and efforts in the larger cities like Anchorage, Wasilla and Fairbanks, but also to those who volunteer in the dead of night out in the remote villages.

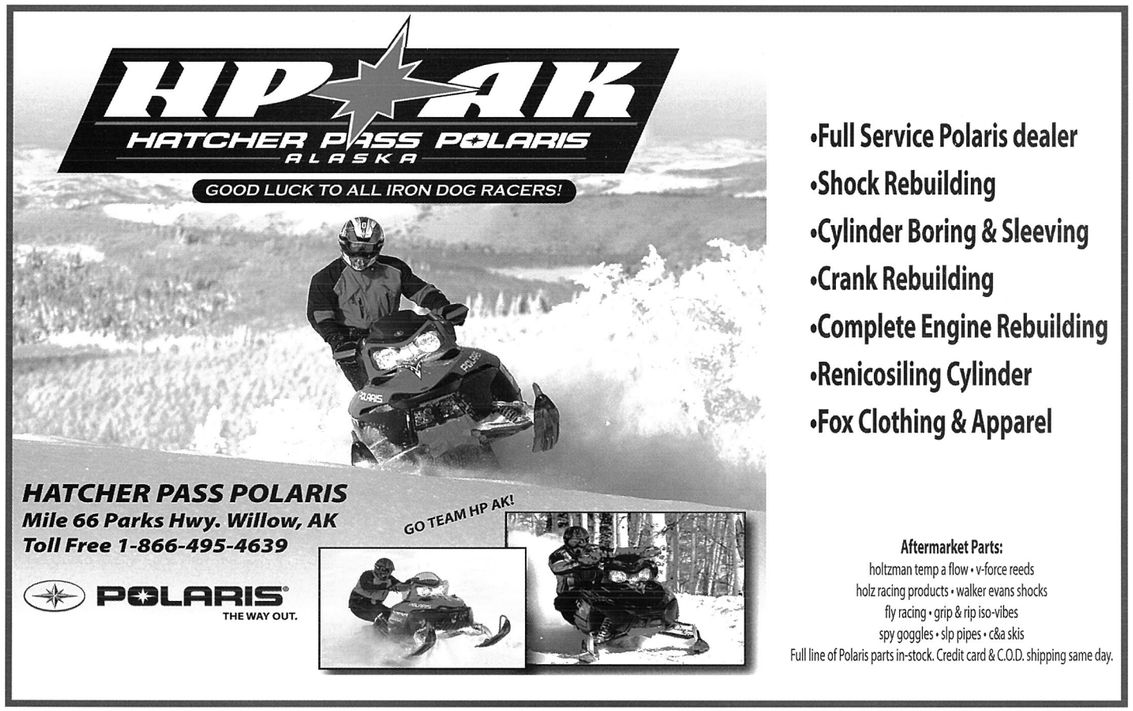
"Volunteering takes a lot of time and it's hard," Peacock said. "The places that don't get attention are small villages. These people in little villages along the way have snowmachines coming in at four or six in the morning. You're just always on standby."

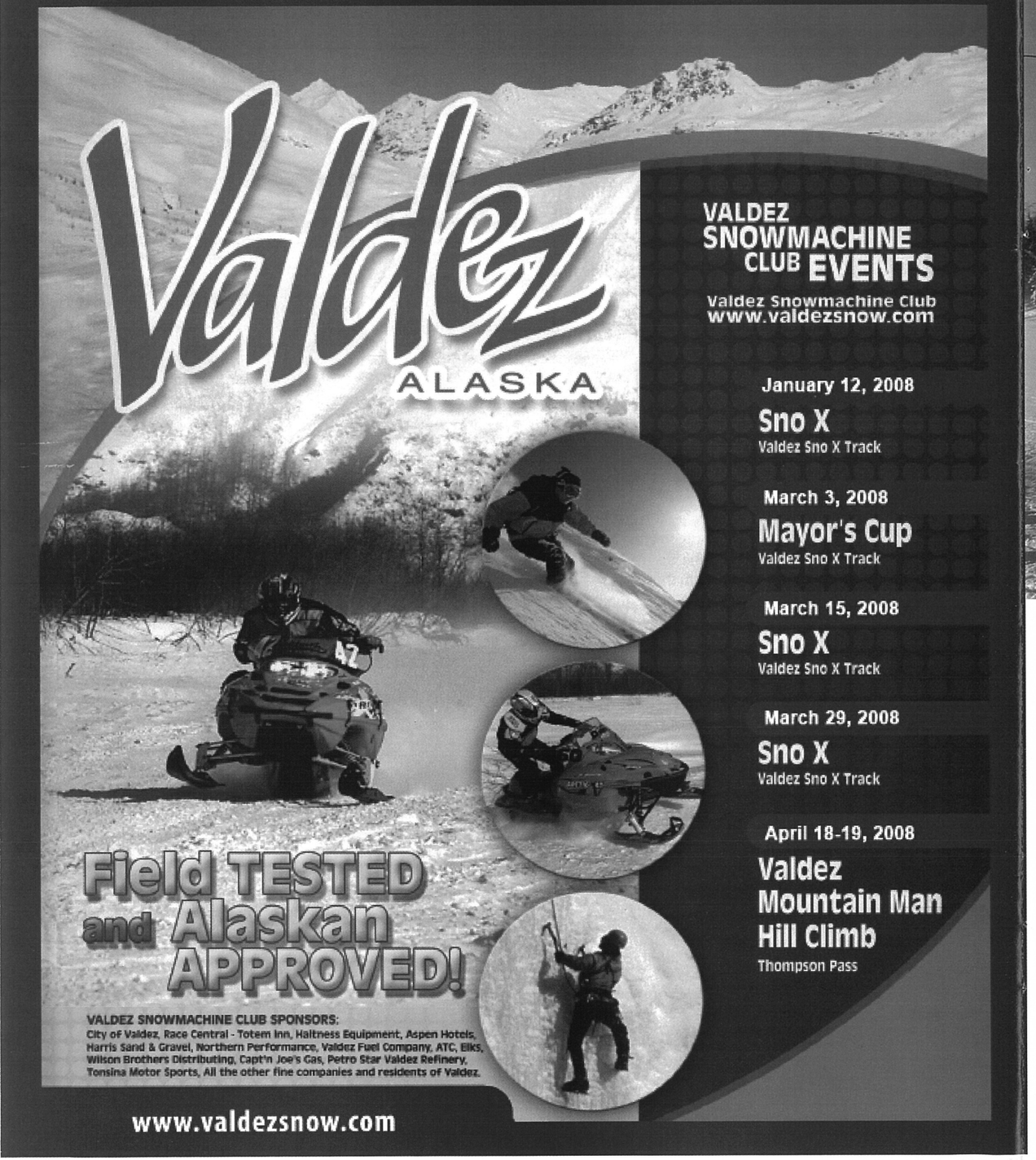
Peacock said despite Nome's remote location he still has some big city amenities like the use of his cell phone and being able to track racers on the GPS. He said it's also easier for him as a volunteer because all of the racers typically come in at once and he gases them up and sends them all out in one group.

"I can't imagine having them come at all hours of the night, gas them up and then send them out," said Peacock. "Sometimes it's one person who's doing it all — I don't know how to thank them because it's definitely a very important part of the race."


John Woodbury

Tesoro Iron Dog board member Trent Carbaugh, right, and race director Dennis Fallderf inspect race sleds during the 2007 Tesoro Iron Dog Expo in Wasilla. The Expo is slated for Feb. 2 this year.





Rosie Milligan



Todd Palin and Scott Davis cross the Tesoro Iron Dog finish line in Fairbanks last year to win the 2007 event. The duo finished the 1,971-mile course in just over 38 hours.

CHAMPIONSHIP HISTORY

2007	Scott Davis & Todd Palin	Arctic Cat	38:07
2006	Dwayne Drake & Andy George	Arctic Cat	35:48
2005	Marc McKenna & Nick Olstad	Arctic Cat	54:26
2004	Mark Carr & Dusty VanMeter	SkiDoo	39:03
2003	No Race		
2002	Todd Palin & Dusty Van Meter	Arctic Cat	38:41
2001	Tracey Brassard & Ken Lee	Polaris	38:44
2000	Todd Palin & Dusty Van Meter	Arctic Cat	41:10
1999	Mark Carr & Scott Davis	Arctic Cat	38:30
1998	Mark Carr & Scott Davis	Arctic Cat	44:47
1997	Mark Carr & Scott Davis	Arctic Cat	61:08
1996	John Faeo & Bob Gilman	Polaris	——
1995	Todd Palin & Dwayne Drake	Polaris	58:24
1994	Evan Booth & Dan Zipay	Polaris	71:38
1993	Scott Davis & Bill Long	Arctic Cat	58:36
1992	Evan Booth & Dan Zipay	Polaris	29:58
1991	John Faeo & Bob Gilman	Polaris	30:10
1990	John Faeo & Bob Gilman	Yamaha	40:12
1989	Scott Davis & Mark Torkelson	Yamaha	69:18
1988	John Faeo & Dan Zipay	Polaris	——
1987	John Faeo & Dan Zipay	Polaris	51:00
1986	John Faeo & Dan Zipay	Polaris	47:00
1985	Scott Davis & Gary Eoff	Yamaha	38:00
1984	John Faeo & Rod Frank	Polaris	23:50

Wasilla > Nome 1,049 miles until 1992
Wasilla > Nome > Wasilla 2,000 miles until 1997
Wasilla > Nome > Fairbanks 2,000 miles 1998 to 2004-2007
Wasilla > Nome > Wasilla 2005

Experience pays off

Veterans Davis, Palin reveal race savvy that led to 2007 win

By Catalina Myers

Last year veteran riders Todd Palin and Scott Davis swept the Iron Dog for an exciting win after coming in a hairline second in 2006's race. This dynamite team knows how to take down the competition even when the going gets tough.

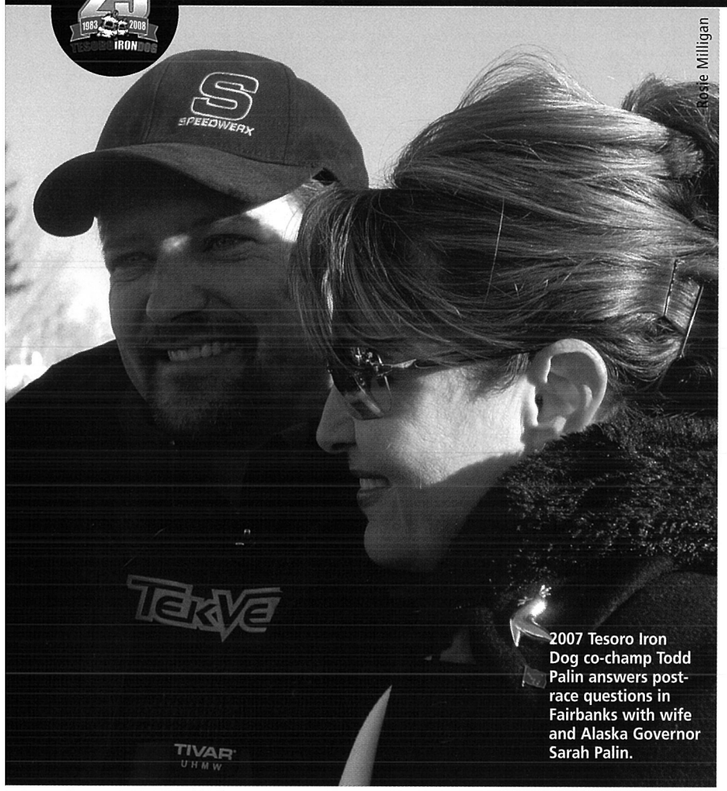
"Every year I think I'm going to retire, but every year I keep signing up," said Davis. "The race was pretty exciting, we had some bad luck right off the bat."

The duo had some shock and suspension issues at the beginning of the race but did not let that pull them down. Palin said they managed to keep it together to cross the finish line.

"It's hard to quit after a win — it's just a lot of fun and lot of work," Palin said. "It gets under your skin. Competition and athletics was a huge part of my youth and it [snowmobiling] kind of fills that niche."

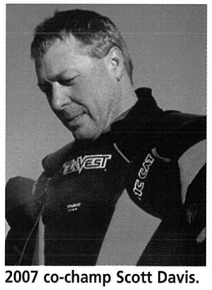
Youngsters Tyler Aklestad and Tyson Johnson were pitted against Palin and Davis in what came down to a two-team race. Aklestad and Johnson, still in their 20s, seemed like they were going to overcome the veteran 40-something-year-olds. Extensive trail and mechanical knowledge is what helped win the race for Palin and Davis. Despite their veteran classing, their ability to quickly problem solve in a race

see next page



Rosie Milligan

2007 Tesoro Iron Dog co-champ Todd Palin answers post-race questions in Fairbanks with wife and Alaska Governor Sarah Palin.



2007 co-champ Scott Davis.

where minutes and seconds can make all the difference, allowed them to have their Arctic Cats speed across the line first in Fairbanks.

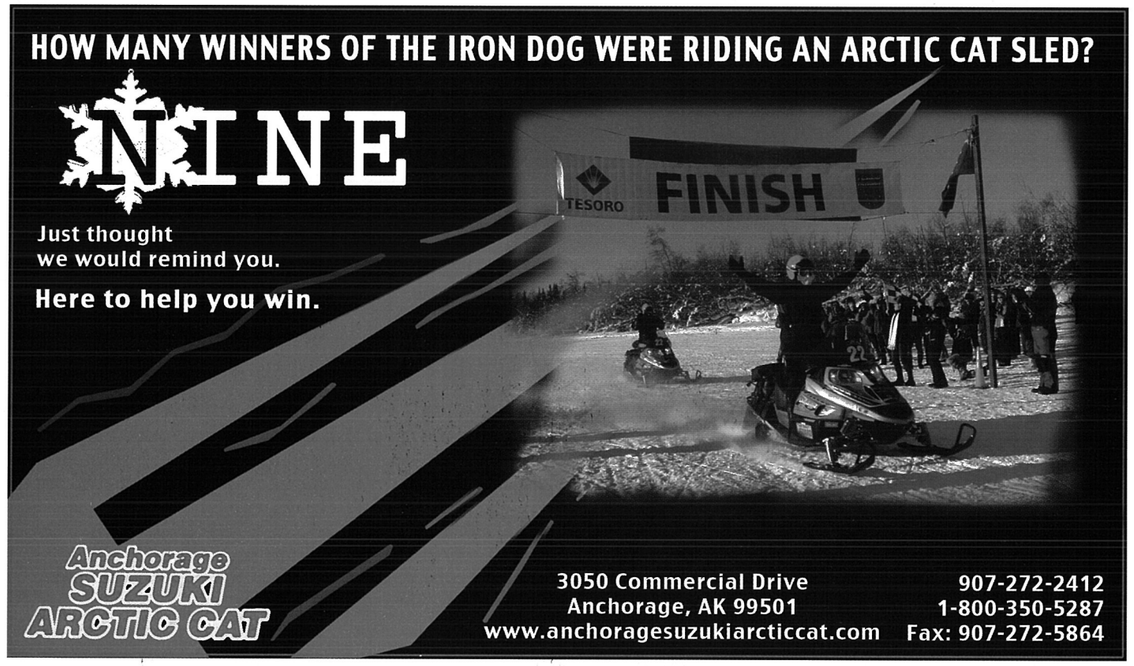
The team crossed the finish line in 38 hours, seven minutes, and 57 seconds with an average speed of 52 miles an hour, beating the younger duo of Aklestad and Johnson by 47 minutes and 58 seconds.

"We've been doing it a long time," said Davis. "We'll take what we learned last year and apply it to this year."

Davis said he was excited about last year's win and hopes that he can serve up another year of great competition. He said, however, that it gets harder as the years go by and that eventually the rookie teams won't be the new ones, they'll be the veterans. He said this is good, though, to have others come in and take the place of those past racers who love the race and thrill of competition and victory.

