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Laurel Hickel
Office Manager

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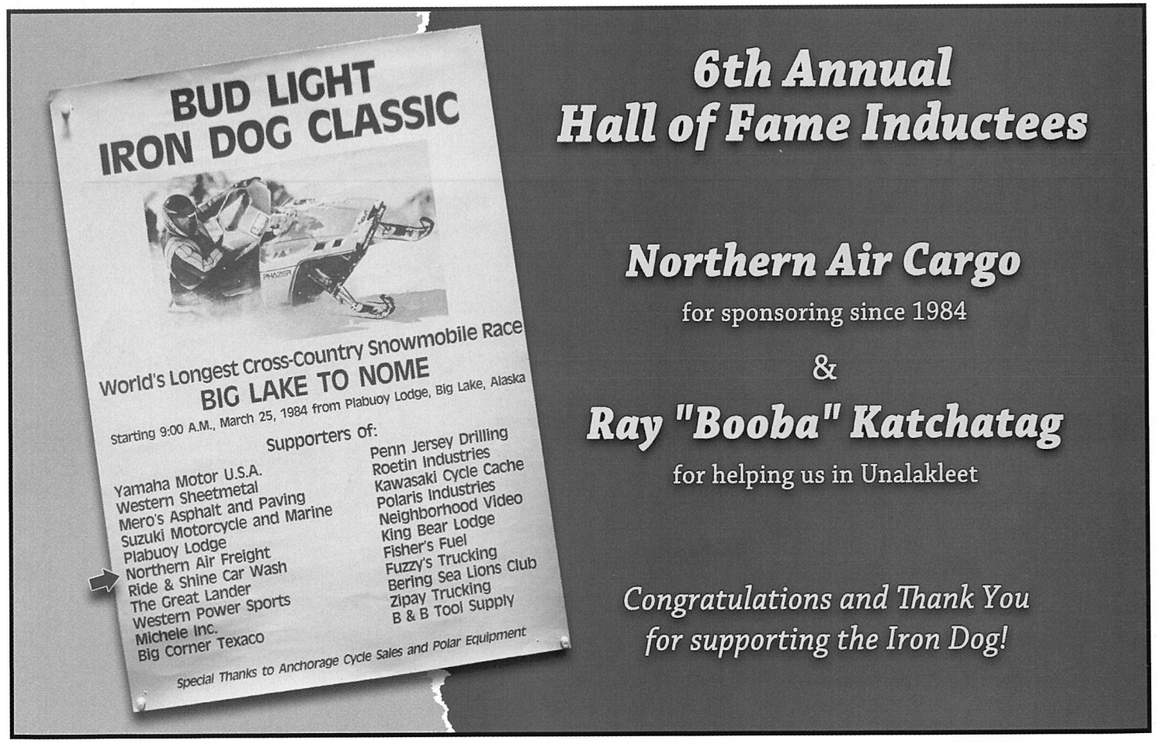
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Armed Services YMCA of Alaska would like to thank the Iron Dog for choosing us as their charity beneficiary for 2013—and to express our gratitude to the community members whose raffle ticket purchase will Help Make Military Life Easier for Alaska's service members and their families.

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 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.

TANANA, population 290, located on the Yukon River is 1,740 miles from the start.

MANLEY HOT SPRINGS, population 72, 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.

NORTH POLE, population 2,183, located on the Richardson Highway, just south of Fairbanks. North Pole was added to the race course in 2011 to facilitate a new finish location in Fairbanks, and increases the course distance to over 2031 miles.

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



White Mountain



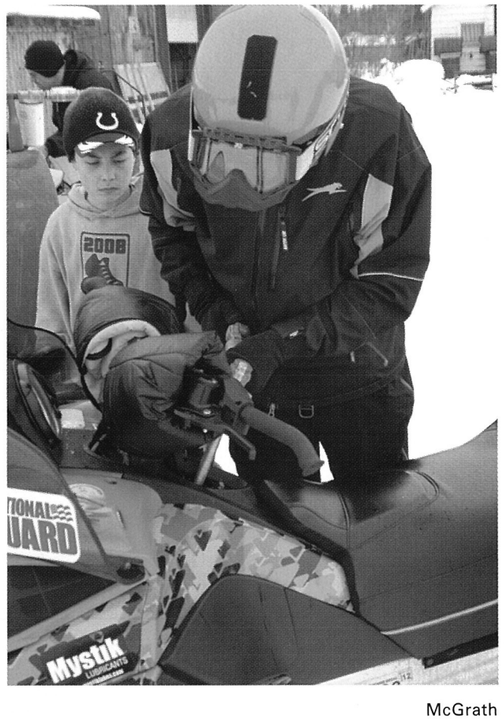
Koyuk



Ruby



Skwentna



McGrath

SMALLER CHECKPOINTS, fueling stations and layover locations include:

SKWENTNA, population 111, is located on mostly flat land in Southcentral Alaska on the Skwentna River. It is 89 miles from the start.

PUNTILLA, population two, is located on Puntilla Lake near a breathtaking mountain pass. Punilla is 161 miles from the start.

ROHN, population zero, is located at a small roadhouse where two rivers join, is 236 miles from the start.

NIKOLAI, population 93, is 310 miles from the start on the south fork of the Kuskokwim River.

MCGRATH, population 379, located on the Innoko River, is 362 miles from the start.

OPHIR, population zero, is 425 miles from the start located on the Innoko River.

POORMAN, population zero, located in a flatland region and marks the last checkpoint before the Yukon River, is 524 miles from the start.

RUBY, population 178, is on the Yukon River and marks the turning point to Nome. Pro racers pass through Ruby twice, first 596 miles from the start on the way to Nome and again at mile 1,620 on the return route to Fairbanks.

GALENA, population 641, is an Athabascan village in the Interior, located 648 miles from the start on the way to Nome and 1,568 miles from the start on the return route to Fairbanks.

KALTAG, population 218, marks the turn north off the Yukon River and toward the coast, and 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 also on the 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.

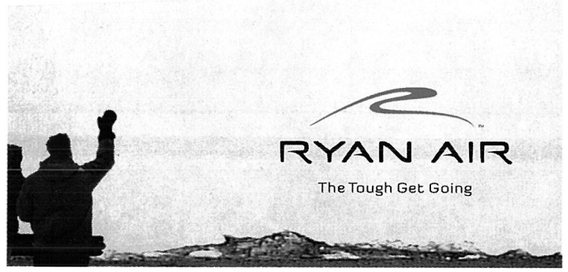
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FROM THE PRESIDENT

The world's longest, toughest snowmobile race

In the fall of 1983, some interested snowmobile racers gathered in the offices of Anchorage Cycle Sales, the Alaska Yamaha distributor. Bob Kowalke, Anchorage Cycle's General Manager, had called the meeting and told everyone that Yamaha was interested in promoting a long race in Alaska. Maps were spread across the floor, various plans were floated and discarded. Solo racers or teams? Would racers travel independently, packing their own fuel and supplies or would checkpoints be established? The I-500 was 500 miles, how long should this race be? Where would it start and finish?

Eventually, the plan evolved: two man teams racing over 1,000 miles from Wasilla to Nome. Over the years, the route has changed; in 1993, the race ran round trip from Wasilla to Nome and back and in 1998, the finish line was moved to Fairbanks. One thing has stayed the same; the Iron Dog is the ultimate test of man and machine.

One thing has stayed the same; the Iron Dog is the ultimate test of man and machine.

This year will mark our 30th event. Over 100 racers will leave Big Lake and head for Nome and thousands of spectators and fans will be right there with them. They'll travel over two mountain ranges, battle extreme cold and the harshest conditions an Alaskan winter can dish out. The Iron Dog, the longest, toughest snowmobile race in the world.

Jim Wilke
President, Iron Dog

WASILLA

Wasilla is central to the race organization, hosting the Iron Dog Safety Expo. The expo includes a tech inspection, banquet, side events, and a chance for the public to meet and greet with racers and the Iron Dog staff prior to race day. The event will be held at the Menard Sports Center.

Wasilla is a growing community and commercial district along the Parks Highway, just prior to the Big Lake turnoff where the race start is held. The population has surpassed 10,000, while the land size is a mere 12.4 square miles.

BIG LAKE

For years Big Lake has hosted the start of the race with direct access to the Iditarod Trail and as the perfect setting for spectators to watch race teams speed off on their long expedition. Annual ice roads are plowed on the ice allowing for vehicle access to all areas of the lake, and the starting line, also positioned on the ice, provides a flat field for teams to gather and prepare before taking off.

The community of Big Lake is home to 3,000 people spread over an area of 131.9 square miles. Big Lake is a longtime vacation and recreation area, though more and more permanent residents are moving into the area.

NOME

Until 1994, Nome was officially the race finish, tying Iron Dog to the Gold Rush history of Alaska, hence the earlier race name, Gold Rush Classic. In 1994 the race finish was moved to Fairbanks. Nome remains heavily involved in the race as a halfway point, perhaps more involved now than before.

Instead of hosting the ending of the long journey, Nome now facilitates the Trail Class finish, numerous support efforts and crews, lodging and banquets for Trail Class and Pro Racers, and a race restart.

Nome is located in western Alaska on the coast of the Bering Sea, and the surrounding area is some of the most challenging on the course due to ice shelves and open water conditions.

FAIRBANKS

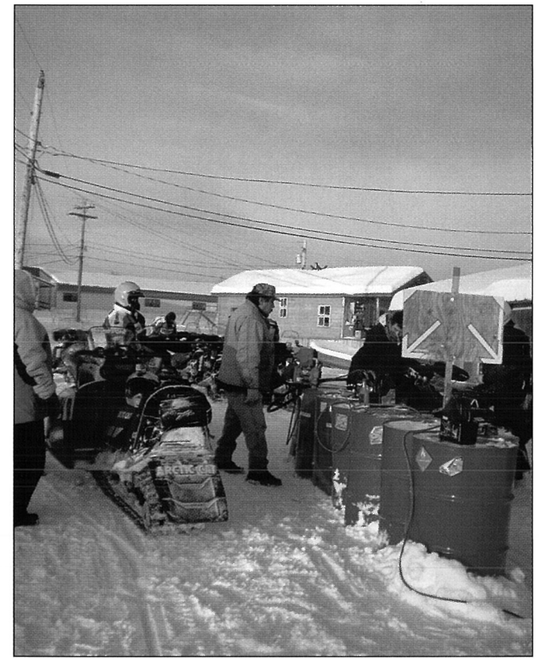
Since 1994 Fairbanks has been the official finish of the race. Fairbanks facilitates the final rallying of Pro Class racers who completed the entire 2,000-mile journey. Fairbanks is home to the final banquet and awards ceremony.

Since 2011, the racers finish near downtown after traveling along the Chena River from the east through North Pole.

Fairbanks is Alaska's second largest city and home to more 50,000. It is known as the home of University of Alaska Fairbanks, the popular Chena Hot Springs Resort, and the World Ice Art Championships.



Govolin



Nikolai



Ophir

Community support keeps Iron Dog on track

THE DIVERSE COMMUNITIES along the Iron Dog's circuitous exploration Alaska are as much a part of the race as the challenging trail. Last year's newcomer and past Cain's Quest champion, Robert Gardner, praised the overwhelming generosity and involvement by the people who live along course, which made his team feel like rock stars. Locals like Arthur Laraux and Steven Boney of Bethel say the interacting with volunteers is one of their favorite aspects of the race.