"The attraction of the race is just being at the world-class event and being able to build a snowmachine," Davis said.

"I've been blessed with good partners all these years," Palin said. "We've got all ages—any year a different team could win. One of these days it will get the exposure it deserves."



Unsung heroes

Volunteers the backbone of annual Tesoro Iron Dog event

By Catalina Myers

In order to make the longest and toughest snowmobile race in the world successful the planning, coordinating, and insuring the safety of the racers falls into the laps of the volunteers. They are the backbone of what makes the Tesoro Iron Dog happen every year and despite being recognized by the Tesoro Iron Dog board of directors, often the community who enjoys the event sees little of what these volunteers do.

"I really attribute the sucess of the race to the volunteers," said Laura Bedard, executive director on the Tesoro Iron Dog board. She said volunteers often do most of the work preparing for the race and that without their help the annual competition would not have the following it has each year.

According to Bedard volunteers do everything from helping sign up race participants and coordinating with sponsors and the media, to actually going out on the racecourse to do trail sweeps. She said there are tons of volunteers who make the event possible every year, but that there are some who just go above and beyond the call of duty.

Lahka Peacock is one of those volunteers, Bedard said. She said Peacock has been involved with the Tesoro Iron Dog in some way or fashion for many years, whether it was volunteering his time and energy or actually racing the course.

"He's racing this year and always joked that he went back to racing because volunteering was too much work," Bedard said.

Peacock will not be volunteering this year but will be one of the many competitors from Nome, and is looking forward to this year's Tesoro Iron Dog. He said his time as a volunteer was important and that he never realized how much he appreciated their work until he became one.

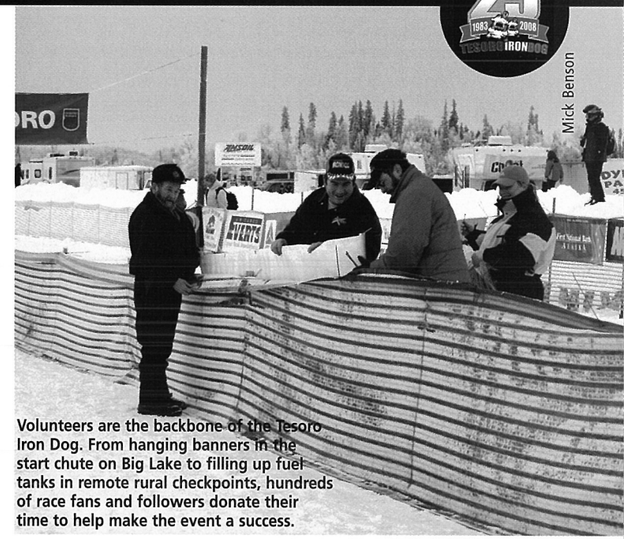
"One, I just thought that as far as races go, there's nothing like it [Iron Dog] and I thought that it's not getting the recognition it deserves," Peacock said. "I just wanted to benefit the community of Nome."

Peacock moved to Nome several years ago and became more heavily involved in the volunteering aspect of the race and has really worked hard to make the halfway point of the race a big deal for both Trail Class and Pro Class riders. He said he has worked hard to make sure the community of Nome is involved in the race as much as possible.

"We concentrated on trying to get the community involved," Peacock said. "We offer a banquet and invited the community. It's a time to get together and listen to the stories of the racers."

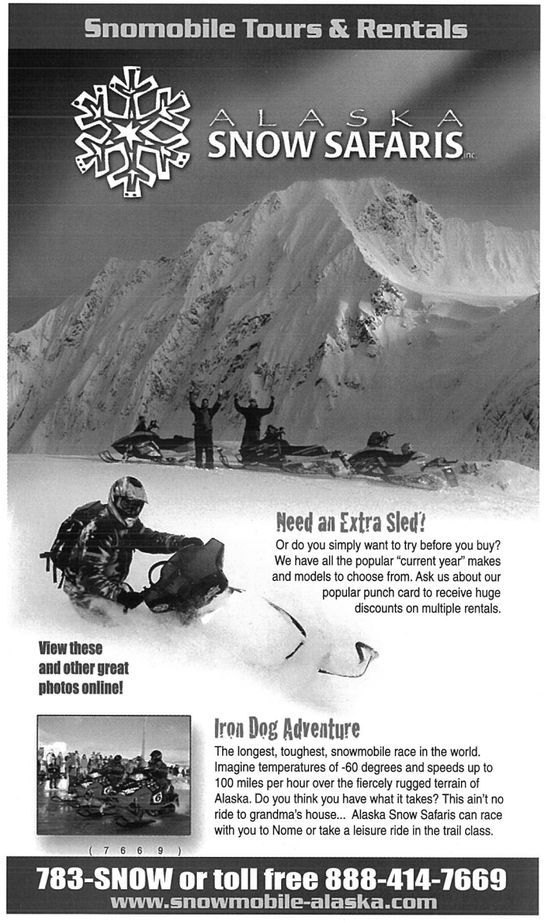
Peacock said the Trail Class Banquet was created similarly to the one hosted by the community for the racers in the

see page 45



Mick Benson

Volunteers are the backbone of the Tesoro Iron Dog. From hanging banners in the start chute on Big Lake to filling up fuel tanks in remote rural checkpoints, hundreds of race fans and followers donate their time to help make the event a success.



2008 Tesoro Iron Dog Contingency Challenge

Hatcher Pass Polaris	First Polaris Team into McGrath	$500
*Tukusko House	First Team into McGrath-Free Lodging & Meals	TBA
Fine Line Interiors*	Fastest Pro Class Team between Big Lake and McGrath	$500*
SBS Poorman Hard-Luck Award	Voted by the Poorman SBS crew, the team with the worst luck getting to Poorman	$500
Alaska Toy Rental*	First Rookies Team to the Yukon River - Certificates for Toy Rentals	$500*
Debenham Properties	First Rookies Team into Galena Northbound	$500
Northwoods Lodge	Fastest SkiDoo Team Southbound Between Unalakleet and Kaltag	$500
Curtis Green State Farm	First Pro Class Team into Kaltag	$500
LEAD-DOG Helmet Lights	First Pro Class Team to Nome with LEAD-DOG Helmet Light On Leaving the Starting Line	$250
Alaska River Sports, Inc.*	First Pro Class Team to the Yukon River, Guided Overnight Fishing Trip for Two on the Little Willow	$700*
Tesoro Corporation	First Pro Class Race Team into Nome $2500 in Tesoro Fuel	$2,500*
Tesoro Corporation*	First Rookies Race Team into Nome $2500 in Tesoro Fuel	$2,500*
Quality Auto Parts	$500 for the fastest Team from White Mountain to Nome	$500
Wilderness Ski-Doo	$250 for the 4th and $250 for the 5th Ski-Doo Team into Nome	$500
Morgan's Sales & Service	First Pro Class Team into Nome on a Polaris	$500
WELLS FARGO	Contingency Challenge	TBA
Bering Sea Lions Club		TBA
Airport Pizza	First Pro Class Team into Nome Steak Dinners	TBA
Global Fuel Half Way Nome Prize	First Pro Class Race Team into Nome	$2,500
Vortex Group	First Place Rookies Team into Nome	$500
Woody's Traction Products*	First Rookies Team into Nome — product certificate & Woody's Race Apparel	$1,500
CITGO	First Rookies Team into Nome	$500
Pikes Landing	Fastest Pro Class Team Between Tanana and Fairbanks	$500
Rookies Finish Line Challenge	First Place Finish Pro Class Team, both riders must be Rookies to Qualify	$10,000
Rookies Finish Line Challenge	Second Place Finish Pro Class Team, both riders must be Rookies to Qualify	$5,000
Rookies Finish Line Challenge	Third Place Finish Pro Class Team, both riders must be Rookies to Qualify	$3,000
Polaris Industries	First Place Finish on Polaris	$3,000
Arctic Cat	First Place Finish on Arctic Cat	$5,000
Ski-Doo	First Place $5000, Second Place $2,500	$7,500
Frontiersman	First Mat-Su Valley Team Across the Finish Line $500 in Gold Coins	$500
Anchorage Suzuki Arctic Cat	First Rookies Team on Arctic Cat across the Finish Line	$500
Edge Performance	Rookies Challenge	TBA
LEAD-DOG Helmet Lights	First Pro Class Team with LEAD-DOG Helmet Light On Crossing the Finishing Line	$250
Woody's Traction Products*	First Rookies Team across the finish line-product certificate & Woody's Race Apparel	$1,500*
Sled Bed Trailers*	First Rookies Team across the Finish Line- High Quality 8x10 Aluminum Tilt Snowmobile Trailer	$1,800*
Tesoro Corporation	First Pro Class Race Team into Fairbanks $2,500 in Tesoro Fuel	$2,500*
Tesoro Corporation	First Rookies Race Team into Fairbanks $2,500 in Tesoro Fuel	$2,500*
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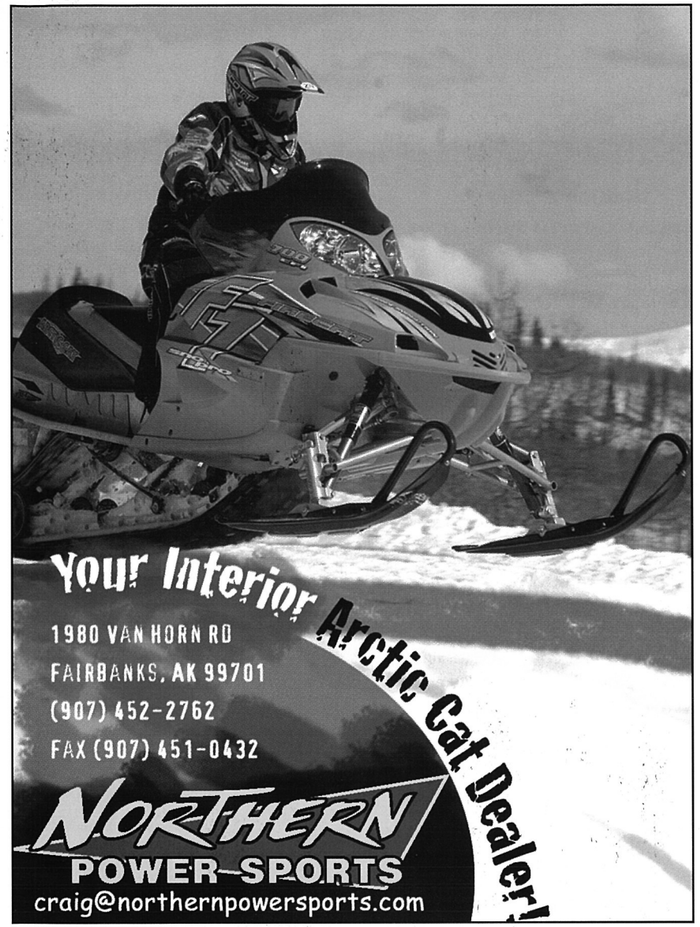
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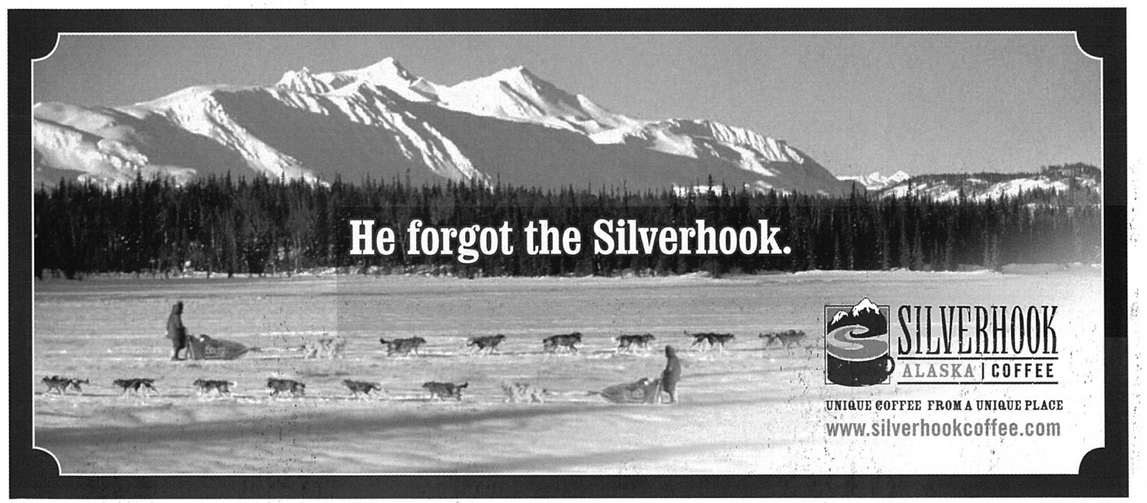


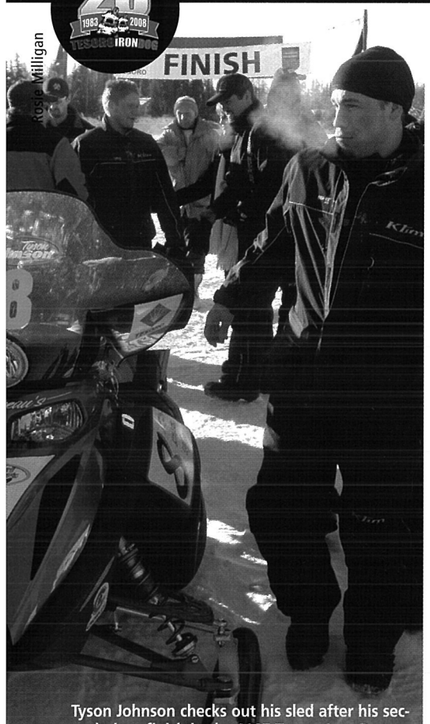
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Tyson Johnson checks out his sled after his second-place finish in the 2007 Tesoro Iron Dog.

Kasi Milligan

Big dog

Record number of racers vie for snowmobiling's Main Event

By Catalina Myers

In Alaska everything is big, from the mountainous terrain and oversized animals, to the challenging sporting events that take place here.

The Tesoro Iron Dog, a race that covers 1,971 miles from Big Lake to Nome to Fairbanks, fits right into this category of full-size competition. Known as the world's longest and toughest snowmobile race, this test of mental, physical and mechanical strength beckons those hungry to test their will power.

"Iron Dog is truly a one-of-a-kind event," said Laura Bedard, executive director of the Tesoro Iron Dog event. "The strength of Iron Dog — the longevity of the race; it's been around for 25 years."

Iron Dog was first conceived in March 1983 by Bob Kowalke and Jim Wilke, who felt Alaska snowmachiners needed a race that would solely focus on the talents of outstanding individuals in this sport. They decided an event to showcase the masterful skills of the rider required a race that tested strength, skill and mechanical know-how. From there, Kowalke and Wilke designed a route that traced the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race and began in mid-February, early enough to finish before the start of Iditarod.

In 1984 the Gold Rush Classic, as the Iron Dog was originally known, began on the frozen waters of Big Lake and followed the Northern Route of the Historic Iditarod Trail to Nome.

Since then the Iron Dog course has had a few miles tacked onto it and pro-class racers now finish the grueling event in Fairbanks. Trail class, the non-competitive category, for riders who want to

see page18







Joe Baggette

Age 40 Wasilla

Joe is a rookie to Iron Dog. He has lived in Alaska for 15 years and is a dentist/owner of Alaska Premier Dental Group. He enjoys riding dirt bikes, hunting, fishing, mountaineering, diving, traveling around the world, single malt scotch, and his beautiful wife, Marcie, and children: Gaven, Kara, Aaron, and Hayden.

ROOKIE

55 *Draggin A.S.S.* **SKI-DOO**



Chris Maynard

Age 33 Anchorage

Chris is a rookie to Iron Dog. Chris is a born and raised Alaskan. He and his wife Erica just had their first child, named Amber. They own and operate Alaska Snow Safaris, Alaska All Terrain and Co-own Glacier Jet Alaska based out of Anchorage, Girdwood and Valdez. Besides working in the field and spending time with family and friends, Chris enjoys fishing, boating, flying, racing motorcycles and traveling.

ROOKIE

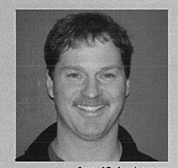
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Emily Brassard

Age 17 Anchorage

ROOKIE

Emily is a rookie to Iron Dog and a Service High School senior. She is a lifelong Alaskan, growing up doing many outdoor activities. Emily is an avid snowmachiner and has been a big Iron Dog fan for years. Soccer, volleyball and horses are some of her other past-time favorites. She is looking forward to experiencing the trail class first-hand, since she has heard many stories before.



Age 43 Anchorage

TRAIL SWEEPER

Tracey Brassard

Tracey placed fourth in his first Iron Dog in '98, fourth ('99), eighth ('00), first ('01), third ('02), DNF ('04), fifth ('05), DNF ('06), and ran Trail Class in 07. Tracey has lived in Alaska for 36 years, and loves summer and winter. He works as a foreman for Renegade Equipment.

60 **POLARIS**
Brassard, Brassard, Lee & Lee

Kari Lee

Age 18 Eagle River

ROOKIE

Kari is a rookie to Iron Dog. She works as a teacher for Joy Lutheran Child Development. Kari has lived in Alaska her entire life and enjoys the outdoors. She likes to snowmachine, four-wheel, fish, hunt and play volleyball.

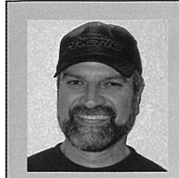
Ken Lee

Age 46 Eagle River

TRAIL SWEEPER

Ken has competed in the Tesoro Iron Dog 11 times. He and partner Tracy Brassard took the championship in 2001. Ken and his family live in Eagle River and he works as a collections manager for Cal Worthington Ford. His hobbies include hunting, enjoying the great outdoors and snowmobiling.

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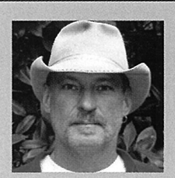


Skip Boomershine

Age 50 Anchorage

ROOKIE

Skip is a rookie to Iron Dog. He has lived in Alaska for 30 years and still loves every day here. His passions include snowmobiling, rafting and spending time with his wife and three children. He is active in church, union safety and being an Iron Dog.



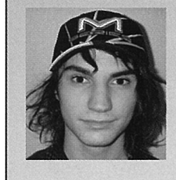
ROOKIE **Age 54** Eagle River

Jack Stoebner

Jack is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is retired and married to Rhonda, they have two children, Ashley and Jordan. He enjoys hunting, fishing, snowmachining, skiing, traveling, racquetball and anything outdoors. Jack recently returned from Bulgaria, serving as a volunteer in the Peace Corps.

51 ARCTIC CAT

The Black Knights



Andrew Boomershine

Age 18 Anchorage

ROOKIE

Andrew is rookie to Iron Dog. He was born and raised in Anchorage and is a senior at South Anchorage High. He enjoys snowskating, snowboarding, snowmachining, fishing and hiking and other outdoor activities. He works as a cook at Uncle Joe's Pizza in south Anchorage.



Brian Boomershine

Age 33 Hamilton, OH

ROOKIE

Brian is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is married to Jana and they have two children. He works as a store manager for Lowe's.

Michael Fuller

Age 42 Anchorage

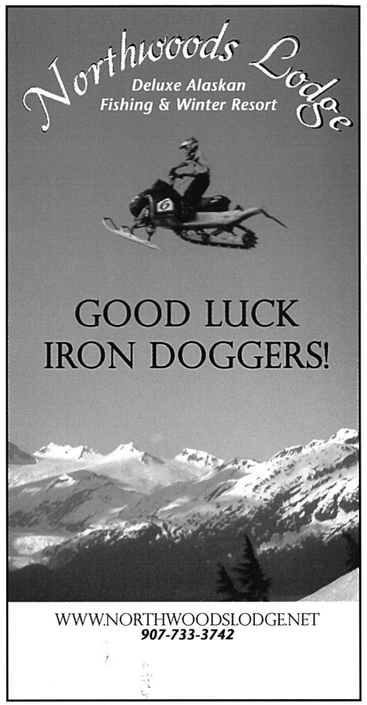
ROOKIE

Michael is entering his second Iron Dog. He is married with three children, and currently works as a shop foreman for American Fast Freight.

POLARIS



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Bill Mielke

Wasilla

VETERAN

A lifelong Alaskan who enjoys the outdoors and trips on the snow. Bill is a contractor in Wasilla who was touched on the shoulder by a higher power and told to have a good time.



VETERAN Anchorage

Don Diggins

This is Don's second Iron Dog. He placed 12th in 2007. Don was born and raised in Alaska. He races boats all around the state and has raced motocross and snowmachines sometimes. Now he spends most of his rec. time golfing or at Big Lake. He has owned and operated Diggins Concrete since 1979.

52 SKI-DOO

Team Mellow Yellow



Frank Mielke

Age 58 Chugiak

VETERAN

Frank was born in Alaska and lives in Chugiak with his wife, Shelley Higgins, and three children. Retired from the State of Alaska, he is a log home builder, and enjoys the outdoors and woodworking. This is his second Iron Dog.



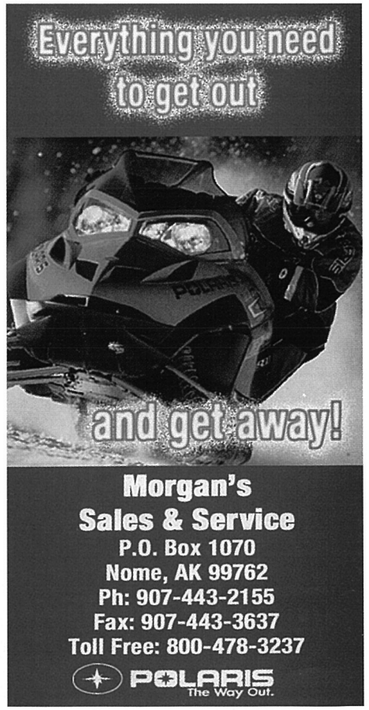
Otis Mielke

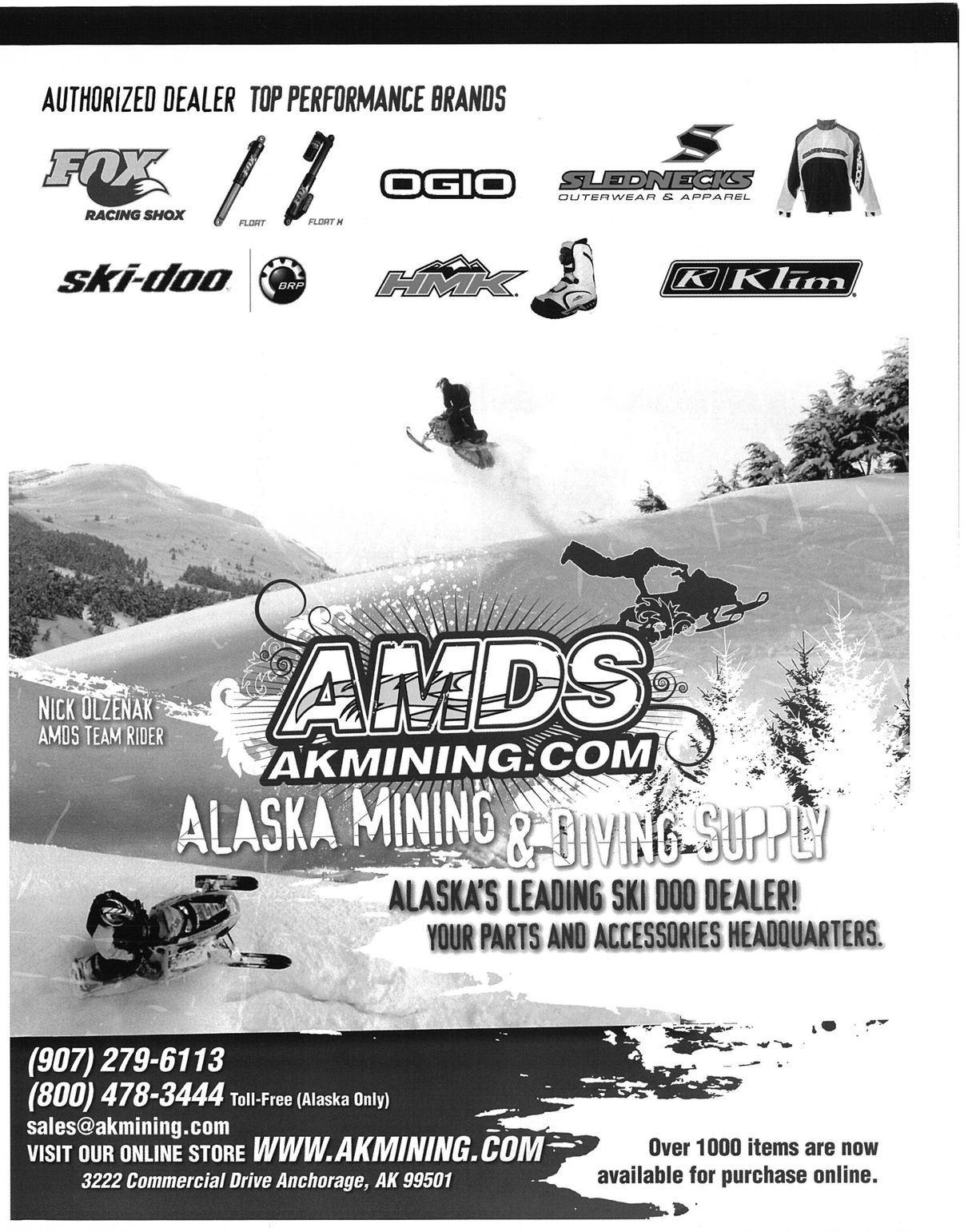
Wasilla

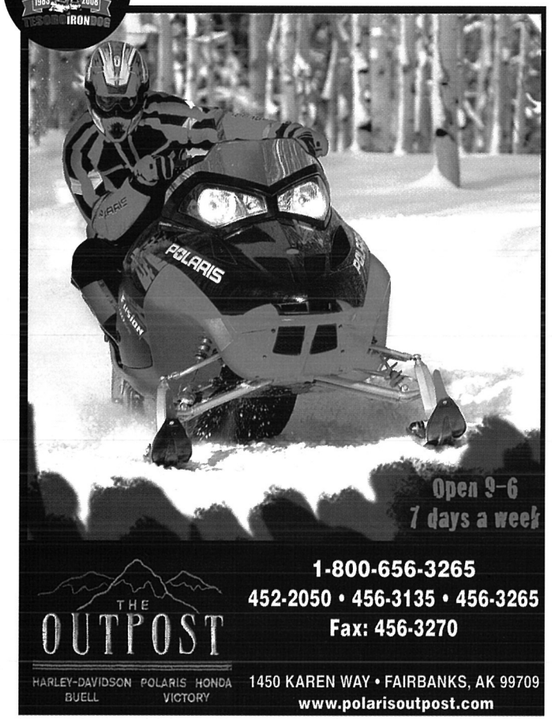
ROOKIE

Otis is a lifelong Alaskan who grew up along the banks of the Little Susitna River. He is in charge of operations for his father's concrete company. Otis spends his winters and summers at his cabin on the Yentna, flying and using snowmachines to hunt and fish year round.

SPONSORS: Cal-Sorrento Ltd (San Diego), Darlene (Bill's Wife), FGM Natural Resource Development, Frank Mielke, Judge Larry Stirling (San Diego), Mielke Concrete







from page16

experience the thrill of the course following the Iditarod Trail and finish in Nome.

It has been 25 years since the first Iron Dog race, and since then the competition has been gaining momentum within the snowmobiling community. Veteran racers now not only face the challenge of Alaska's harsh weather conditions, rough terrain and risk of serious injury, but a new threat — race rookies — are entering the event in record numbers and appear more than eager to claim the Tesoro Iron Dog crown.

"There are 24 rookie teams," Bedard said. "Last year we had 12."

This year marks a record year for rookie teams, and Bedard believes it is good to have a new wave of competition. She said the Tesoro Iron Dog's world recognition has also brought up a record number of teams from the Lower 48 and is excited the competition is getting the racers, coverage and recognition it deserves.

"Rural Alaska is important. We have a lot of rookie teams from rural Alaska, especially in the Nome area," said Bedard. "I think most of these young kids out there (in the villages) see Iron Dog come through and have the desire to be in it one day."

Bedard said a lot of the residents along the Tesoro Iron Dog trail come out to watch the racers roar through town, cheer on their favorite rider and help along the way. Some of those fans eventually take a chance on becoming contenders in snowmobiling's main event.

This year's mix of rookies, veterans and out-of-state racers will provide snowmobile fans excitement and drama over the 1,971-mile course. Bedard, a past Iron Dog participant, said she's a firm believer that anything can happen out on the trail when there are this many talented teams jockeying for the coveted Iron Dog title.

"I think the field is packed with really good teams," said Todd Palin, who with partner Scott Davis of Soldotna won the 2007 Tesoro Iron Dog. "There are about 10 teams that could win. It's really encouraging, it's nice to see new teams."

Palin, a three-time winner of the Tesoro Iron Dog, said he's not ready to make any assumptions about 2008's race. Anything can happen out on the course and sometimes it just comes down to a matter of luck. Palin said he and Davis had some shock and suspension issues during their championship ride last year but managed to push through them, providing another Tesoro Iron Dog example of why a team must be prepared for the best and worst.

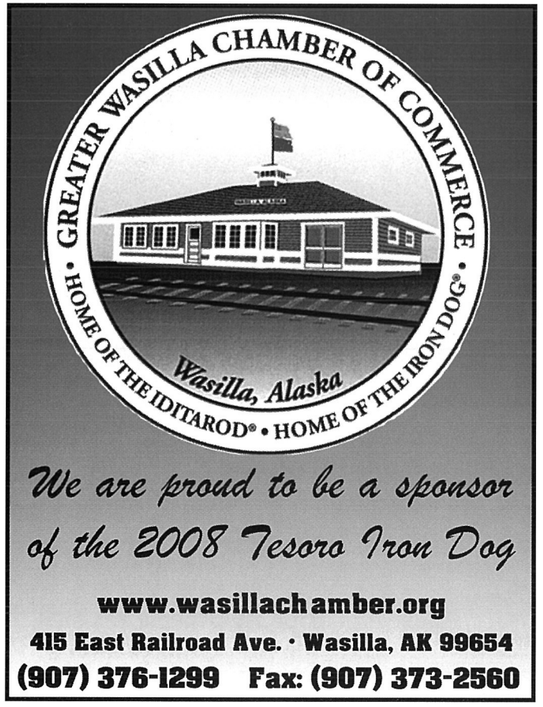
"It's one of these events that's intimidating, but you just go out and have a steady pace," Palin said.

Davis reiterated his teammates comment, adding that while they had some bad luck right off the start, they managed to push through those obstacles and maintain their long-distance race strategy.

"We didn't make any big mistakes that cost us time," said Davis. "We were just a little bit better than the other guys."

Davis said he is not intimidated by the competition and is excited to get out there for yet another Tesoro Iron Dog.

"I think there's a lot of great teams and a lot of new teams that could be great," Davis said. "It's a great race to be involved in and unique. Good luck to all the participants and get there safely."



PRO CLASS

James Hastings

Age 40
Wasilla



Sergeant First Class (ret) James Hastings hails from Arkansas. He joined the Army in 1985, survived 21 fun-filled years serving our country as a paratrooper and recruiter and retired, intact, in 2006. He has lived in Alaska since 1998 and is currently the Exalted Ruler of Palmer Elks Lodge #1842 and is living the Alaskan dream with his wonderful family here in the Great Land. Team Wounded Warrior Project-Iron Dog was created to remind us that as American citizens, that with the faith and support of our fellow man, no matter the circumstances or misfortunes, nothing is out of reach, and anything is achievable. Hooah!