Without the support of these communities the race could not be successful so here's a round up of the communities, small and large, that rally to support the race and racers every year.

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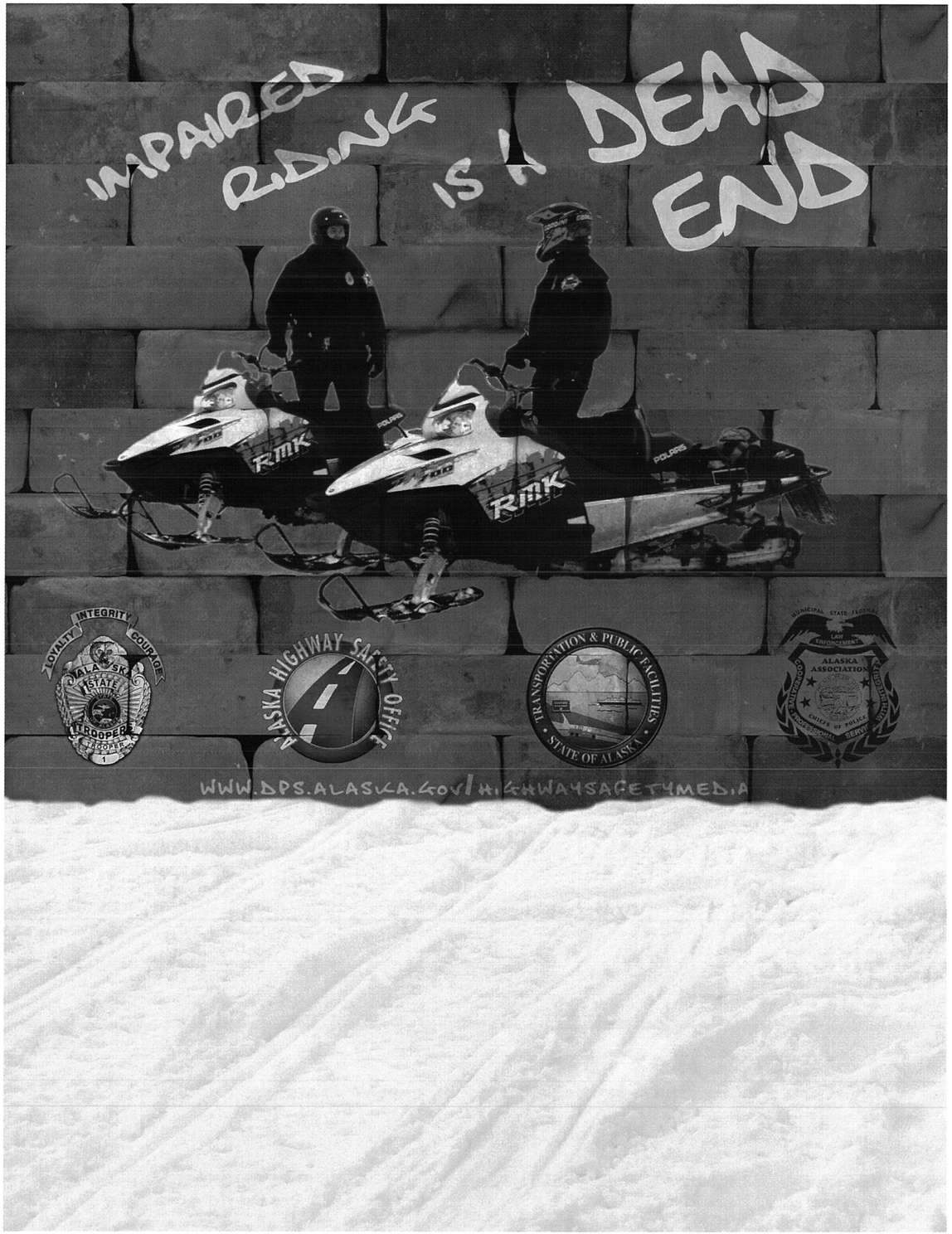
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55





Bloom, Regan & Meuser

Robert Bloom, Anchorage, AK

I was born and raised in Anchorage, Alaska and retired from USPS in 2009. I enjoy almost all forms of motorsports and riding dirt bikes, ATV's and snowmmachines. I like exploring the woods and seeing new country and quite time at home with family.
Finisher
Polaris

Dan Regan, Anchorage, AK

Dan is a 34-year resident of Alaska and is the senior GIS Analyst for Resource Data, Inc. Dan has one child Danielle. Dan enjoys motorized vehicles and time spent with family and friends
Rookie
Polaris

Mark Meuser, Anchorage, AK

Mark is a seven-year resident of Alaska and is a Flight Nurse with LifeMed Alaska. Mark and his wife, Deborah Lerner, enjoy travel, riding snowmachines and skiing.
Finisher
Polaris

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Karen Bente, BC Pediatrics, Falldorf Snowmobile Adventures, Off Hy-way Specialists, Hatcher Pass Polaris and Woods Rider Products.

99




Gee, Webb

Jimmy Gee, Wasilla, AK

I've lived in Alaska for about 20 years. Both myself and my daughter, Aurora, live in Wasilla. I am a Surveyor and a Registered Guide. I am a rookie all the way, but I have wanted to do this for a while now and this year everything came together. I enjoy doing pretty much everything that Alaska has to offer.
Rookie
Ski-Doo

Brian Webb, Anchorage, AK

I like to hunt, fish, play hockey and enjoy time with my family, especially at our cabin in Willow.
Rookie
Polaris

Sponsors:

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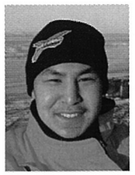
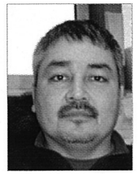
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Moto, Johnson, Johnson & Johnson

Dickie Moto, Kotzebue, AK

Dickie was born and raised in Kotzebue, Alaska. He enjoys the outdoors, camping, and hunting. He began racing ski-doo at 5 years old. He is excited to run the Iron Dog for the first time, as well as the adventure it entails.

Rookie
Ski-Doo

Cliff Johnson,Nome, AK

Work to support my habit of hunting, riding, camping, and eating good food!

Finisher
Arctic Cat

Norman Johnson, Redding, CA

Born and Raised in Nome, AK. I like camping, fishing, traveling, walking, standing, eating. I would like to thank my wife Nelda for understanding.

Rookie
Arctic Cat

Christian Johnson, Nome, AK

Christian was born and raised in Nome, graduated from Nome Beltz High, and has been hunting with his dad since he was 10 and enjoys boating, riding snowmachines, four wheelers, and side by sides.

Rookie
Arctic Cat

Sponsors:

Dickie Moto Sr., Lindsey's Shop, Northern Contractors, Team CC Ski-doo ,XPS Oil ,Ski-doo Racing, Winderness Ski-doo, Walter Sampson, Rex Rock, Carl Nevada, Bill Luce, Drake Ryan Jones, William Biesemeier II, Herbie Karmun, Ariana Walker, mom and dad, John Walker, Lawrence Jones. Mary, Northern Contractors, Dickie Motors, Team Arctic Cat, Bill Luce, Carl Nevada, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Q-Trucking Co, Klim, GU, Stud Boy. Northern Contractors, Arctic Cat, Klim, GU, Stud Boy, Fly, numerous individuals, especially our significant others! Arctic Cat, Klim, GU, Stud Boy, Fly.

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Falldorf, Boomershine

Dennis Falldorf, Anchorage, AK

This will be Dennis' 5th straight Iron Dog adventure. Dennis will run an 800cc sled this year, which will complete the triad of 2-stroke engine sizes available, having previously completed the event on 550cc fan-cooled and 600cc liquid cooled sleds. Dennis is a lifelong Alaskan who lives and breathes Iron Dog rides and running the KTM dirt bike in the southern Nevada desert.

Finisher
Polaris

Skip Boomershine, Anchorage, AK

I came to Alaska in 1977 with the U.S. Air Force, fell in love with it, and never left. My wife Cheryl and I were married in 1979 and we have been very blessed with the life we have lived here ever since. I have worked mostly in the construction trades all over this great state since the 80's and loved most of it. I currently enjoy fishing, rafting, scuba diving, snowmobiling, travel and all sorts of other outdoor activities.

Finisher
Polaris

Sponsors:

EMC Engineering, God, Falldorf's Snowmobile Adventures, Skip's wife, family and friends, IBEW Local 1547, Polaris Industries, Elcon Corporation, Dowland-Bach Corporation, Lead Dog Helmet Lights, Woody's Traction Devices, Klim Ride Gear, Fineline Interiors

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Paris, Walsh

Dan Paris, Anchorage, AK

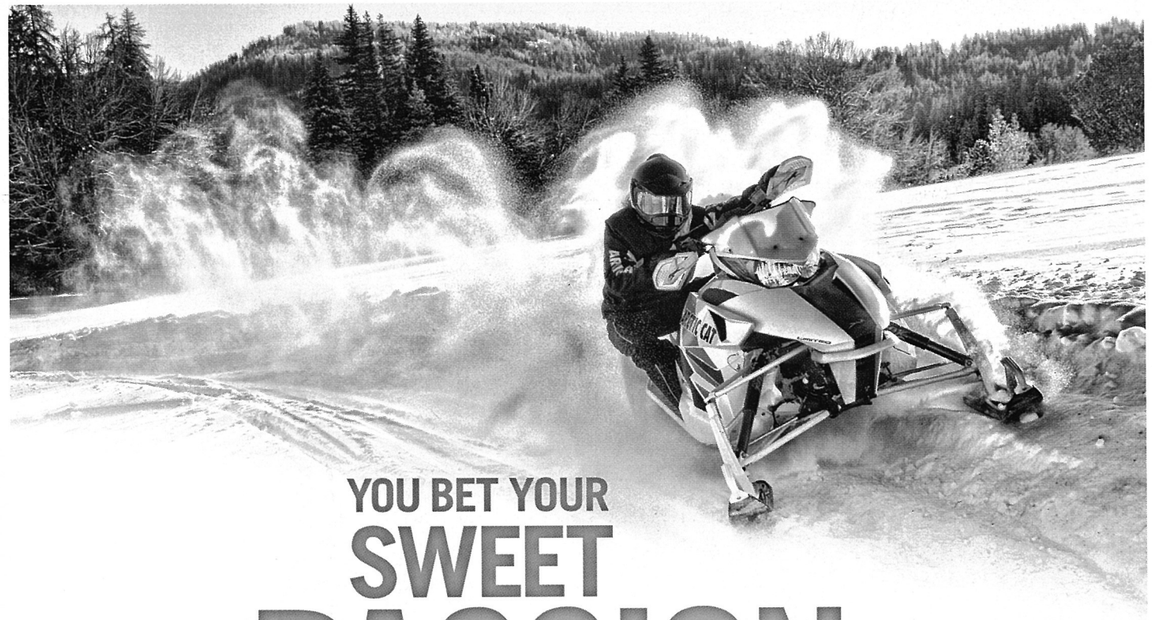
Looking forward to snowmachining to Nome.

Rookie
Polaris

Brian Walsh, Anchorage, AK

I am a lifelong Alaskan and I like to participate in outdoor activities. I am happily married with two great daughters.