ROOKIE

42 *Team Wounded Warrior Project* **SKI-DOO**

Charles Potter

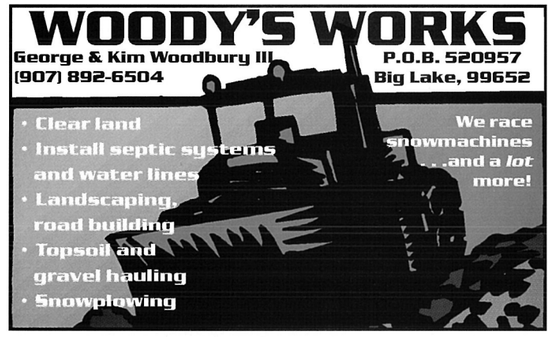
Big Lake



Specialist (ret) Charlie Potter is a soldier from Big Lake. He graduated from Mid-Valley High in 2002. On July 3rd '05 while serving his country in Iraq Charlie sustained injuries when his convoy was ambushed by insurgents. Charlie's injuries required immediate transport to Germany for stabilization, then Stateside for numerous reconstructive operations and extensive rehabilitation. The Wounded Warrior Project has been there for him throughout this period of healing. Specialist Potter has made great strides in his recovery thanks to the commitment, efforts, and dedication of his fellow soldiers who volunteer to serve and protect others, and from the communities across our great nation who continue to support our troops regardless of their political opinion or beliefs.

ROOKIE

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TRAIL CLASS

Patrick Cummins

Age 29
Anchorage



Patrick is a rookie to Iron Dog. He has lived in Alaska for 20 years and works as an engineer for Quality Asphalt Paving. Patrick loves to snowmachine in the winter and ride motorcycles and four-wheelers in the summer.

ROOKIE

50 *Charles & Cummins* **SKI-DOO**

Ben Charles

Age 29
Anchorage



Ben is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is a lifelong Alaskan and graduated from the University of Alaska Anchorage in 2003. Ben has been employed by Spenard Builder's Supply for the past seven years as a truck driver. In his free time, he enjoys spending time with family and friends as well as snowmachining, fishing and riding his motorcycle.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Café Capri Espresso, Independent Lift Truck, Mom and Dad Cummins, Quality Asphalt Paving, Steve and Marian Charles, Bonnie and Craig Johnson, Cornholio, LLC.





Charles Distel

Age 37
Montrose, CO

Charles was born in Julesburg, Colorado, but grew up in Center, Colorado, where he spent a lot of his time dirt-biking and snowmobiling. Chuck's friend, Robert Atkins, was the first person in 1985, from the Lower 48, to finish the Iron Dog. This gave Chuck the inspiration to one day race the Iron Dog.

ROOKIE

38 *Distel & Hawkins* **SKI-DOO**



Terry Hawkins

Age 39
Montrose, CO

Terry lives in Montrose, Colorado. He owns Alpine Offroad & Performance. Terry enjoys dirt bikes, snowmobiles, camping, hunting and fishing.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Montrose Motorsports DEI, Inc. Power Equipment, Inc., Ridgway Valley Enterprises, Ron Smith (Edward Jones), Black Canyon Aggregate, Vermeer of Colorado. Thank you Family and Friends



Rod Downey

Age 45
Montrose, CO

Rod is a rookie to Iron Dog. He lives in Montrose, Colorado, with his wife and four daughters, one son-in-law, one grandson, and another on his way. He just sold his construction company and plans on enjoying time with his family and doing what he loves best: motorized recreation, anything that burns gas and sometimes oil.

ROOKIE

39 *Downey & Hamilton* **SKI-DOO**



Joey Hamilton

Age 27
Montrose, CO

Joey is a rookie to Iron Dog. He has lived in Montrose, Colorado, his entire life. He is a local pro motocross, super-crosser, and off-road racer. Joey enjoys trials bikes, pit bikes, and duel-sport riding. Woodworking and fly-fishing keep him occupied when not riding.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Black Canyon Aggregate, DEI, Inc., Montrose Motorsports, Power Equipment, Inc., Ridgway Valley Enterprises, Ron Smith (Edward Jones), Vermeer of Colorado



Daniel Ryznar

Age 27
Anchorage

Daniel is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is owner of Ryznar Industries and enjoys snowmachining, camping, flying, whitewater kayaking, pretty much anything outdoors.

ROOKIE

40 *Ryznar & Tope* **SKI-DOO**



Mike Tope

Age 44
Anchorage

Mike ran the Iron Dog in '86, '89 and '93 (DNF). He is married to Terri and they have two children, Garrett and Elli. Mike is the owner of Alaska Equipment Appraisers. He enjoys biking, distance running, and spending time with his family at their Petersville cabin.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Alaska Equipment Appraisers, Compeau's, Craig's Gliders, Elan's R Us, Ridge Contracting Iinc., Ryznar Industries, Tillotson Tuners



Forest Fyrberg

Age 26
Shelburne, NH

Forest is a rookie to Iron Dog. He enjoys many activities including racing enduros, ski racing, motocross, rally racing and when he is not racing something he is either working out at the gym or working as a structural engineer for steel elements on international construction projects.

ROOKIE

41 *Half Fast Racing* **SKI-DOO**



Mark Paaso

Age 23
Bethel, ME

Mark is a rookie to Iron Dog. He has two children and loves to push the limits in every aspect of his life. Mark competes in freestyle mogul skiing, races Hare Scrambles, rides motocross and enjoys spending time with his children when he is not working at his automotive business.

ROOKIE

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Iron Dog from point A to point B

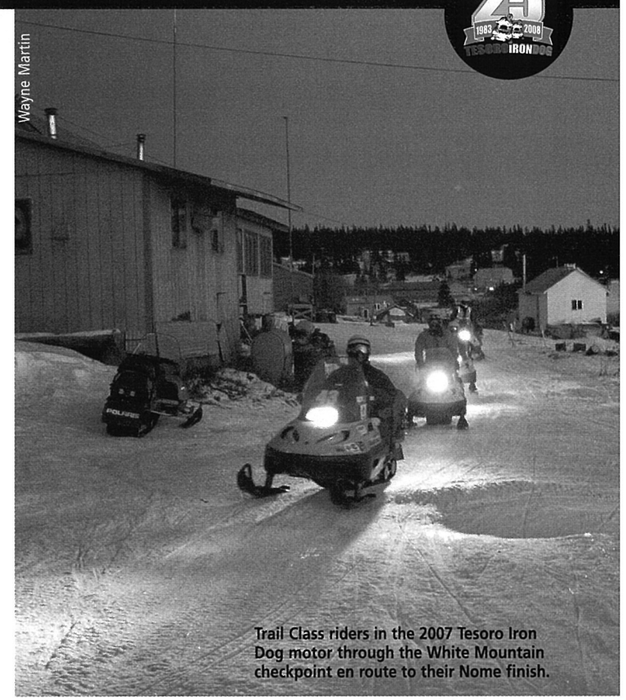
By Hannah Guillaume

Race teams on the Tesoro Iron Dog's trail look forward to the many checkpoints and communities they'll encounter on the way. At checkpoints they get a chance to warm up out of the wind, grab some grub and wipe their noses and hit the hay.

Race teams drive for each of the checkpoints along the north- and south-bound routes stretching 1,971 miles across Alaska.

The farthest distance between any checkpoint communities is the 120-mile crossing from Ruby to Tanana along the Yukon River in the Kilbuck-Kuskokwim Mountains.

Once competitors reach checkpoints, they warm up, rejuvenate and get ready for another grueling journey over snowy landscapes that can sometimes lead to muddy shoreline traverses and treacherous river crossings.



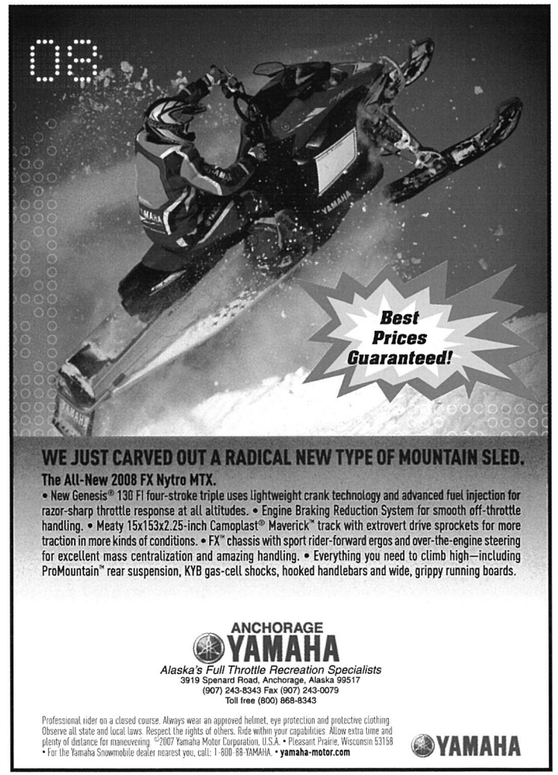
Wayne Martin

Trail Class riders in the 2007 Tesoro Iron Dog motor through the White Mountain checkpoint en route to their Nome finish.

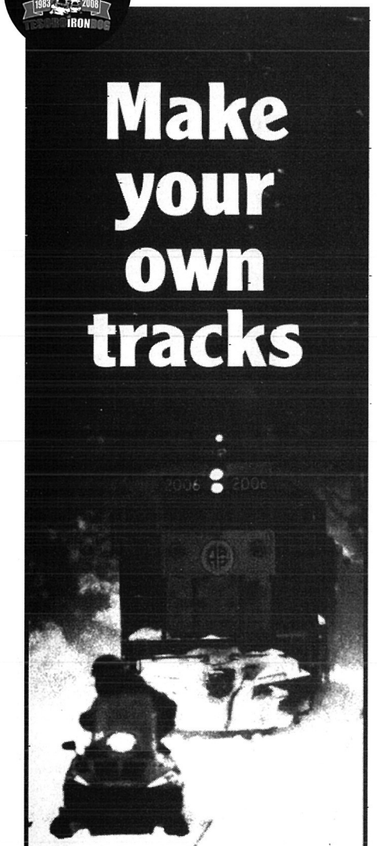
Checkpoint roundup:

- **WASILLA**, population 8,471, located in southcentral Alaska on the George Parks Highway, is the starting point of the Tesoro Iron Dog and its celebrations.
- **BIG LAKE**, population 2,644, marks the start of the Trail Class and Pro Class events.
- **SKWENTNA**, population 111, located on mostly flat land in southcentral Alaska on the Skwentna River, is 89 miles from the start.
- **PUNTILLA**, population two, located on a lake near a breathtaking mountain pass, is 161 miles from the start.
- **ROHN**, population zero, located at a small roadhouse where two rivers join, is 236 miles from the start.
- **NIKOLAI**, population 93, located in a Native village, is 310 miles from the start.
- **MCGRATH**, population 379, located on the Innoko River, is 362 miles from the start.
- **OPHIR**, population zero, located on the crossing of the Innoko River, is 425 miles from the start.
- **POORMAN**, population zero, located in a flat-land region and marks the last checkpoint before the Ruby turning point where riders will carve the same section of trail twice, is 524 miles from the start.
- **RUBY**, population 178, located on the Yukon River and marks the turning point to Nome, is 596 miles from the start on the way to Nome and 1,620 miles from the start on the return route to Fairbanks.
- **GALENA**, population 641, located in an Athabascan village in the Interior, is 648 miles from the start on the way to Nome and 1,568 miles from the start on the return route to

see next page



Make your own tracks



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A public safety message from the Alaska Railroad.

www.AlaskaRailroad.com



Wayne Martin

Race teams in the 2007 Tesoro Iron Dog talk shop and tinker during the halfway layover in Nome.

Fairbanks.

▶ **KALTAG**, population 218, located near the windy coast of Norton Sound, is 746 miles from the start on the way to Nome and 1,470 miles from the start on the return route to Fairbanks.

▶ **UNALAKLEET**, population 752, located on the windy coast of Norton Sound north of the Unalakleet River, is 841 miles from the start on the way to Nome and is 1,375 miles from the start on the return route to Fairbanks.

▶ **SHAKTOOLIK**, population 230, located on a point jutting into Norton Sound, is 882 miles from the start and 1,334 miles from the start on the return route to Fairbanks.

▶ **KOYUK**, population 299, located on the coast, is 939 miles from the start on the way to Nome and is 1,277 miles from the start on the return route to Fairbanks.

▶ **WHITE MOUNTAIN**, population 209, located in the mountains on the Fish River, is 1,033 miles from the start on the way to Nome and is 1,183 miles from the start on the return route to Fairbanks.

▶ **NOME**, population 3,590, located on the coast of the Bering Sea and marks the halfway point Feb. 13 celebration where race teams turn around and head back to Ruby where they'll head to Fairbanks for the finish, is 1,108 miles from the start.

▶ **TANANA**, population 290, located on the Yukon River past the Ruby turning point, is 1,740 miles from the start.

▶ **MANLEY HOT SPRINGS**, population 72, located in a flat-land region, is 1,812 miles from the start.

▶ **NENANA**, population 371, located on mile 305 of the George Parks Highway, is 1,917 miles from the start.

▶ **FAIRBANKS**, population 31,324, located at the finish of Tesoro Iron Dog where the shows and celebrations happen, is 1,971 miles from the start.

Source: Population and location descriptions based on 2005 and 2000 U.S. Census Bureau area estimates and the Iditarod Trail Committee.

PRO CLASS



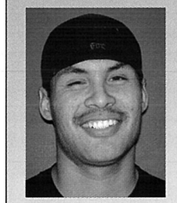
Stewart Pitka

Age 29
Anchorage

Stewart raced the Iron Dog in '06 (DNF). He has lived in Alaska for 27 years and enjoys running and swimming.

ROOKIE

34 *Pitka & Wallace* **ARCTIC CAT**



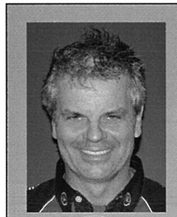
Ashley Wallace

Age 28
Tanana

Ashley is a rookie to Iron Dog. He was born and raised in Tanana and works as an instrument technician for Conoco Phillips. Ashley enjoys being out in the woods, trapping, hunting, fishing, seeing new places and most of all, he enjoys being around family and friends.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Doyon, Eagle River Arctic Cat, Shania and Nash Jordan, Wright Air Service



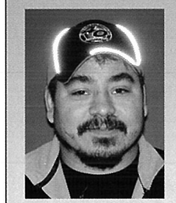
Gary Higdon

Age 48
Anchorage

Gary is a rookie to Iron Dog. He works for ASRC as an operator. Since 1981, Gary has raced: Thunder on Ice in Whitehorse (2000-2001), Big Lake 500 (1st in 2002, 2nd in 2003), Soo 500 in 2005. Besides racing Gary enjoys snowmobiling, downhill skiing, and spending time with his daughter, Amanda. His favorite racers are John Faeo and Scott Davis.

ROOKIE

35 *Higdon & Monroe* **YAMAHA**



Calvin Monroe

Age 41
Anchorage

Calvin is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is married with four children: Jasmine, Skylar, Jesse James and Alexandra. He is employed by ASRC Energy Service as a R&P roustabout. Calvin has lived in Alaska 35 years and enjoys hunting, camping and motorcycles

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: 50/50 Racing, Alaska Extreme Hunting, Anchorage Yamaha, Cruise Holidays, Custom Crafts, Dr. Pat Dorman, Independent Lift Truck, Jessica and Family, Northern Lights Fitness, Stud Boy



Harvey Farley

Age 35
Nome

Harvey is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is a mechanic for Morgan's Sales and Service and a captain of Farley Family Fisheries. Harvey enjoys commercial fishing in the summer, ATV riding and basketball. His racing experience includes local races, Nome-Golovin, Kotzebue-Kiana, Cannon Ball and the Kotzebue Race.

ROOKIE

36 *Farley & Farley* **SKI-DOO**



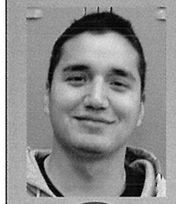
Howard Farley Jr.

Age 37
Nome

Howard is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is a manager for Quality Auto Parts, captain and commercial crabber for Farley Family Fisheries. Howard was born and raised in Nome and has worked in auto parts (Napa, CarQuest) for the past 16 years. He has been racing snowmachines since 1995 (Nome-Golovin, Kotzebue-Kiana Race, Cannon Ball). Howard enjoys fishing, camping, and hunting.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Farley Family Fisheries, Quality Auto Parts, Wilderness Ski-Doo



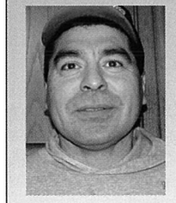
Louie Carlo

Age 26
Fairbanks

Louie is a rookie to Iron Dog. He works as a contingency technician for Alyeska Pipeline.

ROOKIE

37 *Carlo & Kriska* **POLARIS**



Tom Kriska

Age 46
Fairbanks

Tom is a rookie to Iron Dog. He and his wife, Sherri have six children. He works as a project superintendent for Interior Regional Housing Authority. Tom was born and raised in Alaska. He enjoys hunting, fishing, trapping, baseball, basketball, boat racing and loves his family.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: AIC, Carlo Family, Doyon, Holiday Parks, Inland Barge, Kevin Kangas, Kriska Krew: Sherri, Sharlisa, Tyson, Shantille, Shanay, Lavin, and Conrad, Louie Sommer, Matt Sam, McKinley Polaris, Sportsman's Warehouse, Vern Sommer

PRO CLASS



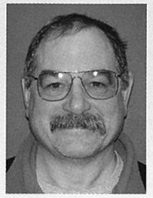
Ray Richards

Age 33
North Pole

Ray was born in Alaska. He started racing quarter midgets in the Midwest at the age of five. Ray has been racing snowmobiles for nine years. He is a former AMMC snocross champ and also a former Canadian Power Toboggan Oval champ. Ray also races motocross in the summer. This is his first Iron Dog.

ROOKIE

30 *Richards & Soule* **SKI-DOO**



Ron Soule

Age 58
Wasilla

Ron has raced the Iron Dog five times. He placed 10th in '98 and 18th in '02. Ron has been a flooring and acoustical estimator for over 21 years. He entered his first snowmachine race in 1972. Since then, his racing has included cross-country, snocross, grand prix and lake ice. His racing experience includes: Wasilla Lake 500 Mile Grand Prix (2nd), Anchorage to Talkeetna Cross Country '94 (2nd), 440 Stock Lake Lucille Heat Races '95 and '96 (both 2nd.), among many others in his 28 years of racing.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: All Steel Inc., Arnell ICM Company, Fly Racing, Greene Family Racing, Klim Clothing, Outerwears Prefilters, PowerMadd, Prosser Corporation General Contracting, Shane Barber (Team 3), Sinister Air, Ski-Doo Racing, Skookum Rock Quarry, Smith Optics, Stud Boy, Team CC Wasilla/Eagle River



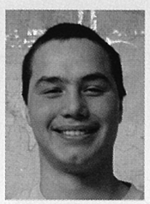
Roger Nassuk Jr.

Age 49
Koyuk

Roger is a rookie to Iron Dog. He was born and raised in Koyuk. Roger is married to Ramona and they have five children: Janelle, Jeremy, Adrinan, Molly and Geraldine. He has raced local races on and off his entire life and finished 12th place in the 2007 Nome/Golovin. He enjoys boating, fishing, hunting, camping and other outdoor activities with his family.

ROOKIE

31 *Hannon & Nassuk Jr.* **SKI-DOO**



Jacob Hannon

Age 19
Koyuk

Jacob is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is employed by Western Alaska Guides and Outfitters as an assistant guide/mechanic. He has lived in Koyuk all his life. Jacob has been racing around with his friends since he was 12 years old. His first real race was the 2007 Nome/Golovin Snowmobile Race, where he won the Rookie of the Year award. He enjoys riding snowmobiles, four-wheelers, dirt bikes, boats and doing other outdoor activities like hunting and fishing.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Compeaus, Jenna Counts, Lola & Bob Hannon & Family, Roger Nassuk & Family, Team CC, Western Alaska Guides and Outfitters & East End Store, Wilderness Ski-Doo



Chris Downs

Age 41
Nililchik

Chris is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is employed by United Rentals as a service manager. He enjoys spending time with his wife and two sons, riding in the mountains and four-wheeling.

ROOKIE

32 *Downs & Swanson* **YAMAHA**



Ryan Swanson

Age 22
Kenai

Ryan is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is employed by United Rentals as a mechanic. He has lived in Alaska for 17 years. He likes to snowmachine, ride four-wheelers and go fishing.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: 7x NH, Alaska Bolt and Chain, Alaska Heater Rentals, American Legion Post #18, Bergstrom Skeg's, Best Transit Mix, Inc., Chinook Tesoro, Eagle River Yamaha, Ethena May Enterprises, Gueco Racing, Happy Valley Hookers, Jackson Enterprises, Inc., Jersey Subs Nililchick, Kaitlynn, Sarah and Julia Kingsley, Klim USA, Leisure Time Charters, Mom (Swanson), Mom and Dad (Downs), Northern Exposure Restaurant in Errol N.H., Phormations Chiropractic Day Spa, Ron's Rent It Center, Stanley Ford, Sundog Screenprinting and Embroidery, Udelhoven, United Rentals, Woody's Traction Products



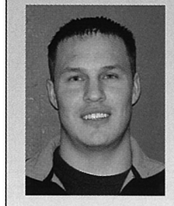
Calvin Gooden

Age 40
Nome

Calvin is a rookie to Iron Dog. Calvin and his wife, Kimberly, have two children. He works as an auto mechanic for the State of AK, DOT. His previous racing experience includes Kotzebue Race 200, Nome Golovin 200, Cannon Ball 200 and Elim Race 120.

ROOKIE

33 *Cats in Shop* **ARCTIC CAT**



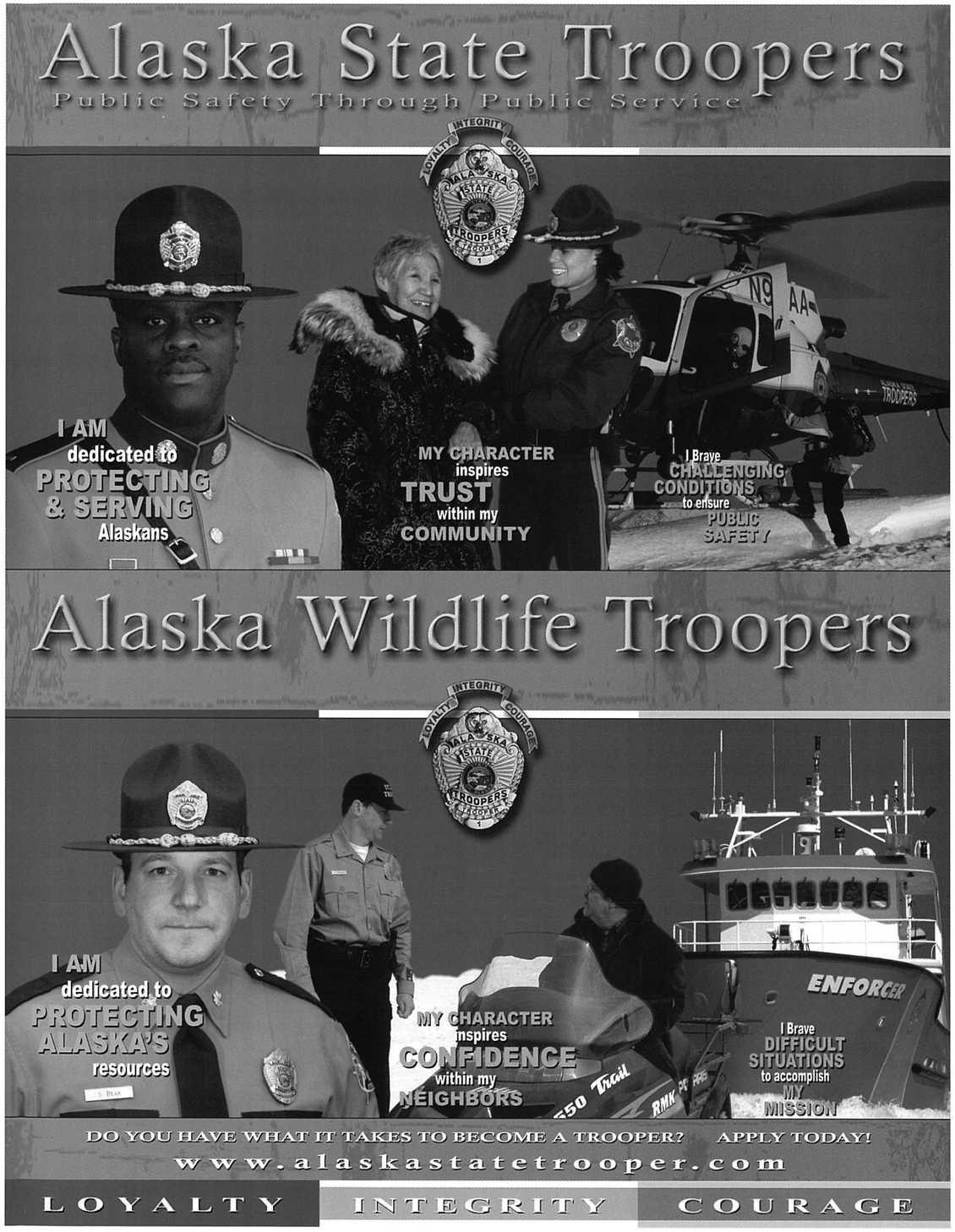
Jason Peterson

Age 33
Golovin

Jason lives in Anchorage. 2008 will be the first time Jason has competed in the Tesoro Iron Dog. He will be competing on an Arctic Cat Cross snowmobile.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: AD Bovin X-Pert X, Cats Inn Shop, Davi Swan, Edge Performance, Jack Hoogendorn, Kimberly, Ty, and Lonnie Gooden, Katie Peterson, Ruth, Chon, Jory and John, Northern Power Sports, Thunder Products, X-Pro Shocks





Harriet Fenerty

Don Diggins goes over some last-minute details on his sled's computer before the start of the 2007 Tesoro Iron Dog on Big Lake.

Tracking collar

Satellite boxes on each Iron Dog sled provide real-time results

By Catalina Myers

For those of us who don't feel the need to speed across the state on a snowmobile for 2,000 miles there is another option to join in the thrill of the Tesoro Iron Dog: GPS.

For the past two years Tesoro Iron Dog officials have been fine-tuning GPS satellite trackers that are secured a racer's sled so fans can track their favorite teams across the state of Alaska.

"For the 2006 race we sent out three test units, that were bulky and heavy" said Laura Bedard, executive director of the Tesoro Iron Dog. "We had the racers install them in the seats of the snowmobiles."

During the 2007 Tesoro Iron Dog race, the teams were outfitted with a new GPS tracker from World Communication Center, the "SBD Pro."

It was considerably smaller in size (4.73l"x2.61w"x1.65h") and just under a pound (.85) in weight. The new unit was more widely accepted by the race teams that were concerned about adding weight and bulk to their snowmobiles and gear.

"What we're improving for 2008 is mapping," Bedard said. "Landmarks will be identified such as the name of rivers, towns and the Iron Dog check points. The mapping on the web site is Google Earth which does not require the viewer to download. With little to no spatial landmarks it was difficult for viewers unfamiliar with Alaska and the race course to understand where the race teams were located in relation to Iron Dog checkpoints.

Bedard said what is great about working with World Communication Center is they offer the most innovative and latest GPS tracking technology available, including Iridium based tracking. The Iron Dog committee is hoping that this new technology will shed some light on the event and bring more recognition to the world's longest, toughest snowmobile race.

"This gives spectators, family, friends and sponsors the ability to follow race teams after they leave the starting line," Bedard said. "It's top of the line."

For more information about the GPS tracking units, coordinates and an interactive map to keep tabs on teams check out the Iron Dog website for details: www.irondog.org or through World Communication Center at www.wcclp.com.

On the Web

Go online to http://www.irondog.org/gps/gps.htm to watch the race via World Communications Center GPS tracking

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PRO CLASS

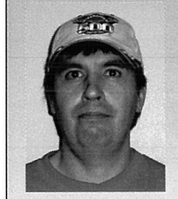


Clinton Huntington — Age 33, Fairbanks

Clinton is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is a construction foreman for Interior Regional Housing Authority. He is married to Nadine and has two children, Kelsea and Justin. Clinton enjoys boat racing, snowmachine racing, building boats and building houses.

ROOKIE

26 *Huntington & Pelkola* **POLARIS**



Jeff Pelkola — Age 41, Galena

Jeff is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is employed by BLM seasonally as a wildland firefighter, City of Galena as a lineman, and himself as a mechanic, carpenter, trapper, etc. Jeff is single and has one child, Maria. This trekkie (yes, Star Trek) enjoys exploring Battlestar Galactica and driving his snowmachines and dirt bikes year-round.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Doyon, Harlan, Melissa and Cain, Jeff Pelkola, McKinley Polaris, Mom and Dad, Nikki and Nate, Sis and Bruce



Vernon Albert — Age 26, Ruby

Vernon is a rookie to Iron Dog. He works as a maintenance mechanic for the Yukon-Koyukuk School District. He and his honey, Audrey, have three children, Katrina, Sheldon, and Baby Vern aka 'Nummies.' He enjoys hunting, dirt biking, running, basketball and spending time with his family.

ROOKIE

27 *Team Holy Moly* **SKI-DOO**



Richard Frerichs — Age 31, Fairbanks

Richard is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is employed by Tanana Chiefs Conference as the facilities supervisor. Richard is married to Robin and they have three children, Shyanne, Christian and Shawny. He enjoys family time, biking, snowmobiling, biking, fishing, hunting and driving in the great state of Alaska.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Andrea Durny, Art Morgan, Audrey Madros, Compeau's, Doyon, Gary Chilcott, Sureway, George Albert, Klim, Lisa Metzger, Mark Frank, Nana, Robin Frerichs, Rose Albert, Stud Boy

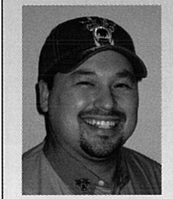


James West III — Age 22, Nome

James has lived in Alaska for 22 years. He is employed with Knik Construction and AK Cab Garage as an operator. He enjoys motorsports, hunting and fishing.

ROOKIE

28 *Newlin & West* **ARCTIC CAT**

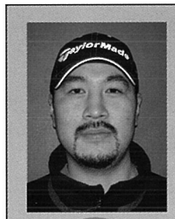


Alvin Newlin — Age 32, Nome

Alvin is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is a lifelong Alaskan married to Lani, they have three children, Eryn, Dallas and Keiryn. Alvin works as a mechanic for ML&P (Heavy Mechanical Crew) and is a member of L.U. 1501 Millwrights and L.U. 1547 IBEW. He enjoys hunting, fishing and riding but more than anything else, Alvin enjoys being with family and friends.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Alaska Cab Garage, Arctic Cat, Black Magic PowersportS, Board of Trade, Klim, Aggressive Sled Wear, Lynden Air Cargo, Morris Trading Post, Northern Power Sports, Osborne, Birley and Assoc. (Roger Briley), Stud Boy, Teck Cominco Inc., West Racing

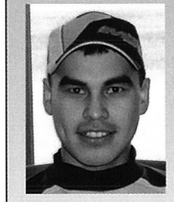


Fred Otton — Age 29, Nome

Fred is a rookie to Iron Dog. He has lived in Alaska his entire life and is married to Janelle with a son, Dustin. Fred works as a mechanic for Bering Air, Inc. He enjoys flying, hunting and fishing. Fred has been racing snowmachines since 2000. He won the Kotzebue race in '02, Nome-Golovin in '04, Nome Cannon Ball in '06 (all in Junior Class).