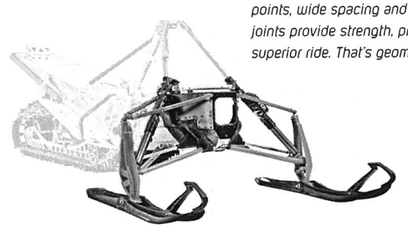
Rookie
Polaris



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Welcome to the 30th anniversary

IRON DOG






45

Bahnke, Farley, Hehnlin & Farley

John Bahnke III, Nome, AK

I enjoy all outdoor activities, hunting, fishing, riding atv's, boating (ocean & river), snowmachines, and most anything to do with the outdoors. A bad day out in the country is better than a good day at work.

Finisher
Ski-Doo

Harvey Farley, Nome, AK

Harvey is a lifelong Alaskan and enjoys snowmachining, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, and is part owner of Farley Family Fisheries in Nome, Alaska. Harvey has worked as a mechanic for Morgan Sales and Service for 17 years.

Finisher
Ski-Doo

Robert Hehnlin, Nome, AK

Born and raised in Alaska and living the dream

Rookie
Ski-Doo

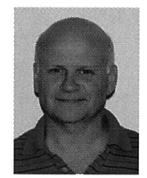
Howard Farley Jr., Nome, AK

I like to hunt and fish, riverboating, four wheeling, snowmachining, just about anything outdoors. I am also employed by our family fishing company as a co-captain/mechanic.

Finisher
Ski-Doo

Sponsors:

Wilderness Ski-doo, John's mom & dad, wife Nancy & the kids, HST Morgans Sales & Service, Nome Liquor, Howard & Julie Farley, Mimi Farley, Melissa King, Mike & Jessie Campbell Quality Auto Parts, Farley family fisheries



49

McCormick, Carver, Heilala & Campbell

John McCormick, Anchorage, AK

Love snowmachining and love the great Alaskan outdoors.

Rookie
Ski-Doo

Rick Carver, Anchorage, AK

Started snowmobiling at an early age in Colorado. Moved to Alaska five years ago and developed a desire to accomplish the Iron Dog

Rookie
Ski-Doo

Matt Heilala, Anchorae, AK

Matt is a lifelong Alaskan. Having left Alaska to become a foot and ankle surgeon, he and his family have returned to their home for all the reasons the Iron Dog exemplifies.

Rookie
Ski-Doo

Eric Campbell, Anchorage, AK

Eric is married to Kathy Campbell and has two daughters, Koral (15) and Skylar (13).

Rookie
Arctic Cat

Sponsors:

Alaska Foot and Ankle Specialists



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Goodrich, Dropik & Jensen

Austin Goodrich, Anchorage, AK

Austin is 26 years old and is an operator at Western Construction & Equipment. He is born-and-raised in Alaska and likes spending his free time with his girlfriend Kelsey and their two year old daughter named Kira. Austin is interested in anything with a motor and he also likes to spend time with his friends and family at the cabin on Flat Lake.

Rookie
Polaris

Mike Dropik, Palmer, AK

Mike's a lifelong Alaskan, owner-operator line driver, and enjoys any form of motorsports and fishing.

Rookie
Polaris

Marcus Jensen, Anchorage, AK

I'm a 28-year resident of Alaska. I enjoy riding snowmachines, dirt bikes and spending time with the family at our cabin.

Rookie
Polaris

Sponsors:

Thanks to Snap On Tools, Lawson Products, Haggard Boat Storage, Specialized Imports, Curzie Chiropractic, Big Lake Powersports & Marine, Western Construction & Equipment, Grip N Rip Racing, Klim, Scott USA, Even Stevens, Fine Line Interiors, Alaska Safety Inc, Woody's Traction Products, Accupoint Inc, Shawn Veech, Rick Walwrath, friends, family, and anyone that has helped us out along the way.



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Harding, Greene, Semaken, Walker & Williams

Ken Harding, Wasilla, AK

I enjoy spending time with my family and working around the house.

Finisher
Polaris

Steve Greene, Wasilla, AK

I'm a 3-year Alaska resident and enjoy spending time with my amazing family, four wheeling, camping and snowmobiling.

Rookie
Polaris

Ben Semaken, Anchorage, AK

Ben is a lifelong Athabaskan Indian from the Yukon. He has five children, Keagan, Tucker, Mia, Mason, and Raighn. Ben enjoys traveling the yukon on boat and snowmachine with friends and family. He also enjoys annual moose hunting trips and fishing.

Rookie

Devyn Walker, Holy Cross, AK

I've been working for Doyon Drilling for almost six years. I've been wanting to get in the Iron Dog since I was 14. Unfortunately I couldn't find a race partner the last few years. Trail class will have to do this year.

Rookie
Ski-Doo

Walter Williams, Big Lake, AK

I enjoy camping, four wheeling, snowmobiling, playing a round of golf with the boys and of course love hanging with my wife and kids.

Rookie
Polaris

Sponsors:

Hatcher Pass Polaris, Big Lake Power Sports, Klim, Woodys, Big Lake Power Sports, Ken's wife, Ben's family, the Hardings, James Sweetsir, Josephine Semaken, numerous family and friends, Sylvia Williams, Jordan and Madison Williams, Mike and Maxine Barrera, Steve and Amanda Greene

By Justin Matley

ALASKA'S MOST HIGHLY ANTICIPATED snowmachine race, the Iron Dog, is a test of man and machine unlike any other in the world. The race commences with a ceremonial Pro Class start on February 17 on Big Lake. Teams of two individuals will set out on the 2,031-mile course in the dead of the Alaska winter in the spirit of competition with high hopes of success.

IRON DOG'S HISTORIC 30th anniversary promises a record-sized field of competitors from all across Alaska, the Lower 48 and outside the U.S.

Many think they have what it takes to be an Iron Dog racer, yet after seven days of brutal and sometimes bloody snowmachine racing only a few have climbed to the top of the winner's podium in Fairbanks.

For Trail Class teams the action begins two days prior to the main event on Friday, February 15. This race allows riders to experience the intensity of the course before leaping into the Pro Class. Their journey ends in Nome, a course roughly half as long as that of the pros but no walk in the park.

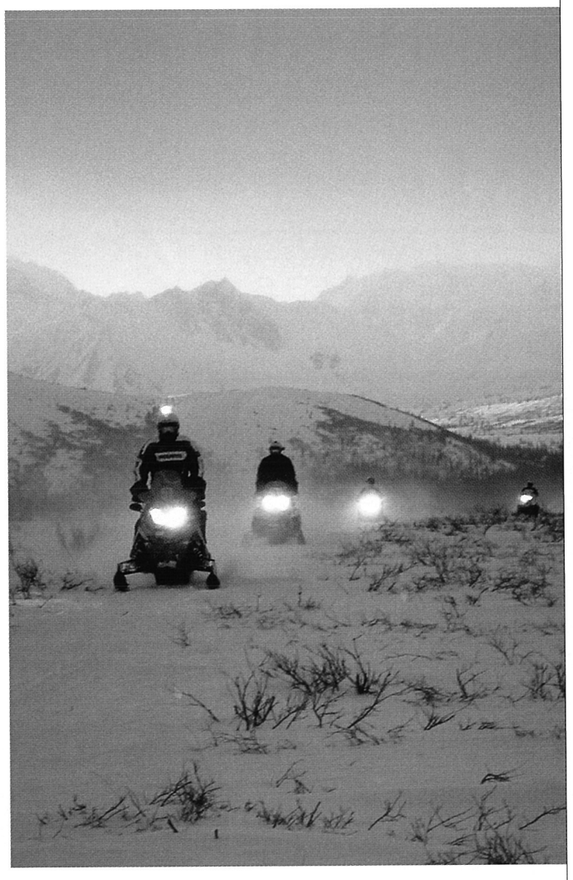
Two days after the Trail Class riders leave for Nome, Big Lake will burst into excitement for the Pro Class start.

"There's so much activity," says Kevin Kastner, executive director for the Iron Dog. "The lake just comes to life with so much happening, almost too much to take in for many people."

He's certain spectators will be impressed with National Guard flying over, chase planes buzzing off after the racers, all the people on the lake, cars, snowmachines, and more.

"It's pretty insane," says Kastner. "In a good way, and a lot of fun."

One team after the other will zoom through the start chute bordered by thousands of roaring fans as they head into the frozen wilderness. Along their route they'll pass through varying extremes in terrain including rugged woodland





trails, fast-paced river runs, deep mountain passes, over tundra and tussocks, tracts of dirt and even open water. Through it all, weather, both good and bad, will influence the racer's progress. Fortunately long, sleepless rides are broken up by checkpoint stops, fueling stations and required layovers.

The first team to Nome will win the Donlin Gold – Gold Rush Challenge with a payout of $10,000. At the Fairbanks finish, winners will walk away with a well-deserved $50,000 in prize money.

"It's pretty insane, in a good way, and a lot of fun."

Kevin Kastner, Iron Dog executive director

Forty Pro teams and nine Trail teams have registered to race for Iron Dog's 30th anniversary, setting a new record. Kastner said the staff and board have long been working to increase participation from racers throughout Alaska and throughout North America and their efforts are starting to pay off.

"We've gotten more reach, more exposure from a media standpoint, and I think the word is spreading, a positive word is spreading, that there's some stability and that the race is on good footing," Kastner says. "People are saying, 'Hey, Iron Dog is doing pretty good and this would be a great time to go get involved.'"

Rural racers from Bethel, Kiana, Kotzebue, Noorvik and Tanana, as well as Alaska's urban areas, are signed up. Minnesota, Maine and even Arizona are sending their best riders. Teams from outside the U.S. hail from the Canadian provinces of Newfoundland and Quebec.



39





Barber, Barber

Polaris

Shane Barber, Willow, AK

I am a born-and-raised Alaskan and love to spend time with family, hunting, hiking, fishing, camping, four wheeling and snowmachining. I live in Willow and work as a DSM for Chevron.

Veteran

Cody Barber, Willow, AK

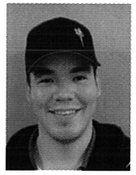
I was born and raised in Alaska to Shane and Tammy Barber. I love anything to do with adventure, hunting, trapping, fishing, floating, jet skiing, four wheeling, hiking, mining, snowmachining, racing and spending time with my parents, brother, sister, girlfriend and many friends. I work in construction as an operator.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Walker Evans Racing, Ted Neville, Big Lake Powersports, Aurora Consulting, First Choice Physical Therapy, AK Bedliners, Zack Womack, Taylor Fire Protection Services LLC, Scott Goggles, JA Spain & Sons, Klim, Design Graphics, Brent Carter, Hotel McGrath, Aarons Photo

40





Marks, Marks

Polaris

Arnold Marks Jr., Tanana, AK

Arnold enjoys spending time with family, going on camping/hunting trips, and teaching.

Veteran

Aaron Marks, Tanana, AK

Aaron is a lifelong Alaskan. He is married to Ginger Marks and has three kids, Leah, Lucas, and Levi. He is an elementary school teacher at the Maudrey J. Sommer School in Tanana. Aaron enjoys hunting, boating, driving snowmobiles, and spending time with his family.

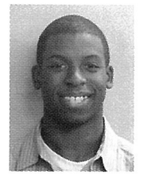
Veteran

Sponsors:

Polaris Industries, Big Lake Powersports, Walker Evans, Family and Friends, Community of Tanana, Big Lake Powersports, Walker Evans

41





Miller, Vanzant

Polaris

Louie Miller IV, Anchorage, AK

My girlfriend Ashley Eddens and I have one daughter Malila. I am a Brazilian Jiu-Jitsu guy. I travel around the states to compete any chance I get. I currently have four gold medals from competition. In the winter I snowmobile any chance I can get and compete in the cross-country races around Alaska. In the summer I typically dirt bike, go camping with the family, and work.

Veteran

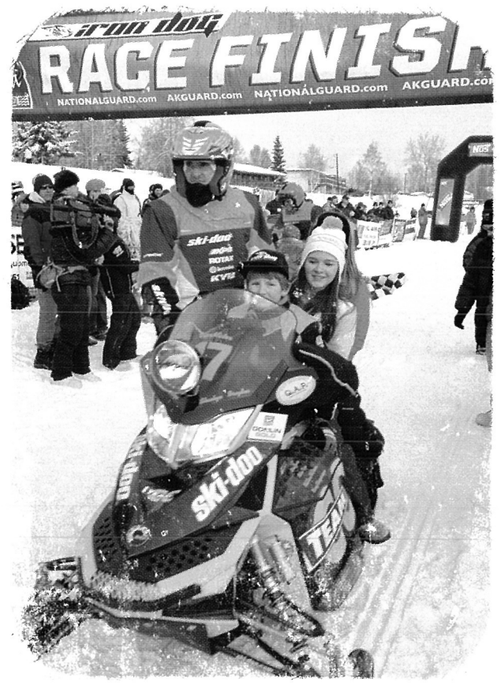
Adam Vanzant, Anchorage, AK

I am a born-and-raised Alaskan. I work on the North Slope as a mechanic for Little Red Services, but racing snowmobiles has been my passion for the last four years. I have competed in various AMMC cross-country and snow-cross races over the past few years. In the summer months I enjoy riding my dirt bike, Brazilian Jiujitsu, camping, fishing, and the outdoors. You could stay I represent the true Alaska Grown motto.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Little Red Services, Smart Start of Alaska, Sport and Spinal Injury Clinic, Rally Automotive G-Form, A2D Sledworks, Big Lake Powersports and Marine, Gracie Barra of Alaska, DJ's Motorsport






36

Johnson, Lachinski

Polaris

Ryan Johnson, Wasilla, AK

Ryan is a long-time Alaskan with an obsession for the outdoors. Ninety percent of his time in the winter revolves around his sleds. He's a rookie to the Iron Dog and works on the slope for Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, Inc. with whom he has spent almost nine years in the field. Ryan is married to Hannalaura with kids Blake, Stormy and Madison. Ryan is also proud of his biggest supporter, Ruth Johnson, his mom.

Rookie

Andy Lachinski, Wasilla, AK

Andy has lived in Alaska for 30 years. He is a veteran to the Iron Dog. He has worked in the oilfield for 20 years. He enjoys backcountry exploring during summer and winter, hunting, fishing and investing in stocks and real estate.

Veteran

Soonsors:

Udelhoven Oilfiled Systems Services, Big Lake Powersports, Hannalaura, Blake, Stormy, Madison, Ruth Johnson and the rest of the Johnson clan, Cris Mrshall and family, Alaska Roots, Big lake Powersports, Klim, N C Machinery, Kink Towing and Wrecking, American Legion Post #35, Son's of the American Legion SQ. #35, American Legion Aux. unit #35, Cindy Heal Allstate, H&R Block, Claudia Cooper and family, Jenny Byers, Marty Lachinski, The Keil family, Jeremiah Johnson






37

Whitted, Phillips

Polaris

Nathan Whitted, Big Lake, AK

Nate lives in Big Lake with his wife Kristal and their four children, Cameron, Denali, Anna and Noah. Nate is the owner of J&C Roofing, Inc.

Rookie

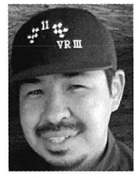
Bo Phillips, Anchorage, AK

Bo has lived in Alaska for the last 20 years. He's been riding since 14 years of age and loves every minute of it. He feels blessed every day for his family and the opportunity to have the life that he does. Riding is one of the top things in life that brings him that fulfillment and self-joy. After a bad day, a little trip down the trail seems to make everything ok.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Troy Davis Homes, Lacross & Associates Inc., Alvero Narino Framing, RW Burgers, Holiday, Swim Alaska, Cache Camper, Wish Upon A Star Childcare, Lumberyard Deli, Ben Charles, Arctic Insulation, Connie Bruggeman, Big Lake Powersports, Studio 9 Hair Design, Robertson Enterprise Inc, Alaska Sunsetview Resort, Boat House Restaurant, BSEn, Charles Kokrine, Mama Jean, dad and family, Quality Electric, Builders Choice, North Coast electric, Mike Perry of North Pole, and all my riding partners for the support and good times




38

Ferreira, Walker

Polaris

Frank Ferreira, Noorvik, AK

I grew up in Northwest Alaska hunting, fishing, and camping with my grandparents Charlie Sr. and the late Daphne Sours. I have been employed with TECK since 2006 and live in Noorvik with my family.

Veteran

Jared Walker, Kotzebue/Anchorage, AK

I grew up in Kotzebue, Alaska where I enjoyed the subsistence lifestyle of camping, fishing and hunting. I currently work as a floorhand for Kuukpik Drilling and in my spare time I wrench on snow machines, participate in snowmachine races and spend time with my family.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Tony Ferreira, Marylou Sours, Fiancé Gladys Wells, Matt Shy, Ray Schaeffer, Wade Connor, Grant Geffe, Ron & Peggy Brown, Aloysius Ferreira, Edie, Skyler & MacKenzie, Thomas Dublin, Charlie Sours Sr., Marita Sea & Ski, and MotorFist, Bistro Cafe-Boulder, City Nevada, Frank Adams Jr., Allen Passi at Secure Alaska Inc., Garret Smith-Naughty, Neighbor Wear 69, Ron and Peggy Brown, Al Ferreria, Robert, 515 Jackson, John W. Schaeffer IV, Charlie Sours Sr., Dad, Woody's Traction, Tristen Pattee, Susan Schaeffer, Ariana Walker, Dickie Moto Jr., Morris Trading Post, Albert Sheldon, Mike Hensley, Tom Dublin, Jim Baldwin, McKenli Ferreira, David Maresh, Malaki Ferreira, Zugger Shocks, Heidi's Bible and Gift Shop, NANA Regional Corp., Kevin McNeal and many other sponsers.



Start to finish

By Justin Matley

ENHANCED MEDIA COVERAGE and online race tracking make it a lot easier for armchair riders to follow the Iron Dog, but nothing beats the high-octane experience of seeing and hearing racers crossing the start and finish lines. Do you want to be stuck listening to everyone else's stories or experience the action firsthand? The race starts at 11 a.m., Sunday, February 17 on Big Lake, but arrive early to get in on the action."There'll be a lot of activities," says Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner. "We're working with Big Lake Chamber again on the Winter Fest, so there will be activities starting the Saturday leading up to the race, between the Trail and Pro class start."

The Big Lake Winter Fest offers fun activities for families as well as more extreme activities like helicopter rides and a freestyle snowmachine show. Vendors and snowmachine manufacturer booths will add to the festive atmosphere that surrounds the lake leading up to and after the Iron Dog start.

Don't get too caught up in the surroundings, though. The Iron Dog start is the main event.

"Attending the start gives spectators a much more personal experience and they get to witness all the excitement," says Kastner.

Kastner says fans can expect a ceremonial run prior to the start and this year improved signage will help direct newcomers around. Listen to racer interviews and pick up a 30th anniversary Iron Dog T-shirt while absorbing the energy that only 3,000-plus fans can generate.

After you've had your fill of vendor foods and warm drinks, watch the teams tear away, waving at the crowd andleaving a trail of sparkling snow dust as they disappear off the lake and into the wilds of Alaska. After the big show, spectators can stick around for a series of Iron Pup races and ice racing.

A WEEK LATER, the finish line in Fairbanks comes to life as well. It's not as big and crowded as the start, but makes for a whole different experience.

"The finish is more intimate and cool in a way because you can get a lot closer to the action there," says Kastner.

The finish will be similar to previous years with the exception of more improved signage and a new podium position so fans on the sidelines and bridge overhead can have a better view of the celebrations.

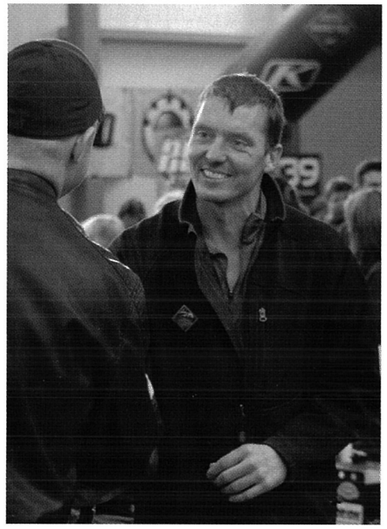
"With the rearrangement, I think the racers will be more accessible and easier to see," says Kastner.

The race is scheduled to finish at 1 p.m. on Saturday, February 23. Find the finish line on the river, in downtown Fairbanks near the intersection of First Avenue and Cushman Street.

"We'll be coordinated with Tired Iron again, which is fun, and between racers coming in there will be other things going on," Kastner says.

No matter what, being there is far better than watching from home.

"The number one thing is being able to see the racers in person and experience the personal side of the race that's hard to encompass by simply knowing someone crossed the finish line," says Kastner. "You can hear the stories, listen to the racers tell stories about their survival, and hear those interviews live right there at the finish."



You're invited to the Donlin Gold Iron Dog Safety Expo

By Justin Matley

The annual Donlin Gold Iron Dog Safety Expo is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. on Saturday, February 9 at the Menard Sports Center in Wasilla. The Safety Expo is both a mandatory rally for the racers to ensure they adhere to race guidelines and a safety expo for all interested in riding safely.

"For guests, there will be quite a few safety vendors and sponsors there so there's going to be a lot of cool stuff to see," says Kevin Kastner, Iron Dog executive director. "Obviously you get to meet the racers and check out all their sleds first-hand."

The Safety Expo will include training seminars featuring safety equipment giveaways and special offers for discounted helmets.

"We're going to try and have a lot more swag," Kastner says.

He also mentioned that Iron Dog is dedicated to safe riding, including training and proper protective equipment.

From a racer perspective, the expo is all about the safety inspection to make sure they have the correct gear, properly tuned machines and get signed off and approved for the race. Each racer, along with their machines and gear, will be there for inspection both by officials and the public. If a racer or team fails to pass official inspection, they have a week to correct the issue.

Menard Sports Center is located on South Mack Drive, just off the Parks Highway, about 2.5 miles from downtown Wasilla. The Safety Expo is free and open to the public.

How to follow 109 racers through the wilds of Alaska



By Justin Matley

Iron Dog action is only a click away whether you're watching on your television, listening on the radio or tracking the race on the Iron Dog website.

See it and hear it as the action and drama unfolds. Live coverage of the race at various stages from start to finish will be broadcast on KTUU Channel 2 television. Sound bites from those broadcasts will also be broadcast via radio on KFQD AM 750.

For those who prefer web-based information and near real-time GPS tracking, the best place to start is the Iron Dog website, www.irondog.org. Once on the page browse the section labeled "For Race Fans." There you'll find event scheduling, maps and frequently asked questions to help understand some of the more complicated aspects of the race, such as layovers and timing.

Click on Race Tracking to find past results, checkpoints and the most useful tool of all, GPS tracking.