ROOKIE

29 *Otton & Reich Sr.* **ARCTIC CAT**



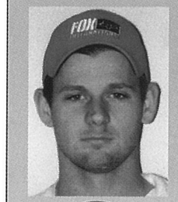
Peter Reich Sr. — Age 29, Palmer

Peter raced the Iron Dog in 2002 (DNF). He is a heavy equipment operator. He enjoys hunting and fishing and loves being with his 5 children and family. Child number six will be here in January!

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Bering Air, Brent (Squeaky), Eagle River Polaris and Arctic Cat, Grip and Rip Racing, Herman and Della Reich, Maggie Otton, Miller Construction, Mr. Lube - Wasilla, Nana, Northern Power Sports, Renton Coil Springs, Ron's Sales, Sarah & Kids, Team Arctic

PRO CLASS



David Branholm

Age 25
Big Lake

David is racing his second consecutive Iron Dog. He works as a pipe fitter for Chinook Fire Protection. He enjoys riding four-wheelers, snowmachines, going fishing and playing hockey. He has lived in Alaska for 24 years, his entire life.

ROOKIE

21 *Branholm & Hunter Jr.* **POLARIS**



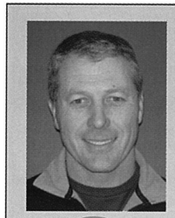
Randy Hunter

Age 25
Big Lake

Randy is racing his third Iron Dog. He placed third in 2005. He works as a service manager for Prism Design and Construction. He enjoys riding snowmobiles, hunting and camping with family.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: Advanced Powder Coatings, Alaska Line Builders, Alaska Power & Controls, Chinook Fire and Protection, Choice Alaska Artesian, Dave Branholm, Guys and Gals, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Horseshoe Properties, Local 669, Miles Mechanical, Mom and Dad, Prism Design & Construction, United Rentals, Valley Dental Clinic



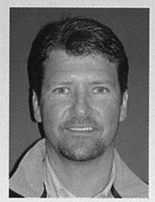
Scott Davis

Age 48
Soldotna

Last year's champion, Scott lives in Soldotna with wife and children. Has competed in the Iron Dog since the first race, only missing one year in 1996. A business owner for 30 years of Davis Block Co. Since the early 70's Scott has been competitively racing motorcycles and snowmobiles. In the winter months Scott is actively involved with his family with his business "Davis Racing."

VETERAN

22 *Davis & Palin* **ARCTIC CAT**



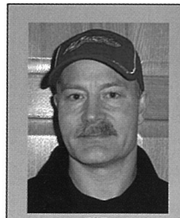
Todd Palin

Age 43
Wasilla

Todd, the "First Dude," is a lifelong Alaskan who enjoys snowmachining and spending time with his family. He and his wife, Alaska's Governor Sarah Palin, have four children. The oldest child, Track, joined the US Army on 9/11/07. He works for BP as a production operator on the North Slope. Todd has raced the Iron Dog since 1993.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: Advance Powder Coating, Anchorage Drag Bike, Anchorage Suzuki Arctic Cat, Arctic Cat, Citgo, Crowley, Davis Block, Debenham Investments, Fairbanks Gold, Fine Line Interiors, Guardian Security, L&M Supplies in Dillingham, Lead Dog helmet lights, Pacific Alaska Leasing, Renton Coil Springs, Ron Davis, Ron Zugg Shocks, Speedwerx, Spenard Builders Supply, Stud Boy, United Steel Workers Local 4959, Wasilla Arctic Cat



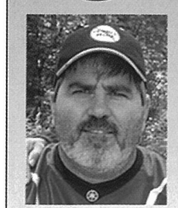
Mark Niver

Age 49
Wasilla

This will be Mark's third consecutive year racing Iron Dog. He has worked on the North Slope for BP since 1977, before oil began flowing down the pipeline. He is married to Roberta and they have three awesome boys; Grant, Blake and Bryce. As a family they've been commercial fishing in Bristol Bay since 1980. Along with riding snowmachines, Mark enjoys watching his sons in their sports activities.

VETERAN

23 *Niver & Whitstine* **YAMAHA**



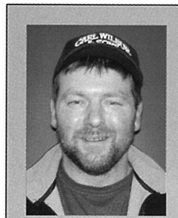
Jeff Whitstine

Age 43
Palmer

Jeff ran the Iron Dog in '97 and '99 and completed both times. Jeff is married to Sandra and they have four daughters; Britny, Alex, Brooke and Lauren. He has worked in Prudhoe Bay for 23 years. He enjoys spending time with his family, watching his children in their many activities, riding/working on snowmachines, fishing and camping. Jeff would like to thank his partner Mark, and each of their 2008 Iron Dog sponsors.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: Alice Roe.com Home Mortgage, Anchorage Yamaha, Army/Navy, Blood Bank of Alaska, BP Alaska, Bristol Bay Alliance, Bristol Bay Fishermen Against Pebble Mine, Criterion General, ESS Support Services, F/V Deep Valley, F/V Ecola Anne, F/V High Roller-II, F/V Jenny O Daun, F/V Mae Ana, F/V Miss Emma, F/V Nezzen, F/V Poiken-J, F/V Razor's Edge, F/V Tillken, Great Land Welding and Machine, Kevin's Upholstery, Klim USA, Larson Chiropractic Wasilla, Leader Creek Fisheries, Lynden Airfreight, McKinley Capital Management, Ohlins USA, Oppose Pebble Mine, Renewable Resources, Renton Coil Spring, Roteq of Alaska



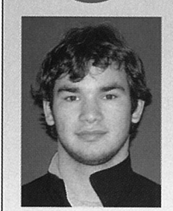
Troy Wilbur

Age 37
Wasilla

Troy is a rookie to Iron Dog. He has lived in Alaska for 37 years and is married to Kerry, they have a daughter named Andrea. Troy works as a mechanic at Carl Wilbur and Son's. He enjoys snowmachining, hunting, and fishing. He has one year of ice racing experience.

ROOKIE

25 *Wilbur & Brown* **POLARIS**



Tyler Brown

Age 18
Anchorage

Tyler is rookie to Iron Dog. He has lived in Alaska his entire life. He enjoys snowmachining, dirt biking, four-wheeling and hunting. He has raced for two years in snocross and two years in ice racing.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Big Lake Power Sports and Marine, CAC Plastic, Carl Wilbur and Sons, Fitz Gravel Pit, Mantech Environmental, Noble Construction, Northstart, Premier Alaska Inc., RSA Engineering, Schuck's Auto Parts, Troy Wilbur's Small Engine

Iron Dog starting from scratch, stays alive

By Hannah Guillaume

Despite a notable decline of cross-country snowmobile races, the Tesoro Iron Dog has managed to keep the world's longest, toughest snowmobile race alive for a 25th year.

"Iron Dog reflects a history that developed in the early 1900s," said Laura Bedard, executive director of Iron Dog. "I truly believe Iron Dog represents these cross-country races that have come and gone."

She said the history of the "great" race helps explain the survival.

John Faeo and Rod Frank earned the first win in the 1,049 mile race from Big Lake to Nome in 1984 on Polaris snowmachines. They hold the record for quickest finish with 23 hours and 50 minutes.

In 1992, the race course grew to 2,000 miles from Wasilla to Nome and back.

Bedard said racer participation didn't really start growing until 1998. That year, Arctic Cat racers Mark Carr and Scott Davis took the win on the 2,000-mile course from Wasilla to Nome then Fairbanks in less than 45 hours. It was their second win in three consecutive years.

Today, racers rip through 1,971 miles of snow-packed trails in freezing temperatures from Big Lake to Nome to Fairbanks on Feb. 10-16.

Race festivities, rider education and snowmobile-safety demonstrations happen all over the state. One of the biggest and most heartfelt celebrations is at the halfway point in Nome on Feb. 13.

Bedard said year-round events have helped Iron Dog keep going when so many cross-country snowmobile races haven't been able to survive.

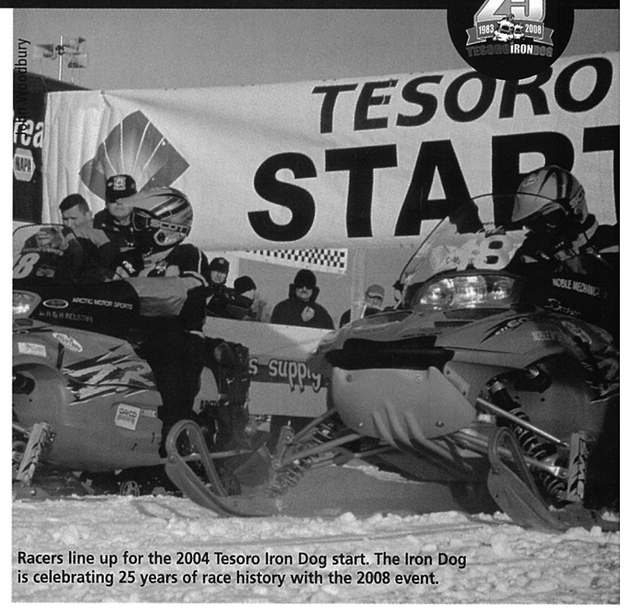
Fred Grubb, a rollercoaster builder from Hayden, Idaho, who raced in the Tesoro Iron Dog for the first time last year.

"We used to race the cross-country races down here in the States," Grubb said. "About three months ago, we decided, 'well, we better get going to do this thing.'"

His Arctic Cat teammate, Darrick Johnson, was an Iron Dog rookie last year, too. Johnson returns to race this year with teammate Kurt Steiner of North Dakota.

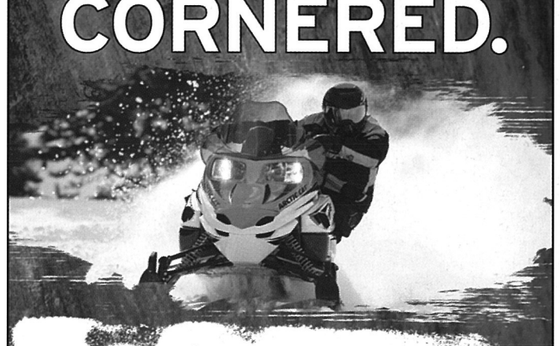
Grubb raced in the Rocky Mountain Circuit in the Wyoming and Idaho day races; they were 50 to 100 miles in the 1970s and 1980s. He said he grew up in a family of snowmobile racers and had to watch cross-country races dwindle in the U.S.

see next page



Racers line up for the 2004 Tesoro Iron Dog start. The Iron Dog is celebrating 25 years of race history with the 2008 event.

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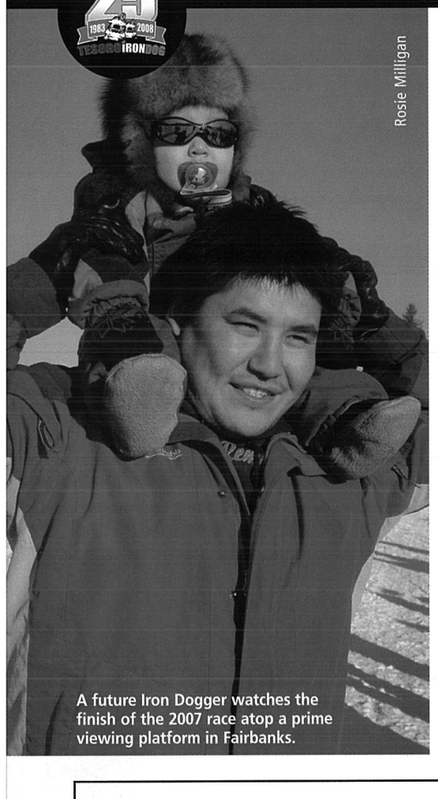


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Rosie Milligan

A future Iron Dogger watches the finish of the 2007 race atop a prime viewing platform in Fairbanks.

"Racing snowmobiles and stuff for people is really hard to do. It's really hard unless you have the time or business where you can afford it," Grubb said. "It's hard to do it anymore, because it's just like checkbook racing."

Grubb and Johnson had to buy four sleds for special use in Iron Dog.

Grubb said hillclimbing has survived better than cross-country racing events because snowmachines for hillclimbs can be used for other types of riding.

He noted that laws for public land use also make it harder to keep cross country racing alive in the upper-continental U.S.

Johnson, an Arctic Cat dealer from Coeur D'Alene, Idaho, is an experienced drag racer. He said it is the complete opposite of cross country snowmobile races.

Johnson said the lack of cross-country races in the continental U.S. has a lot to do with land owners not wanting to get sued.

"My personal feeling is just the logistics of it. It's the liability these days," he said. "Down here in the Lower 48, you couldn't get land owners to agree to run a race of this scope."

Grubb's father Bob, an 83-year-old from Dubois, Wyo. who was an Arctic Cat dealer, raced his first cross-country snowmobile race during the 1966-67 season.

He didn't stop racing until he was nearly 60 years old.

"The first race was by Jackson, Wyo. We was racing eight-horsepower machines at that time. Those were the first to come out," Bob said. "There isn't too many cross country races anymore. There's just too many people out there going 75 miles to a 100 miles an hour."

During the 1969-70 season, he defeated 305 snowmachines to win a cross-country race.

"We had a five-man team," Bob said. "We raced from St. Anthony, Idaho to West Yellowstone, Montana. They called it the hundred and one — we finished first."

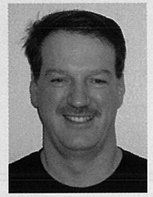
After turning in his helmet nearly 23 years ago, Bob said he sees another reason for why cross-country races are hard to come by.

"The factories sponsor all those races, and it kind of leaves the individual out," Bob said. "It's not just cross country, it's the snowcrosses too."





PRO CLASS



Jimmer Dick

Age 44
Seward

Jimmer has run the Iron Dog 14 times. He has lived in Alaska his entire life and works for Shoreside Petroleum as a driver. He and his girlfriend, Nikkie, have five children: Samantha, Jenna, Chelsey, Amber and Ryley.

VETERAN

17 *Dick & VanMeter* **SKI-DOO**



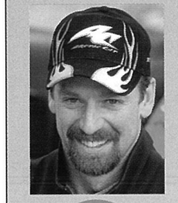
Dusty VanMeter

Age 38
Soldotna

Dusty is a lifelong Alaskan and has run the Iron Dog nine times, placing first in '00, '02 and '04. He works as a control board operator for Tesoro Nikiski Refinery and as a self-employed commercial fisherman. Dusty is married with three children and enjoys hunting, fishing, flying, snowmachining and spending time with family.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: Team CC, Ace Transport, AK Frontier Services, BRP, Compeau's, Global Motorsport, Jaffa Construction, Lead Dog Helmet Lights, Team CC Wasilla/Eagle River, TelAlaska, Tesoro, Wilderness Ski-Doo, Woody's Traction Products



Andy George

Age 44
Wasilla

Andy has run the Iron Dog seven times, placing first in '06. He has lived in Alaska for 41 years. He is self-employed as a mechanic at Mr. Lube. He enjoys hunting, family and boats.

VETERAN

18 *Drake & George* **ARCTIC CAT**



Dwayne Drake

Age 43
Fairbanks

Dwayne won the Iron Dog in '95 and '06. He is married and currently works as a technician for Alyeska Pipeline Service Company. He enjoys hunting, fishing and hunting.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: Arctic Cat, Chadco, Howdie Inc., Klim, Mr. Lube, Northern Power Sports



Daanan Mahn

Age 39
Rathdrum, ID

Daanan is a rookie to Iron Dog. He was born and raised in the Coeur d'Alene, Idaho area, is married with two boys. He owns a construction company, Newmatic Construction, with his older brother, Cory. When he's not snowmobiling, Daanan loves riding motorcycles and ATV's with his two sons.