Each racer has a GPS unit affixed to their machine, which updates the live tracking map. The information is updated every minute and displayed on an online map, which allows race fans to know where racers are located, how quickly they're moving, and how long it takes to reach each checkpoint.

33





Brantley, Ticket

Polaris

Joseph Brantley, Selawik, AK

I was born and raised in Kotzebue, and now I live in Selawik with my family. I have 2 children, Gavin and Serenity. I enjoy the great outdoors. I like sports and love snowmachine riding.

Veteran

Travis Ticket, Selawik, AK

I've lived in Selawik, Alaska all my life, like to hunt, fish, playing sports and spending time with family and friends.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Allen & Ella Ticket, Nichole Hanshaw, Gavin and Serenity Brantley, Travis Ticket, Enoch Stalker Jr., Joseph Riley, Victor Brantley, Laura and Ashlee Barger, Maureen Ticket, Jasmine Ticket, Lataihya Ticket, Shaylynn Ticket, Marjorie Ticket, Eric Ticket, Enoch Ticket, Joseph Brantley, Nichole Hanshaw, Gavin Brantley, Norman Ticket, Carol Davis, Enoch Stalker Jr, Lorraine Ticket , Zade Bubba Walton, Chester Ticket Sr., Robyn Ticket, Martha Ticket, Herbert Lane Jr., Robert Stalker, Eric Hingsbergen, Ellie Pearl Ticket



34





Howard, Aucoin

Ski-Doo

Brian Howard, Sangerville, ME

I was born, raised, and reside in Sangerville, ME with my wife (and high school sweetheart) Samantha, and two perfect children, Grant and Hilary. My rural upbringing has allowed me to spend many hours riding snowmobiles,and racing. Half of my broken bones have been snowmobile related. I am thankful that I have such a wonderfully supportive and loving family. I am truly blessed.

Rookie

Jean-Guy Aucoin, Nova Scotia, Canada

My job schedule is six weeks on/off, which gives me plenty of time for snowmobiling. I started racing in Quebec in 1996, cross-country and mostly snowcross, but always preferred cross-country, so when Cain's Quest started up that was the natural place for me. These days I work out with weights daily and enjoy running and bicycling in summer. In winter I spend my spare time snowmobiling and shock tuning.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Coutts Bros. Inc., Gordon Contracting, Trail Jesters, Ski-Doo X-Team, Dysarts, Waste Management, Maine National Guard, Fort Kent Ski-Doo, Lincoln Powersports, Innovative Specialties, Bridgeside Market, AE Robinson, Sport Shack Ice Shacks, Chase Toys, Grip N Rip, Lake Parlin Lodge, Suntower Suites, Klim, ZBros Racing, RPM Composites, Monster Performance, Curve Industries, Fly Racing, Katahdin Gear, Delorme, Hight Chevrolet

35





Hill, Motsko

Arctic Cat

Colby Hill, Fairbanks, AK

Colby is a lifelong resident of Fairbanks, Alaska with one child Garrett. Colby works at his family's business, Northern Power Sports, as the parts manager. Colby enjoys hunting, fishing, four wheeling, bicycling and pretty much anything outdoors. In the summer he also races sprintcars and road races motorcycles.

Rookie

Kyle Motsko, Fairbanks, AK

Rookie

Sponsors:

Northern Powersports, Arctic Cat, Cisco Holloman, Hydraulic Center, Genes Chrysler, Klim, Auto Trim Design, Western Powersports, Saltwater Safari Company, Kohler Schmitt & Hutchison PC, Zugger Shocks, Tucker Rocky, Woody's

29




Eckert, Cizmowski

Polaris

Greg Eckert, Fairbanks, AK

I was born in Edmonton, Canada and raised in Fairbanks. I grew up riding dirt bikes and snowmachines along with hunting and fishing with my family. I work as a heavy equipment operator in the summer season and a snowmachine mechanic in the winter. This work schedule allows me to fulfill my passion with many weekends of riding in the mountains. I am engaged to my fiancé, Rebecca, with a wedding planned for July 2013.

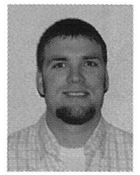
Rookie

Kazimir Cizmowski, Healy, AK

Kazimir grew up in Healy, AK working at McKinley Polaris. He is now going to school at UAF in Fairbanks to be a diesel mechanic. He enjoys snowmachining, four wheeling, snowboarding, hunting, fishing and spending time with family and friends.

Rookie

30




Crouse, Vaughn

Polaris

Geoff Crouse, Anchorage, AK

Geoff is 29 years old and was born and raised in Alaska and has been riding snowmobiles for over 20 years. When Geoff is not riding his snowmobile he enjoys spending time with his family, four wheeling, fishing, and golf. Geoff has been married to Jenna for five years and they have one child named Blake.

Rookie

Jerrod Vaughn, Anchorage, AK

Jerrod has lived in Alaska for 18 years and is employed as a mechanical designer for Support Services of Alaska. He has been racing different venues of snowmachines since 2001. He is married to Jennifer and they have two children, Makenna and Austin. Jerrod enjoys camping, fishing, four wheeling, softball and family time at the cabins. www.outcoldracing.com

Rookie

Sponsors:

RSA Engineering, Big Lake Powerports, H&K Sheet Metal, Klim, Vision Source, GMW Fire Protection, JP Sheldon Co., Superior Plumbing & Heating, Madden Real Estate, HZA, Re-Bath, TH Racing, Norcoast Mechanical, Team 50 Cowbell Nation, Halloween Express, Alaska Sheet Metal, Stud Boy, Smith Optics, Lori Lindquist, Mark & Lynne Vaughn, Proctor Sales, Café Darte, Fish Creek Sales, Arctic FX, Aero Twin Inc., Vision Source, GMW Fire Protection, Out Cold Racing

31




Potter, Bennett

Polaris

Charlie Potter, Big Lake, AK

Charlie is a 28-year Alaska resident, is a two-time purple heart recipient and founded the Wounded Warrior Racing Team as a way to give back to all who have been injured while serving their country. Charlie also loves to hunt, fish, being outdoors, racing snowmachines, and spending time with family and friends

Veteran

Dale Bennett, Wasilla AK

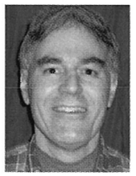
Dale was born and raised in Alaska and has been racing snowmachines off and on since 2001.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Alaska's Healing Hearts, Klim, South Port Marina, Alaska, Powersports, Polaris Industries, Nita Dukes Wildeye Photography, Alaska Air Ballancing, Gulf Shot of Alaska, Roks Deisel, Holland Company, James Hastings, Mug-shot Saloon, Tailgaters Sports Bar and Grill, Music and Memories, The Last Frontiersman, Crkt, Ken Onion, 509 Tactical, Sportsmans Wharehouse, CW Tack and Western Wear, All Season Clothing, Western Bling AK, Friends, Family and all who donated

32




Dietrich, Jauhola

Ski-Doo

Brad Dietrich, Fairbanks, AK

Brad is co-owner of Bender Mountain Farm. He is a 30-year Alaskan with a love of all things outdoors.

Veteran

Tim Jauhola, Fairbanks, AK

Tim has been involved with Iron Dog for over 12 years and he feels Iron Dog is one of Alaska's great adventures. He'd like to wish everyone who entered the race good luck and stay safe.

Veteran

Sponsors:

ITSI GILBANE, A&A Roofing, Bender Mountain Farm, Compeau's, Team CC, Darby's Performance Machine, Dynamic Painting, Zugger Shocks, McKenna Brother Paving, Faldorf Adventures, Bob Jauhola



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A once-in-30-years experience

Cooperation by all involved—including Mother Nature—resulted in a supreme 2012 race | By Justin Matley



With a record finish and more than 85 percent of teams crossing the finish line in Fairbanks, last year's Iron Dog could be a case study in successful overland racing. Dedicated prerace planning, volunteer and community support, and outstanding spectator turnout set the tone for 2012's action. Fair weather and supreme riding conditions set the stage. And when the flag dropped it boiled down to team tenacity, rider skill and improved snowmachine technology, all combined to carry riders to glory. It was probably the closest to perfection Iron Dog has yet come. As a number of race aficionados have described last year's event, it was a "once-in-30-years experience."

"I have to give a lot of credit to really great weather," said Kevin Kastner, Iron Dog executive director. "That was a big part of making it relatively smooth for everyone. Everyone's experience as riders and maybe even as volunteers was probably one of the best."

Last year's winners would see it the same way.

Team 17, Dusty VanMeter and Mark McKenna, riding Ski-Doo, covered the course at an average speed of 60 miles per hour over 2,031 miles, crossing the finish line at 35:39:56, an astounding time that destroyed the previous record by nearly two hours.

According to VanMeter, he and McKenna's win was a tremendous accomplishment even with conditions on their side.

"Last year's weather was sure nice as far as the sun was out and this and that, but it also made for one of the roughest trails we've ever had because it was the most snow we've ever had," said VanMeter. "The more snow, the bigger the holes. It was probably one of the roughest Iron Dogs I've ever been on."

Team 17 also reached Nome first to secure the Donlin Gold – Gold Rush Challenge with a payout of $10,000, a hefty addition to the $50,000 that followed by winning Iron Dog overall. The VanMeter-McKenna win meant that Ski-Doo replaced Polaris on the podium for only the second time.

"It was good for Ski-Doo, and you know, in 2011 we were

25




Wichman, Bartel

Ski-Doo

Jason Wichman, Wasilla, AK

Jason was born and raised in Montana and moved to Alaska in 1997. He enjoys the Alaska outdoors with family, hunting, fishing, riding and golfing.

Veteran

Aaron Bartel, Anchorage, AK

Aaron is a lifelong Alaskan who enjoys hunting, going to the cabin and spending time with friends and family.

Veteran

Sponsors:

B.C. Excavating, Team CC Ski-Doo, Lake View General, Alkota Plumbing and Heating, The Dome, Criterion General, D&S Concrete, CMI, Snowman Ent., Last Buck Ranch, Alaska Signs and Barricades, Ranger Leasing, Ron Webb Paving, Toklat Electric, Rob Stone, MKM Construction, Law Office of Nathan R. Haines, Camp Shoe, EMC Engineering, Cal Worthington, Bullfrog Blasting

26




Egan, Jurenka

Polaris

Harold Egan, Palmer AK

Harold is a 7-year resident of Alaska, has been married to Windy for 20 years and together they have two daughters, Chelsea and Savannah. Harold and Windy recently became grandparents to Averee Grace. Harold enjoys spending time outdoors fishing, hunting, camping and running anything with a motor attached.

Rookie

Brian Jurenka, Anchorage, AK

Brian is a 25-year resident of Alaska. Brian enjoys hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and spending time on his boat in the summer.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Eagle River Polaris Arctic Cat, Mint Dental, Alaska Recreational Management, Matt Spernak, Friends and Family Cannon Tools, Mom, Dad

27




Sheldon, Lambert

Polaris

Norman Sheldon, Selawik, AK

Norman is a lifelong Alaskan and lives with his companion Elizabeth Sours; together they have two children, Zander Ray and Blair. Norman is a seasonal employee for the Alaska Fire Service and for the Native Village of Selawik roads department. During the winter months he hunts and traps in his home town of Selawik. His hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping and traveling by snowmachine along the Selawik Valley and Northwest Alaska.

Rookie

George Lambert, Selawik, AK

I'm 24 years old, was born and raised in Kotzebue, Alaska, and currently live in Palmer, Alaska now. I enjoy racing snowmachines, boating, and hunting.

Rookie

Sponsors:

South Port Marina, Elizabeth, Zander & Blair, Raven & Sharon Sheldon, Bob Foster, Jenny Kaiser, Vida Coaltrain, Jenny Rose McGee, John Schaeffer, Donna Harris, Harold and Jaime Lambert, Carol Walker, John Schaeffer, Paulette Schuerch, Kables Customs, Unch Schuerch Racing, Zugger Shocks

28




Williams, Salzbrun

Ski-Doo

Michael Williams, Anchorage, AK

Mike is a lifelong Alaskan and a 19-year veteran who has served on active duty and in the Alaska Army National Guard. He has been on multiple deployments including Iraq. He has held multiple positions working on Helicopters and fixed-wing aircraft. Mike, his girlfriend, and their two boys enjoy spending time together at their cabin in Petersville.

Rookie

Vince Salzbrun, Eagle River, AK

Rookie

Sponsors:

Team CC, Alaska National Guard

21




Brown, Dean

Ski-Doo

Stan Brown, Eagle River, AK

I've lived in Alaska all of my life. I enjoy the outdoors, my family and friends, and most importantly Madisyn.

Rookie

John Dean, Eagle River, AK

I'm a lifelong Alaskan. I enjoy snowmachining, four wheeling, hunting, fishing, and hanging out with friends and family.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Tracy Vrem's Blue Mountain Lodge, Team CC, Van Holstyn Investment Management Group Inc., Rodney Kinney & Associates, Yukon Equipment, AIC, Carlos Tree Service, ANCOR, Residential Mortgage, Rulien & Associates, Rhode & Associates Architects, QAP, Emlusion Products, Glacier Auto Works, Home Inspections Plus, Shields Paving, Klim, Smartwool, Dean Construction, Totem Equipment, Wakeland Construction, Bob's Services, Dave Miller's Services, EMC Engineering LLC, Cal Worthington, Bull Frog Blasting

22




Gardner, Jones

Ski-Doo

Robert Gardner, Mercer, ME

Many of us with Team Maine Racing work hard, but without question none of us could race at this level without my wife Tina. Her support and drive is what allows TMR to continue to participate in these races. There's no way I could pull this all together without her. Also, Denis Coutts is not only the sponsor but a dear friend of mine and several of the guys on the team. Without his support we would have to work much, much harder to put this all together.

Veteran

Chad Jones, North Yarmouth, ME

Chad is a lifetime Ski-Doo rider with a history of racing in hillcross, sno-x, drags, radar runs, endurance, and XC. 2012 was a successful season with multiple USCC Pro wins, and Chad and his partner Craig Lemieux successfully completed the 2012 Cain's Quest endurance race. Chad is looking forward to 2013 with plans to continue racing USCC, the Red Lake I500, followed by teaming up with Robert Gardner to compete in Iron Dog.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Coutts Bros. Construction, Trail Jesters, Ski-Doo X-Team, Dysarts, Waste Management, Maine National Guard, Fort Kent Ski-Doo, Lincoln Powersports, Innovative Specialties, Bridgeside Market, AE Robinson, Sport Shack Ice Shacks, Chase Toys, Grip N Rip, Lake Parlin Lodge, Suntower Suites, Klim, ZBroz Racing, RPM Composites, Monster Performance, Curve Industries, Fly Racing, Katahdin Gear, Delorme, Hight Chevrolet, Gordon Contracting, C&T Powersports

23




Quam, Dick

Arctic Cat

Eric Quam, Palmer, AK

Eric is a lifelong Alaskan who is employed with Sperry Drilling Services as an MWD-engineer as well as owner operator of his side business Quam Technologies. Eric enjoys sharing his love of hockey with his son, fishing, all water sports, dirt biking, and spending time with his family. Eric started his Iron Dog career in 1999 and has been racing or helping teams since. Eric has taken one 1st place finish in 2008 with Marc McKenna.

Veteran

Brian Dick, Thief River Falls, MN

At age-34, Brian is the second oldest of four kids including Jeff, Molly and Adam. His mother and father are Judy and Paul. Brian grew up riding sleds with his family and watched his dad in multiple XC races. He started racing in 1997 and raced the 2012 Iron Dog with his dad as a partner and learned a lot! Brian enjoys spending time with his girlfriend Alicia, and family. He also enjoys hunting, shooting, fishing, and any other outdoor activities.

Veteran

Sponsors:

Anchorage Suzuki Arctic Cat, Rain Proof Roofing, Speedwerx, Woody's, Fox Racing Shox, Christian Brothers Racing, Ericco Tool & Mfg, Arctic Wear Clothing, Dick Distributing, Alaska Roteq, Bob's Services, Taylor Leasing

24




Brown, Wessels

Polaris

Roger Brown, Fairbanks, AK

Roger is a long time Fairbanks resident who works for Carlile Transportation Systems and truly feels blessed to be able to work and recreate surrounded by some of the most beautiful scenery in the world. After witnessing the camaraderie that existed among the racers and their families at the 2012 Iron Dog Awards Banquet, he let his 8-year-old son Shjon talk him into attempting the race.

Rookie

Andrew Wessels, Fairbanks, AK

Andrew lives in Fairbanks and is employed as a truck driver with Alaska West Express. He enjoys hunting, fishing, camping, four wheeling, and spending time with friends.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Carlile Transportation Systems, Alaska West Express, Klim, The Blood Bank of Alaska, Lynden Inc., Alaska Aerofuel, Vision X, Street Sounds, The Big Riggers, Polaris Out Post, Walker Evans Racing, Woody's Traction Products

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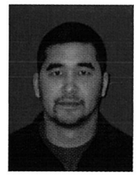
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THANK YOU TO ALL OUR VOLUNTEERS!





19





Laraux, Boney

Yamaha

Arthur "Gux" Laraux, Bethel, AK

Gux is a lifelong Alaskan born and raised in Bethel, AK. He is also a United States Coast Guard veteran and now works for Knik Construction and manages the operation of his landing craft the ELSIE-M. On his down-time Gux enjoys outdoor subsistence activities with his girlfriend Megan, spending time with his two nephews, and traveling along the Kuskokwim River systems.

Veteran

Steven Boney, Bethel, AK

A lifelong Alaskan, Steven is also a private pilot and certified mechanic and is married to Dolly with three beautiful daughters. He enjoys adventure, epic rides from Bethel to Anchorageand early February rides with no trails using old markings and GPS.

Veteran

Sponsors:

Prop Shop, Lynden Air Cargo, Alaska Hovercraft, Knik Construction, Bearing Marine Corporation, Swanson's Powersports, Shorty's Shop, Frank Neitz, Took & Elena Laraux, Megan Leary, Lisa Laraux, Marilyn Laraux, Colleen Laraux & Family, Jeff & Carol Sanders, Osprey Air, Dale Construction, Gonders and May Hoffman, Nicholson Auto, Corinas Case Lot, Bethel Alaska PC, Yahoo Station (Jason, Selena Malone and Family), Roger and Kelly Nance, MDR, Vince Salzbrun, Stan's Barber Shop, Willie & Litsa Scott, Alaska's Fishing Unlimited, Mun & Donna Lindsey, Drew's Foundation, Yukon Kuskokwim Health Corporation Behavioral Health, Eric and Ivy Hoffman, Crag Boney, Dolly, Brittany, Payton and Riley Boney, Strategic Plumbing & Heating, Bethel Native Corporation, Donlin Gold

20





Faeo, Faeo

Polaris

John Faeo Jr., Wasilla, AK

John is a lifelong Alaskan who has been around racing his whole life and this is his first iron dog race. He is an electrical foreman at New Horizons Telecom Inc. He enjoys racing, fourwheeling, fishing, hunting, golfing, spending time at The Canyon Compound, and spending time with his girlfriend Ashley going on adventures! And he likes to go FAST!

Rookie

Scott Faeo, Wasilla, AK

Scott was born and raised in Alaska. He has been riding snowmachines his entire life and began racing pro cross-country races over the past two seasons finishing on top multiple times. He is an IBEW wireman foreman for Yukon Electric, Inc. based out of Anchorage, AK. He has been living in Wasilla, AK for the past eighteen years. He enjoys riding/racing snowmachines, playing golf, basketball and always having a great time.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Yukon Electric, New Horizion Telecomm, Swanson Steele, Walker Evans Racing, MotorFist, Canyon Lake Lodge, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Big Lake Powersports, Eagle River Polaris, MGM, IBEW, Allstate - Cindi Heal Agency, WayWay, Greertanks, Glacier Auto Body, Custom Crafts of Alaska, Renton Coil Springs, International Aviation, Summit Farms Corp., Weldin Construction, Value Auto Group, Alaska Spine Institute, Bills Distributing, GexPro, Trail Tanks, Tracks USA, Woodys, Northern Avionics, Ashley Wood, Starting Line Products, Sampson Racing, Sena's Professional Painting



15





Reich, Collins

Ski-Doo

Brad Reich, Kiana, AK

I'm the Mayor of City of Kiana and I'm also on the Advisory School Committee, Regional School Board NWABSB, Public Safety Commission NWAB, and Police Council for State of Alaska. I enjoy the challenge this race gives us racers. It is a blast. I would like to thank all the people who make this race possible! I appreciate the volunteers and all the great people we meet along the way. I also want to thank my wife and our families for their financial and personal support.

Rookie

Chris Collins, Kotzebue, AK

This is my first Iron Dog Race, and I am very excited to get going on the trail, meet new people and see what I have against the best riders in long distance racing.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Manilaq Association, Construction Machinery Incorporated, Arctic Chiropractic, Wilderness Skidoo, Janice Westlake-Reich, John Walsh, Lawrence and Gladys Jones, NANA, Eugene & Patsy Smith, Billy Bernhardt, Andrew Frailey, Roberta, Derrel & Talissa Sampson, Jana Demoski, Deedee & Mary Carlo & Hali Willis the IT Baby, Vern & Tami Monette, Bering Air, Larry & Christina Westlake

16





Minnick, Olstad

Polaris

Todd Minnick ,Wasilla, AK

I enjoy time with my family, trips to our cabin, working at our business, House of Bread, and spending time outdoors hunting, fishing and snowmachining.

Veteran

Nick Olstad ,Wasilla, AK

Nick was born in Palmer, Alaska and has lived in Alaska for most of his life. Nick is a superintendent for Udelhoven oil field system services in Anchorage, Alaska. When he's not racing he enjoys flying, four wheeling, hunting and most of all, hanging out with his wife Bri, their 1-year-old daughter Kaia and dog Kona.

Veteran

Sponsors:

Polaris Industries, Walker Evans, Big Dipper Construction, House of Bread Wasilla, Edge Fitness, Big Lake Powersports, Allstate - Cindi Heal Agency, Chris & Cindi Harsh, Mike & Jayne Koskovich, Udelhoven, Cruz Construction, Lakeview General, Weldin Construction, Dick & Jenny Weldin, A1 Pawn, VFW 9365, Ken Lee Lodge, Klim, Studboy, Moto-Fist, Udelhoven Oil field System Services, Walker Evans shocks, MotorFist, Studboy Traction

17





McKenna, VanMeter

Ski-Doo

Marc McKenna, Anchorage, AK

Marc is a lifelong Alaskan married to Kristen and they have two children, Teya and Asa. He's President and Co-owner of McKenna Brothers Paving Inc.