ROOKIE

19 *Mahn & Stamm* **ARCTIC CAT**



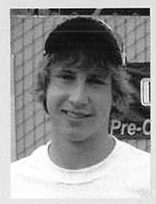
Todd Stam

Age 38
Coeur d'Alene, ID

Todd is a rookie to Iron Dog. He is the owner and operator of Aspen Homes and Development, has lived in the Coeur d'Alene area for the past 27 years. Todd is married and has five children, one boy and four girls. He is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys hunting, fishing, and all types of power sports.

ROOKIE

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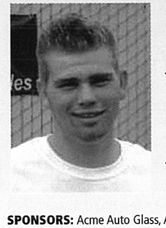
Andrew Zwink

Age 18
Wasilla

Andrew is a rookie to Iron Dog. He was born and raised in Wasilla and has been home-schooled most of his life. He works part-time for Big Wood Chain Saw Carving and full-time as a busser at IHOP, all while still finishing high school. Some of his main interests include snowmachining, Boy Scouts, hunting, fishing and camping. Andrew has been "studying and training for the Iron Dog for years and will be a name to watch in future Iron Dog races."

ROOKIE

20 *Zwinks/Spikes* **SKI-DOO**



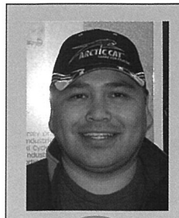
James Spikes

Age 20
Wasilla

James is a rookie to Iron Dog. He graduated from Colony High School in 2006 and owns "Lawn Ranger of Alaska, LLC", a lawn service and landscaping company. In his free time, he enjoys snowmachine racing (finishing fourth in the semi-pro K-200 cross country race), hunting, fishing, 4x4 driving, and mountain biking. Thank you, sponsors!

ROOKIE

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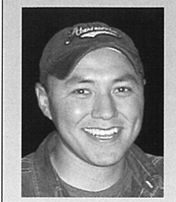
Unch Schuerch

Age 37
Kiana

Unch is racing his seventh Iron Dog. He placed third in '96, ninth in '99, 13th in '00, DNF in '01, 19th in '02 and DNF in '06. He is a truck driver for Nana/Lynden at Red Dog Mine. He enjoys fishing and hunting with his fiance, Jenny. "It's the best of both worlds!"

VETERAN

13 *Greene & Schuerch* **ARCTIC CAT**



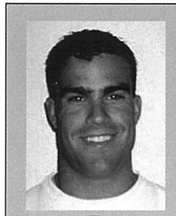
Jade Greene

Age 27
Kotzebue

Jade raced in '06 (DNF). He and Rena have four children: Steffen, Kevyn, Clara Dawn, and C. Jade. Jade works for Bering Air as a cargo handler. He has lived in Alaska 27 years and enjoys spending time with his family and friends and racing snowmachines. Jade's racing experience includes: Nome Golovin Race, Kotzebue Race and various other races in Northwest Alaska.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: ASRC, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Brent Schuerch, Chuck Greene, KIC, Klim, NANA, Rena and Kids, Tech Cominco, UIC Construction



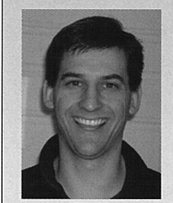
Marc McKenna

Age 33
Anchorage

Marc and his twin brother have lived in Alaska their entire life. Marc has raced the Iron Dog in '99, '00, '01, '02, '04, '05, '06 and '07; taking first in 2005. Marc is president and co-owner of McKenna Bros. Paving. Marc enjoys traveling, hockey, dirt biking and snowmobiling.

VETERAN

14 *McKenna & Quam* **ARCTIC CAT**



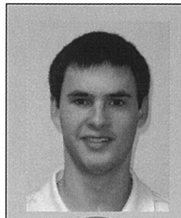
Eric Quam

Age 37
Eagle River

Eric has run the Iron Dog in '99, '00, '01 and finished second in '02.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: Anchorage Suzuki Arctic Cat, Arctic Cat Race Department, Construction Machinery Industrial, LLC., Curt Gojenola, Darcy Wilson, Darren & Jennifer Munro, Dave Kalkins, David Mcrae, Don Jones, Henley Quam, Julie & Tom Pickard, Korey Klingenmeyer, Kristin McKenna, Mathew McKenna, Perkup Espresso, Stud Boy Traction Products, Teya P, Trapper Creek Inn, Wasilla Arctic Cat



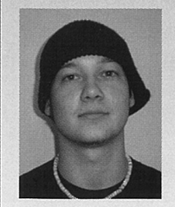
Kane Richardson

Age 20
Fairbanks

Kane is attempting the Iron Dog for the second consecutive year. He has lived in Alaska his entire life. He is a water well driller and operator and owner of his business, R & R Drilling. He enjoys four-wheeling, snowmachining and traveling.

ROOKIE

15 *Benson & Richardson* **ARCTIC CAT**



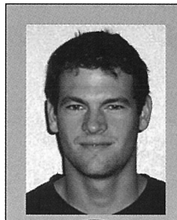
Bryce Benson

Age 22
Fairbanks

Bryce is a rookie to Iron Dog. He works as an automotive technician for National Auto and Marine. Bryce has lived in Alaska for five years and has been snowmobiling his entire life. He enjoys Jetskiing, motocross, snocross, hunting and fishing. His racing highlights are top finishes in WSA National Events.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Arctic Cat, Darby's Performance Machine, Ferguson Enterprises, Inc., Mom and Dad (Benson), National Auto and Marine, Northern Power Sports, Phillips Recreation, R&R Drilling, Renton Coil Spring, Speedwesx



Nick Olstad

Age 25
Wasilla

Nick has lived in Alaska since 1987. This is his fourth Iron Dog, winning first place in 2005. Nick has won the '05 and '06 I-150, as well as the '05 and '06 Valdez Mayor's Cup. He works for Udelhoven as a pipefitter/welder. Nick loves to go four-wheeling, snowmachining and spend time with his girlfriend.

VETERAN

16 *Minnick & Olstad* **POLARIS**



Todd Minnick

Age 25
Wasilla

Todd has lived in Alaska his entire life. He raced the Iron Dog in '00, '01, '02, '04, '05, '06 and '07. Todd has been racing since 1994, winning the K150, K400 and the Mayors Cup. Todd works for Big Dipper Construction as an equipment operator. He enjoys hunting at his cabin, snowmachining on the weekends and hanging out with his gorgeous wife.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: A-1 Pawn, Alaska Industrial Hardware, Alaska Power Sports, Alaska Rubber and Supply, Allstate - Cindi Heal Agency, Big Dipper Construction, Bruce Friend, Chris & Cindi Harsh, CMI, Dick & Jenny Weldin, Eagle River Polaris, Edge Fitness, Fine Line Interiors, Interstate Battery, John & Vicki Faeo, Ken Lee's Irondog Cafe, Lead Dog Helmet Lights, Mark & Patty Humm, Mass X, McKinley Title and Trust, Northern Lights Avionics, Perk Up Espresso, Polaris Industries, Prime Mechanical, Sharilyn, Udelhoven, VFW Post 9365, Walker Evans Racing, Weldin Construction

PRO CLASS
FEBRUARY 10TH-16TH
TRAIL CLASS
FEBRUARY 8TH-13TH



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2008 IRON DOG TEAM ROSTERS

PRO CLASS

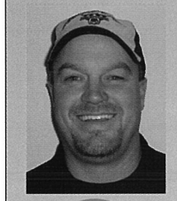
No.	Last Name	First Name	Hometown	Snowmobile Model	Status
1	Paajanen	Dan	Eagle River, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
1	Peacock	Lahka	Nome, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
2	Burton	Will	Anchorage, AK	Yamaha Nytro	Rookie
2	Neeser	Jeremy	Anchorage, AK	Yamaha Nytro	Rookie
3	Barber	Shane	Willow, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
3	Booth	Evan	Nome, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
4	Demoski	Pete	Koyukuk, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
4	Huntington	Tyler	Galena, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
5	Spence	Steve	Anchorage, AK	Yamaha Nytro	Rookie
5	Wold	Wayne	Wasilla, AK	Yamaha Nytro	Rookie
6	Jauhola	Bob	Fairbanks, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Rookie
6	Jauhola	Tim	Fairbanks, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Rookie
7	Bruns	Tim	Wasilla, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Rookie
7	Fleming	Rick	Palmer, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Rookie
8	Aklelstad	Tyler	Palmer, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Rookie
8	Johnson	Tyson	Eagle River, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Veteran
9	Johnson	Darrick	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Arctic Cat Crossfire	Rookie
9	Steiner	Kurt	Bismarck, ND	Arctic Cat Crossfire	Rookie
10	Olds	Chris	Eagle River, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
10	Spernak	Matthew	Anchorage, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
11	Bahnke III	John	Nome, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP TNT	Veteran
11	Reich	Brad	Kiana, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP TNT	Veteran
12	Muir	Robbie	Anchorage, AK	Polaris Dragon 600	Veteran
12	Seidler	Don	Anchorage, AK	Polaris Dragon 600	Rookie
13	Greene	Jade	Kotzebue, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Rookie
13	Schuerch	Unch	Kiana, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Veteran
14	McKenna	Marc	Anchorage, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Veteran
14	Quam	Eric	Eagle River, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Veteran
15	Benson	Bryce	Fairbanks, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Rookie
15	Richardson	Kane	Fairbanks, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Rookie
16	Minnick	Todd	Wasilla, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
16	Olstad	Nick	Wasilla, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
17	Dick	Jimmer	Seward, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Veteran
17	VanMeter	Dusty	Soldotna, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Veteran
18	Drake	Dwayne	Fairbanks, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Veteran
18	George	Andy	Wasilla, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Veteran
19	Mahn	Daanan	Rathdrum, ID	Arctic Cat Crossfire	Rookie
19	Stam	Todd	Coeur d'Alene, ID	Arctic Cat Crossfire	Rookie
20	Spikes	James	Wasilla, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Rookie
20	Zwink	Andrew	Wasilla, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Rookie
21	Branholm	David	Big Lake, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Rookie
21	Hunter Jr.	Randy	Big Lake, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
22	Davis	Scott	Soldotna, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Veteran
22	Palin	Todd	Wasilla, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Veteran
23	Niver	Mark	Wasilla, AK	Yamaha FX Nytro RTX	Veteran
23	Whitstine	Jeff	Palmer, AK	Yamaha FX Nytro RTX	Veteran
25	Brown	Tyler	Anchorage, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Rookie
25	Wilbur	Troy	Wasilla, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Rookie
26	Huntington	Clinton	Fairbanks, AK	Polaris IQ Shift 600	Rookie
26	Pelkola	Jeff	Galena, AK	Polaris IQ Shift 600	Rookie
27	Albert	Vernon	Ruby, AK	Ski-Doo XP	Rookie
27	Frerichs	Richard	Ruby, AK	Ski-Doo MXZX	Rookie
28	Newlin	Alvin	Nome, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Rookie
28	West III	James	Nome, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Rookie
29	Otton	Fred	Nome, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Rookie
29	Reich Sr.	Peter	Palmer, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Rookie
30	Richards	Ray	North Pole, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Rookie
30	Soule	Ron	Wasilla, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Veteran
31	Hannon	Jacob	Koyuk, AK	Ski-Doo Rev	Rookie
31	Nassuk, Jr.	Roger	Koyuk, AK	Ski-Doo Rev	Rookie
32	Downs	Chris	Ninilchik, AK	Yamaha Nytro	Rookie
32	Swanson	Ryan	Kenai, AK	Yamaha Nytro	Rookie
33	Gooden	Calvin	Nome, AK	Arctic Cat Crossfire	Rookie
33	Peterson	Jason	Golovin, AK	Arctic Cat Crossfire	Rookie
34	Pitka	Stewart	Anchorage, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Rookie
34	Wallace	Ashley	Tanana, AK	Arctic Cat F6	Rookie
35	Higdon	Gary	Anchorage, AK	Yamaha Nytro RTX	Rookie
35	Monroe	Calvin	Anchorage, AK	Yamaha Nytro RTX	Rookie
36	Farley	Harvey	Nome, AK	Ski-Doo Renegade	Rookie
36	Farley	Howard	Nome, AK	Ski-Doo Renegade	Rookie
37	Carlo	Louie	Fairbanks, AK	Polaris Dragon	Rookie
37	Kriska	Tom	Fairbanks, AK	Polaris Dragon	Veteran
38	Distal	Charles	Montrose, CO	Ski-Doo Rev	Rookie
38	Hawkins	Terry	Montrose, CO	Ski-Doo Rev	Rookie
39	Downey	Rod	Montrose, CO	Ski-Doo Rev	Rookie
39	Hamilton	Joey	Montrose, CO	Ski-Doo Rev	Rookie
40	Ryznar	Daniel	Anchorage, AK	Ski-Doo Rev	Rookie
40	Tope	Mike	Anchorage, AK	Ski-Doo Rev	Rookie
41	Fyrberg	Forest	Shelburne, NH	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Rookie
41	Paaso	Mark	Bethel, ME	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Rookie
42	Hastings	James	Wasilla, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Rookie
42	Potter	Charles	Big Lake, AK	Ski-Doo Rev XP	Rookie

TRAIL CLASS

No.	Racer Names		Hometown	Snowmobile Model	Status
50	Charles	Ben	Anchorage, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Rookie
50	Cummins	Patrick	Anchorage, AK	Ski-Doo Renegade	Rookie
51	Boomershine	Skip	Anchorage, AK	Arctic Cat Z1 Jaguar 1056	Rookie
51	Boomershine	Brian	Hamilton, OH	Arctic Cat Crossfire 800	Rookie
51	Boomershine	Andrew	Anchorage, AK	Arctic Cat M8 800	Rookie
51	Fuller	Mike	Anchorage, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Rookie
51	Stoebner	Jack	Eagle River, AK	Arctic Cat Crossfire 800	Rookie
52	Diggins	Don	Anchorage, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
52	Mielke	Otis	Wasilla, AK	Ski-Doo Skandic	Rookie
52	Mielke	Frank	Chugiak, AK	Ski-Doo Skandic	Veteran
52	Mielke	Bill	Wasilla, AK	Ski-Doo Skandic	Veteran
55	Maynard	Chris	Anchorage, AK	Ski-Doo REV	Rookie
55	Baggette	Joe	Anchorage, AK	Ski-Doo REV	Rookie
60	Lee	Kari	Eagle River, AK	Polaris Fusion	Rookie
60*	Lee	Ken	Eagle River, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran
60	Brassard	Emily	Anchorage, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Rookie
60*	Brassard	Tracey	Anchorage, AK	Polaris IQ 600	Veteran

*Trail Sweepers

PRO CLASS



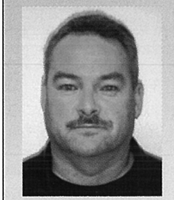
Darrick Johnson

Age 35
Bismarck, ND

Darrick ran the Iron Dog in '07 and had to scratch in Nome due to injured partner. Darrick is married to Jesseca, they have a son named Ethan. He has always had a passion for snowmobiling, starting out building lightweight mountain sleds. He and Jesseca now own and operate their own dealership, Edge Performance (Arctic Cat). Always searching for excitement, the Tesoro Iron Dog is right up his alley.