Veteran – 2012 Iron Dog Winner

Dusty VanMeter, Kasilof, AK

Dusty is a lifelong Alaskan and commercial fisherman that loves the outdoors, hunting, flying, coaching and spending time with wife, Evelyn, and children, Kaiti, Shaelyn and Brayden.

Veteran – 2012 Iron Dog Winner

Sponsors:

Team CC, BRP, XPS Lubricants, Compeau's Ski-Doo, Wilderness Ski-Doo, RPM Composites, McKenna Brothers Paving, MotorFist Gear, Quality Asphalt Paving, Tesoro, Anchorage Sheet Metal, GLM Machine Shop, Backdoor Sportsbar and Lounge, Fine Line Interiors, Mickeys Custom Sewing, MGM, Alaska Equipment Appraisers, Tope Transportation, Lead Dog Helmet Lights, Alaska Spine Institute, Ryznar Industries, Alwayz Graphyks, Airport Equipment Rental, Body Renew, Alaska Aces, Matthew McKenna, Kory Klingsmeyer, David McRae, Chris Baxter, Don Jones, Mike Tope, Allen Hill, Daniel Ryznar, Brian Horschel, Tate Syverson, Johnny Bea

18





Gueco, Loyer

Ski-Doo

Chad Gueco, Wasilla, AK

I have two children, Allie and Ella, with my beautiful wife Jayme. I enjoy hunting, fishing, camping and anything that promotes the outdoors and a good time. I also like to keep in shape and am very active in the gym with Crossfit and competing in triathlons and various other events. My family and I enjoy traveling as much as possible and keep looking for the next fun-filled activity to do.

Veteran

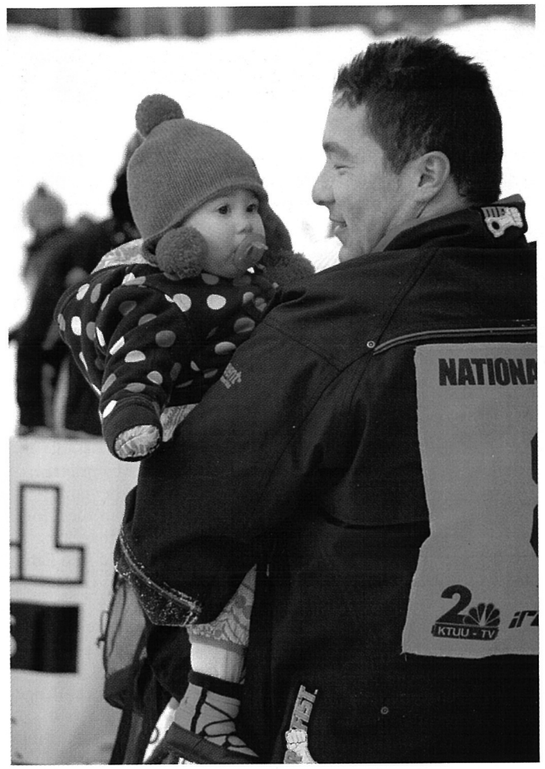
Aaron Loyer, Palmer, AK

Aaron is a lifelong Alaskan born and raised in Palmer. He works as an apprentice power lne-man in the IBEW. Aaron has a love for everything motocross. His other pastimes include riding dirt bikes, four wheeling, fishing and spending as much time outdoors as possible. Aaron loves spending time with his family, friends and girlfriend.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Team CC, Gueco Racing, Stud Boy, Curve Ind., Fox Shox, Bills Distributing, Mudbusters Car Wash, RedBull, Cruz Construction, Theisen Ventures, Emerald Alaska, Northern Powerline Constructors, Bionic Chiropractic, Wolverine Supply, Pro-West Construction



1,500-some miles into the race but that construction company was mining gravel out of the river, and we were in the lead breaking trail when my partner fell through a manmade hole in the river some 20 feet deep," McKenna said. "It cost us the race, so it felt even better to get the win last year."

As usual race excitement heated up as the teams approached Nome. Plagued by poor fuel economy and speed restraints, Team 17 discovered a computer update issue. They quickly overcame it with a fuel additive that improved their power and allowed them to command the lead. The only real threat to their domination was from Team 16, Minnick and Olstad, riding Polaris, which held the lead leaving Unalakleet.

According to VanMeter, the two teams jockeyed for the lead all the way from Unalakleet to Nome. First, Team 16 fell behind due to starting trouble after refills. Then Team 16 took the lead when McKenna and VanMeter ran out of fuel additive.

In the end VanMeter and McKenna took the lead and held it to claim the first-to-Nome title.

While there, McKenna and VanMeter accrued a meager three minutes and 58 seconds of maintenance time to update their Ski-Doo computers and change clutch belts. Minnick and Olstad worked for 12 minutes 47 seconds. All told, Team 17 left Nome with a 19-minute lead on Team 16. Third out of Nome was Team 10, Morgan and Olds, with 30 minutes of maintenance time and a deficit of 29 minutes behind the leaders.

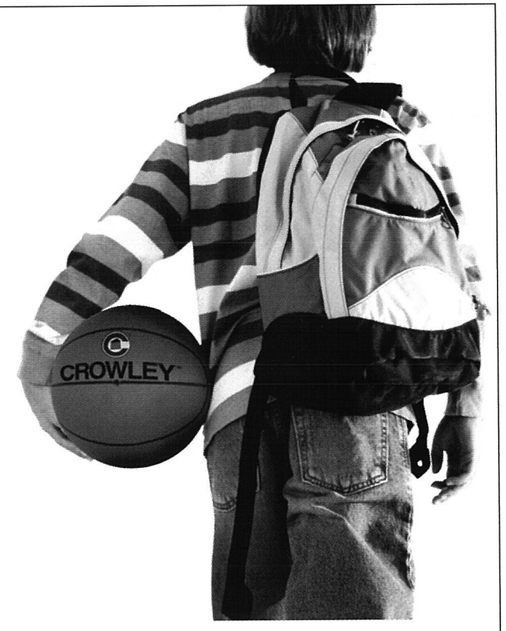
On the rough trail to Fairbanks, teams 16 and 10 fell further behind due to mechanical issues. Team 17 covered the same terrain with few difficulties and with that solidified their win.

"When we left Nome we had a good lead so when we got into some abusive trail we slowed down and took it easy, but they were trying to catch up and bashing through it and they paid the price for it," VanMeter said.

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Trailing by 44 minutes was Team 6, Tyler Huntington and new partner Tre West, who drove their Polaris machines to a second-place finish. Though they placed second, they beat the previous record and continued a tradition of Polaris success in "the world's longest, toughest, snowmobile race."

Third place was secured by Team 2, Ryan Sottosanti and Andrew Zwink, riding Polaris, with a time of 37:33:54. And Team 10, the previous year's winner Chris Olds with new teammate Mike Morgan, riding Polaris, took fourth at 38:06:28.

Minnick and Olstad eventually crossed the line in 11th place.

Make no mistake, the Iron Dog is in a class all its own, no race compares to it whether by mileage, unforgiving terrain or the extreme weather conditions routinely endured by teams and their machines. While 10 teams scratched in 2012, more than 20 teams were able to push beyond Nome and into Fairbanks to complete the race; more finishers than ever before.

Will the 2013 race stack up to 2012? There's a lot of winter between now and the race start so it's hard to predict conditions with any confidence. But, regardless of weather and snowpack, the race will challenge these hard-riding champions; that is certain. Just how is unknown and that's what makes it interesting to those who stand on the sidelines.

2012 IRON DOG RESULTS

Place	Team	Sleds	Time	Prize
1	Marc McKenna (Anchorage) and Dusty Van Meter (Kasilof)	Ski-Doo	35:39:56	$50,000
2	Tyler Huntington (Fairbanks) and Tre West (Nome)	Polaris	36:23:54	$36,000
3	Ryan Sottosanti (Anchorage) and Andy Zwink (Wasilla)	Polaris	37:33:54	$18,000
4	Mike Morgan (Nome) and Chris Olds (Eagle River)	Polaris	38:06:28	$12,000
5	Todd Palin (Wasilla) and Scott Davis (Soldotna)	Arctic Cat	39:25:09	$10,000
6	Chad Gueco (Anchorage) and Tyson Johnson (Wasilla)	Ski-Doo	40:25:32	
7	Archie Agnes (Tanana) and Arnold Marks, Jr. (Tanana)	Polaris	41:19:17	
8	Bob Jauhola (Fairbanks) and Tommy Kriska (Fairbanks)	Ski-Doo	41:34:22	
9	Bob Gardner (Maine) and Dave Hammond (Maine)	Ski-Doo	44:09:51	
10	Brian Dick (Thief River Falls, Minn.) and Paul Dick (Grand Rapids, Minn.)	Arctic Cat	45:15:36	
11	Todd Minnick (Wasilla) and Nick Olstad (Wasilla)	Polaris	49:36:14	
12	Lee Harrison (Wasilla) and Charlie Potter (Wasilla)	Polaris	50:44:32	
13	Kelly Sommer (Nulato) and Harold Warner (Galena)	Polaris	52:42:34	
14	Steven Boney (Bethel) and Arthur Laraux (Bethel)	Yamaha	57:01:19	
15	Rusty Goodman (Palmer) and Lawrence Jones (Anchorage)	Polaris	57:24:24	
16	Mike Swiantek (Wasilla) and Randy Gravatt (Island Park, Idaho)	Arctic Cat	59:10:32	
17	Jeremiah Jones (Denver, Colo.) and Robbie Muir (Anchorage)	Ski-Doo	60:04:35	
18	Harold Attla (Fairbanks) and Archie Beetus (Hughes)	Polaris	61:13:29	
19	Howard Darling (Anchorage) and Justin Robertson (Anchorage)	Polaris	61:37:01	
20	Jana Peterson-Pevan (Willlow) and Carl Swenson (Big Lake)	Arctic Cat	61:37:46	
21	Joseph Brantley (Selawik) and Frank Ferreira (Noorvik)	Polaris	65:47:27	

12





Strick, Strick

Polaris

Robert Strick, Wasilla, AK

Robert Strick, an Alaska Native raised in McGrath, AK, is married to Noel Strick. They have four children and two nieces they have helped raise; Alice, Helen, Forest, Richard, Gabby and Emma. Team Strick is running the Iron Dog in memory of their uncle Richard C. Strick Jr. Richard, also an Iron Dog finisher, passed away in an avalanche while breaking trail for the Iditarod. Robert is an avid outdoorsman who enjoys spending time with his family.

Rookie

Steffen Strick Jr., McGrath, AK

I am a lifelong Alaskan who takes every chance possible to be in the woods with family. I have been on a snowmachine since I can remember and racing the Iron Dog has been a dream of mine since the first time I volunteered for the race when I was 12 years old. I have one beautiful daughter, Grace Lynn.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Community of McGrath, Grandma and Grandpa Magnuson, Strick Family, MTNT, Susie's Iditarod Trail Café, Tanana Air, Pen Air, Motorfist, Stud Boy, Big Lake Powersports, B&H Furs, Chinook Printing, McGrath AC, PayDirt Excavation, Alaska Avalanche School



13





Moore, Croy

Arctic Cat

Jason Moore **Wasilla, AK**

I've been married to Tara for 12 years. We have a spunky 2-year-old daughter, Lucy, and another girl on the way. I happily work at Wasilla Middle School as an assistant principal. The middle-school age kids definitely keep me on my toes. When I am not working, I spend my free time doing the things I love with my wife and family. I enjoy snowmachining, snowboarding, skydiving, and wrenching on James' sled.