ROOKIE

9 *Johnson & Steiner* **ARCTIC CAT**



Kurt Steiner

Age 46
Coeur d'Alene, ID

Kurt is a rookie to Iron Dog. He owns Midwest Doors and Garage Pro in Bismarck. He has a wife and tw daughters and loves riding dirt bikes in the summer and mountain snowmobiling in the winter.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: ABCO Recycling, Aspen Homes, Cedar Mountain Collection, Creative Concepts Audio & Video, Edge Performance, Garage Pro, Glass Construction, HMK Snowmobile Clothing, KBC Helmets, Midwest Doors, Mountain Excavation, Mountain West Bank, MRP Productions / Motion Sports, Nu-Matic Constuction, Parker Toyota, Spec Ops Helicopters, Western Powersports



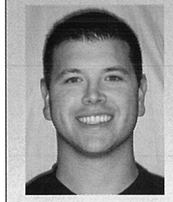
Matthew Spernak

Age 23
Eagle River

Matthew has lived in Alaska his entire life, currently working as a foreman for Alaska "X" Inc. He likes camping, rafting, riding sleds and spending time with his wife, Missy. This is his third Iron Dog, finishing fifth in '06 and fourth in '07. He placed fourth in the Nome Golovin race, winning rookie of the year, also racing the K-150 and K-400.

VETERAN

10 *Olds & Spernak* **POLARIS**



Chris Olds

Age 36
Anchorage

Chris is racing his seventh Iron Dog, currently working as a project manager for Tikigaq Construction. He is married to Christine and they have two children, Haley and Mya. Olds enjoys spending time with his family, snowmachining, four-wheeling, hunting and fishing.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: Alwayz Graphik, Big Lake Power Sports, Carl's Cycle Sales, Cliff and Jen, Devery Prince Agency, Eagle River Polaris and Arctic Cat, Fine Line Interiors, Glacier Auto Works, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Klim, Lead Dog Helmet Lights, Lisa Falon at Home State Mortgage, Polaris Industries, Power Madd, Renton Coil Springs, Scott Goggles, Stud Boy Traction Products, Walker Evens Racing Shocks, Weldin Construction



John Bahnke III

Age 35
Nome

John has run the Iron Dog twice. He was born and raised in Nome. He has spent his entire life in Alaska. He and his wife Nancy (7 years married/together for 14) have four kids; Brayden 7, Reese 4, twin girls Audrey and Sarah 1 1/2. He has been riding snowmachines his entire life and racing since 1995. For six years (Jr-Senior High), he lived 12 miles from Nome, with the nearest neighbor being five miles away. He works at Wilderness Ski-Doo as part owner/service manager. Wilderness Ski-Doo is a family owned & operated business, operating since 1995.

VETERAN

11 *Bahnke & Reich* **SKI-DOO**



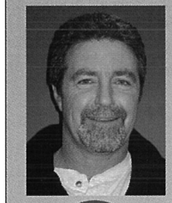
Brad Reich

Age 37
Kiana

Brad has competed in the Iron Dog in '02 and '05. He and his wife of 16 years, Janice and three children live in Kiana. Brad and his teenage boys, Matthew and Brad II, enjoy winter for many reasons; snowmachining, ice fishing, caribou hunting, and more snowmachining. His daughter Lindsey enjoys riding snowmachines, too. Brad would like to thank all the people who helped with the Iron Dog and looks forward to seeing you all again this coming year.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: GCI Connect MD, Klim, NANA, Northern Air Cargo, Northwest Arctic Borough, Quality Auto, River & Sea Marine, RJ Auto, UIC Construction, Wilderness Skidoo, www.bush907.com



Robbie Muir

Age 49
Anchorage

Robbie placed 12th in last year's Iron Dog. He was born and raised in Alaska, owns Wallcovering Plus and commercial fishes in Bristol Bay with his family. He is married to Careen and they have three sons, Jeremiah, Steele and Connor, and a daughter, Randi. He enjoys motocross racing, snowmobiling, hockey, skiing, boating and camping with his wife and children.

VETERAN

12 *Muir & Seidler* **POLARIS**



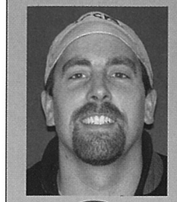
Don Seidler

Age 52
Anchorage

Don is a rookie to Iron Dog. He enjoys snowmachining, dragboat racing, scuba diving, jet and water skiing, four-wheeling and skiing. Don is the owner of Alaska Portable Buildings.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Alaska Portable Buildings, Alaska Power Sports, Alaska Tire Service, Alasco, Alaska Premier Sport Fishing, Alaska Spine Institute - Larry Levine, MD, Anchorage Excavation & Concrete, Arctic Insulation and Manufacturing, BEK, C & R Clean Up, Careen Muir and Company at Northern Trust Real Estate, Danny's Auto Body, Dave Kurtz, Diggins Concrete, Independent Fork Lift, M-Bar-D Tack and Feed, Marita Sea and Ski, Petro Marine, RJM Fisheries, Roger Briley at Keller Williams Real Estate, Team Sled Shed, T.D.S., Thunder, Wall Coverings Plus

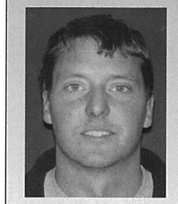


Stephen Spence
Age 33
Wasilla

Steve is a rookie to Iron Dog. He works as a technician for IBEW. He lives in Anchorage with his fiance, La'net and has two children: Shannon and Bretton.

ROOKIE

5 *Spence & Wold* **YAMAHA**



Wayne Wold
Age 33
Anchorage

Wayne is a rookie to Iron Dog. He was born and raised in Alaska. He is married to Shawna and they have two children, Haakon and Aubrey. Wayne works as an equipment operator/paver for Northern Asphalt. He enjoys waterskiing, downhill skiing, boating, fishing, skeet shooting, ice racing, snowmobiling and four-wheeling.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: AAA Fence, Ak Line Builders, Ak Safety, Arctic Pool & Spa, Carpet World, Central Paving Products, Custom Crafts Unlimited, Dan and Maggie Crowsen, Diversified Svcs, Eagle River Yamaha, Fine Line Interiors, GCI, Graff Contracting, Hacienda Mexican Restaurant, House of Yamaha, IBEW, Northern Asphalt Construction, Oscar and Wanda Spence, Ptarmigan Construction, Roetin, Team Sled Shed, Steve Foster, The Right Touch, Trevor and Ronda Lund, Western Construction and Equipment

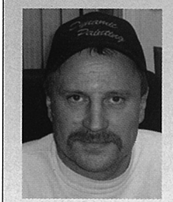


Robert Jauhola
Age 40
Fairbanks

Bob is a rookie to Iron Dog. He has lived in Alaska for 37 years, 20 years in Fairbanks. He works as a carpenter foreman for BEK of Alaska. He enjoys spending time with his daughter, Jessica, and snowmachining, boating and spending time on the river. He has helped with Iron Dog since the race has been coming to Fairbanks.

ROOKIE

6 *Jauhola & Jauhola* **POLARIS**



Tim Jauhola
Age 41
Fairbanks

Tim has helped with Iron Dog from the time it first came to Fairbanks, trail marking from Fairbanks to Tanana with friends, as a member of the Iron Dog Race Marshall Committee for six years, on the Iron Dog Board for five years. Tim has lived in Alaska for 36 years, currently working for Dynamic Painting as a project manager.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: A & A Roofing, Alaska Rubber and Rigging, Alcan General, Arctic Man, BEK of Alaska, Carlile, Denali Industrial, Dynamic Painting, Finn Al Crafts, Fullford Elec., GCI, Gunderson Printing, Harriet/Dennis Fenerty, Jill Neff, Johnson River Ent., Industrial Insulation, MacCheyne's Carpet Plus, MGM, Northwest Construction, Nye Ford, Polaris Junction, Tanana Commercial Company, Two River Lumber, Used a Bit

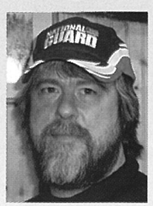


Rick Fleming
Age 45
Palmer

Rick placed first in 2007's trail class. He currently works for the Army National Guard as an information technology specialist. He earned a BA from Northwest College in 1990, joined the Army during Operation Desert Storm, serving nine years. He is married with two children, and you can find them fishing and hunting in summer, and snowmachining in winter.

ROOKIE

7 *Bruns & Fleming* **SKI-DOO**



Tim Bruns
Age 46
Wasilla

Tim ran trail class in 2007. He and Leslie, his wife, were born and raised in Alaska. They have one son that proudly serves in the Air Force. Tim is the owner of Bruns Concrete and enjoys snowmobiling, four-wheeling, flying, hunting, trapping, fishing and shooting. Tim would like to thank his partner Rick Fleming and all their sponsors for making the 2008 Iron Dog snowmobile race possible.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Alaska Army National Guard, Alaska Military Youth Academy, Bruns Concrete, Diversified Tire, Hall's Auto Body, Klim, Lazy Mountain Bible Church, Liberty Tax, Richard Fleming Jr., Spenard Builder's Supply, Team CC, Traffic Jamz, Woody's Traction, XP-S High Performance Lubricant



Tyson Johnson
Age 28
Eagle River

Tyson has lived in Alaska his entire life. He started racing in 1996, winning the Klondike 150 in '01, the Klondike 400 in '02, Arctic Man '02, '03, '06, 07 and finishing the Mayor's Cup in second, third, and fourth. Tyson has raced the Iron Dog eight times since 1997, finishing as high as second. Other hobbies include fishing, working out, and working on his house.

VETERAN

8 *Global Motorsports Racing* **SKI-DOO**

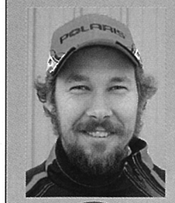


Tyler Akelstad
Age 22
Palmer

Tyler has lived in Alaska his entire life. He started racing in 2001. Tyler has raced the Iron Dog in '04, '06 and finished second in '07. His winnings include the Klondike 150, Mayor's Cup, and competing in billcross racing.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: 9-J Corporation, Action Sign and Graphics, Cobra Jet Boats, Fineline Interiors, Global Fuel, Global Motorsports Racing, H & K Sheetmetal Fabricators, HMK Boots, International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, Lead Dog Helmet Lights, Northwoods Lodge, Ski-Doo, Team CC Wasilla/Eagle River, Woody's, XP-S High Performance Lubricant

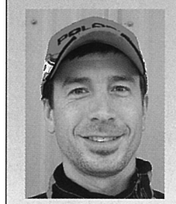


Dan Paajanen
Age 33
Nome

Daniel raced the Iron Dog in '01 (trail), '02, '04, and '05, finishing three times. He grew up in Eagle River and has lived in Alaska his entire life. He currently works in Kotzebue as a project manager for Drake Construction, Inc. When he's not working or racing he enjoys spending time outdoors, reading and working on his house.

VETERAN

1 *Arctic Circle Racing* **POLARIS**



Lahka Peacock
Age 37
Nome

Lahka raced the Iron Dog in '02 and '05. He is employed by Kawerak, Inc. in business development. Lahka was born and raised in Kotzebue and currently resides in Nome. He enjoys competing in a variety of sports, but can be just as content with a book or movie and a bowl of ice cream.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: Becka's Hot Tub and Massage, Darrin Otton and Family, Evan Booth, Debbie Evans, Joe Evans City Attorney - Kotzebue, Kanae Peacock, Kathey and George Berry, Liberty Enterprises Well and Pump, Mike Morgan, Morgan's Sales and Service, Reuben Cunningham & Family

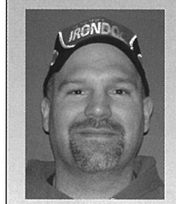


Will Burton
Age 29
Anchorage

Will, a rookie to Iron Dog, works for Neeser Construction. He has two children.

ROOKIE

2 *Burton & Neeser* **YAMAHA**

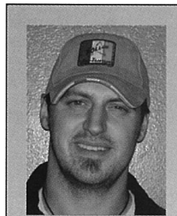


Jeremy Neeser
Age 36
Anchorage

Jeremy is racing his first Iron Dog. He has lived in Alaska over 20 years and has two children. He works for his father's company, Neeser Construction. In his spare time, he enjoys skiing, snowmobiling, four-wheeling, restoring muscle cars and traveling with friends and family.

ROOKIE

SPONSORS: Airport Rentals, Alaska Club, Anchorage Yamaha, Aurora Welding and Fabrication, Cannon Tools, Cool Cal Shocks, Mega Watt Elec., Moore and Son, Neeser Construction, North Start, Northern 4X4 Xtreme, Quality Electric, Royal Printing, Totem Rentals

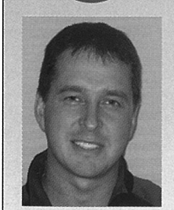


Shane Barber
Age 33
Willow

Shane raced the Iron Dog in '00, '01, '04, '06, and '07, finishing third the last three years. He enjoys contact sports and outdoor activities with wife, Tammy and children: Cody, Shana and Evan.

VETERAN

3 *Barber & Booth* **POLARIS**

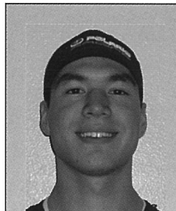


Evan Booth
Age 39
Nome

Evan is married with four children and works as a shop foreman for the State of Alaska, DOT. He is racing his 12th Iron Dog Race this year, winning first place in 1992 and 1994.

VETERAN

SPONSORS: Aaron Weil, Alaska Air Taxi, Allen Ivanoff, Dan Harrelson, Davis Lincoln, Fimon Trucking, Fine Line Interiors, Garden Chiropractic, Geoff Hubert, Harry Johnson, Hotel McGrath, Jason Veara, Klim, Liberty Tax, Midas, Morgans Snowmobile Sales & Service, My Kids Farm, Paul Ivanoff, Peak Oilfield Services, Polaris Industries, Q-Trucking, Quality Auto, Renton Coil & Spring, RJ's Auto, STG Incorporated, Subway-Nome, Alaska, Sweetsirs B&B, Travis Andersen, Woody's. Special thanks: Wife-Crystal and children, Grandma Pat, Jim Blanning & Pat Johanson, Randy Pomeranz, Special Thanks: My wife, Tammy and kids: Cody, Shana and Evan, Mom & Dad, Mike & Michelle Spain, Jay Yeager and Vanderpool Family

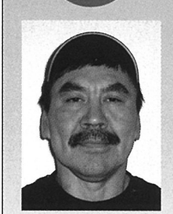


Tyler Huntington
Age 22
Fairbanks

Tyler, a rookie to Iron Dog, works as a floorhand for Doyon Drilling Inc. He enjoys boat racing, basketball, snowmachine racing, fishing and hunting.

ROOKIE

4 *Demoski & Huntington* **POLARIS**



Pete Demoski
Age 50
Koyukuk

Pete is originally from Koyukuk and lives in Fairbanks. His spouse is Euphrasia Dayton-Demoski, He has four children and two granddaughters. His children are Justina (24), Gareth (20), Quentin (15) & Peter J.C.W. Demoski IV (9), his granddaughters are Destiny (7), Sienna (1).

VETERAN

SPONSORS: Brice Inc., Charlie Huntington, Demoski Family, Doyon Limited, Huntington Family, Joyce Huntington, McKinley Polaris, Pitka Family, Weldin Construction

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* Limit 1 per family, while supplies last

*Tesoro has been a proud sponsor of the Iron Dog since 2000. Prior to 2000, the race was known as the Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic.

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The Sweepstakes begins at 12:00:00 AM Alaska Standard Time ("AKST") on 1/2/08 and ends at 11:59:59 PM AKST on 2/15/08 ("Sweepstakes Period"). Open to legal residents of AK who are at least 18 years of age at the time of entry. To enter: 1) Visit a participating Tesoro company-owned or dealer retail petroleum c-store location in AK (during store hours) during the Sweepstakes Period and obtain an official entry form found at the Sweepstakes display. Place completed entry form in the entry box or; 2) Visit www.TesoroSweepstakes.com and complete and submit the entry form. Limit one (1) entry per individual per day regardless of method of entry. Odds of winning depend on number of eligible entries received. One (1) Grand Prize Winner will be selected to win $2,500 in Tesoro fuelCards. Approximate Retail Value ("ARV"): $2,500. Ten (10) First Prize Winners will each receive $250 in Tesoro fuelCards. One hundred (100) Second Prize Winners will each receive a $25 Tesoro Fuel Card. ARV: $2,500. For complete details and official rules, visit www.TesoroSweepstakes.com.

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