Rookie

James Croy **Wasilla, AK**

I have many diverse hobbies including skydiving and teaching skydiving. I enjoy hunting/shooting sports and riding my motorcycles on the street and in the dirt. One of my favorite pastimes is teaching Jason, my race partner, to fix his snowmachines in the middle of nowhere with a rubber band, Leatherman and plug wrench.

Rookie

Sponsors:

NesQuik, Motorfist, Arctic Cat, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Morrison Auto Group, Bill's Distributing, Scott Sports, Oakley, Leatt, Ambience Photography, Haignere Racing, Tony Webster, Captain Grrrr, Moore and Croy families, and all of our friends who have helped us along the way. All Seasons Family Health Center, Race For The Wounded, Big Bear Dist., Outdoor Guides Alaska (OGA), Adventure Operations Group, Rick & Leah Morrison

14





Attla, Wallace

Polaris

Harold Attla, Fairbanks, AK

I'm a lifelong Alaskan, originally from Hughes, Alaska on the Koyukuk River. My children are Austin, Harrison, and Avionna. I like hunting, snowmachining, boat racing the Yukon 800 Marathon, hiking high country, internet and watching NASCAR. I'm racing to honor my children and our family name. My son Austin is in the U.S. Navy achieving his dream of becoming a submariner. *Veteran*

Ashley Wallace, Tanana, AK

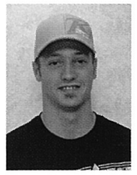
Ashley enjoys traveling, fishing, hunting, spending time with family and friends, springtime riding, and boating. Dreams of traveling to attend a Formula 1 race or Super Bowl someday.

Rookie

Sponsors:

American Mechanical Inc., Eagle River Polaris Arctic Cat, McKinley Polaris, Daniel Hayden(Air support), Bifelt's, Boots Newman, Alaska Tent & Tarp, People of Hughes, Orville Williams, Tyler Huntington. Special thanks to parents Alfred and Helen Attla

10





Morgan, Olds

Polaris

Mike Morgan, Anchorage, AK

Mike was born and raised in Nome and currently lives in Anchorage, having spent all of his 26 years here in Alaska. Mike enjoys taking advantage of Alaska's outdoors, hunting and fishing, traveling, and hanging out with friends and family. Mike works construction as a Welder/Pipefitter out of the Local 367 Union. This will be Mike's fourth Irondog race and second with current teammate Chris Olds.

Veteran

Chris Olds, Eagle River, AK

I enjoy camping, four wheeling, hunting, fishing, mountain biking, and spending time with my family and friends.

Veteran

Sponsors:

Polaris Industries, Monster Energy, Klim, Walker Evans Racing, Big Lake Powersports, Local 367 Union in Anchorage Alaska, Northern Powerline Constructors Inc., Anchorage Sheet Metal, Q-Trucking, Stan Morgan, Northern Air Cargo, Bering Air, Nome Community Center, Fine Line Interiors, Stud Boy, Morgan Enterprises, Xtreme Nutrition, Alwayz Graphyk, ARC Welding, Aurora Health Care Clinic, Emmons Mechanical, Glacier Autoworks, Lead Dog Helmet Light, High Performance Engineering, Christy Hedrick, Jeremy Hanson, Ginny Emmons, Micah Straughn, Christine Olds

11





Palin, Davis

Ski-Doo

Todd Palin, Wasilla, AK

Todd is a lifelong Alaskan married to Sarah with five children - Track, Bristol, Willow, Piper and Trig. Two grandchildren also graced the Palins - Tripp and Kyla Grace. Todd, who with his family, is a self-employed Bristol Bay commercial fisherman. Todd is a former North Slope Production Operator in Prudhoe Bay. He enjoys everything Alaska.

Veteran

Scott Davis, Soldotna, AK

Scott has lived in Alaska for 51 years and is married to Regina. He has owned Davis Block and Concrete for 35 years and raised two great kids, Cory and Carly. Scott enjoys touring on motorcycles, riding the powder, spending time at his cabin, and watching his kids compete.

Veteran

Sponsors:

Compeaus Ski-Doo, Team CC Ski-Doo, Alaska Mining and Diving, Alaska's Evinrude Dealers, Davis Block, Petro Marine Services, AMES Research, Stud Boy Traction Products, Goodwin Performance, Alaska Underground Specialties, Zugger Shocks, L&M Supplies (Dillingham), Al Palma, Ron Davis, Mike Tope, Renton Coil Springs, Kelly and Associates, Squire Creek Golf Club, Ryznar Industries, Anchorage Drag Bike, Fine Line Interiors, Smart Wool and Motorfist Gear





Record registrations and team diversity

Iron Dog is experiencing a never before seen influx of top competitors from all over

The 2013 race roster is nothing short of spectacular. Organizers say it reflects the diversity of the people of the state and illustrates the cultural-bridging nature of snowmachine racing. For 2013, 40 Pro Class teams with 80 racers have registered to challenge the 2,031 miles from Big Lake to Fairbanks. These racers are mostly Alaskans, but the roster has been bolstered with more rural Alaska involvement and involvement from teams in the Lower 48 or outside the U.S.

"I think it's cool we have such a diversity of riders so that Iron Dog appeals to everyone," says Kevin Kastner, Iron Dog's executive director.

Alaska Native Arthur "Gux" Laraux of Bethel is back for a second run with teammate Steven Boney, also of Bethel, riding Yamaha. Laraux needed little convincing to give Iron Dog a second go.

"I had a wonderful experience last year and had so much fun," Laraux said. "It was just a real adventure to experience and there's such wonderful people out there that just made it a lot more fun to come back and give it another year, everyone out there from the volunteers to the fans."

Laraux and Boney placed 14 as rookies with a successfully completed race, and, as Boney is a Yamaha dealer in Bethel, did so riding their Yamaha four-strokes. For 2013 they'll be sticking with their brand.

"I just adapted to the Yamaha really easily," Laraux said, "and while everyone else was trying to save fuel we didn't have to worry about fuel or add any oil with the four-stroke."

Six members of Team Maine Racing will be rolling into town for Iron Dog this year. Among them is the 2011 Cain's Quest champ, Robert Gardner, who rides Ski-Doo. Having





6





George, George

Polaris

Andy George, Wasila, AK

Andy is married with four boys and enjoys hunting, working and the river.

Veteran

Brad George, Wasilla, AK

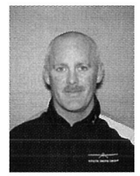
Born and raised on the river, enjoy's all power sports, hunting, fishing and camping.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Mr. Lube Inc., Alaskan Auto Inc./ Napa, South Port Marina, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Polaris Industries, Inlet Petroleum, George Trabits, Hilltop Recycling, TCI, Ak Goldstar, Rain-X, Niteshift Janitorial, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Design Graphics, ADB, McIntire & Sons, Brad Bell, Zugger Shocks, RCS, Walker Evans, Unch Racing, Motor Fist, Scott Eyewear

7





Brown, Kubitz

Polaris

Bret Brown, Anchorage, AK

Bret was born in Oregon and has lived in Alaska since 1974. He has flown the Iron Dog race for the last seven years. Bret works for FAA as an Air Traffic Controller. His hobbies include spending time with his girlfriend, Shirley, and any activity that is outdoors such as flying, hunting, fishing and hiking.

Veteran

Cody Kubitz, Eagle River, AK

A lifelong Alaskan, Cody grew up enjoying many outdoor activities. His successes come on and off the track, with several Top 5 semi-pro cross-country finishes. Although this will be his first Iron Dog, he has supported various Iron Dog race teams since 2005. Cody is currently working at the FAA as he builds a career in aviation.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Kinetic Drone Group, Schiebel Camcopter S-100, Bad Water Brewing, Alaska Permanent Capital Management, Klim USA, Stud Boy Traction, Falls Brand Independent Meat Company, Big Lake Powersports, Eagle River Polaris, Grip-N-Rip Racing, Baja Designs, Trail Tank, Copper River Seafoods, Hattenburg Dilley & Linnell, Hi-Res Graphics, Skwentna Roadhouse, McGrath Hotel, Keira Dreher Group, Going Gear, C&T Construction, Matt Medinas, Paul Hughes, Tyler Gurley, Frankie Harris, Rob & Johnny Hutchison, Shirley & John Cleaver, Zoe Brinker, Matt Spernak, Chris Olds, Steve Munroe, Bert Wagnon, Jason Roth, Russ & Becky Painter, Kenny Kleewein, Ellis Smith, Doug Dixon, Pat Reilly, Ron Davis, Sid Huntsman, Jennifer Baumgartner, Gordon Allen, Timmy Daw, Kenny Holmberg, Bryce Hattenburg, Brady Schultz, John Wilson, Mike Thomas, Clifford Johnson, Alvin Williams, Kubitz family, and our sponsor Shirley.

8





Johnson, Aklestad

Ski-Doo

Tyson Johnson, Eagle River, AK

Tyson was born and raised in Alaska. He is a multi-finisher of the Iron Dog with top finishes being 2nd in 2009 and 2007. Tyson works full time as a union journeyman sheet metal worker for H&K Sheetmetal Fabricators. He enjoys fishing, boating, working out, hiking, mountain biking, hanging out with friends and spending time at his parents fishing lodge, Northwoods Lodge.

Veteran

Tyler Aklestad, Plamer, AK

I've grown up and lived in Alaska my whole life. I enjoy riding dirt-bikes, fishing, flying, hunting and all that Alaska has to offer with my fiancé, Erin, and dog, Sherman.

Veteran

Sponsors:

Team CC, Naniq Global Logistics, Alaska Spine Institute, Glacier Auto-works, Rockstar Energy Drink, IBEW Local 1547, Ski-doo BRP, North-woods Lodge, H&K Sheetmetal Fabricators, Stud Boy, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, RPM Composites, Fineline Interiors, Formula XPS Oil, Lead Dog Helmet Light.

9





Huss, Lowrie

Arctic Cat

Micah Huss, Willow, AK

Micah was raised in Alaska and enjoys hunting, camping, flying, being with family and friends, and all motor sports.

Rookie

Dan Lowrie, Phoenix, AZ

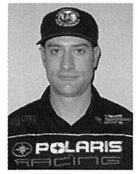
Dan enjoy hunting, fishing and spending time with his children.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Pace Pacific, Action Sign and Graphics, A-1, Anchorage Suzuki Arctic Cat, Arctic Cat Sales Inc, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Blue Sky Designs, Christine Harrington, Cliff Johnson and Family, Complete Extreme Race Team, Drake Construction, Elete Water, Erica Cleaver, FLY Racing, GU Sports, Gueco Racing, Holtzman Engineering, Husky Enterprises, Judy, Ronnie, Ayden, & Kaitlin Huss, Leon Shellabarger, Makwa Builders, Mark Carr, Mr. Lube, Ottworks Custom Paint, Renton Coil Springs, RV Sports, Speedwerx, Team Arctic Alaska, Tony & Lisa Haugen, Turnagain Hi-Lites, Unch Schuerch Racing, Western Powersports, Woody's Traction Control, Zugger Shocks

2




Sottonsanti, Zwink

Polaris

Ryan Sottosanti, Wasilla, AK

I have lived in Alaska for 22 years. I work for Last Frontier Mechanical out of the Local 367 Plumbers Pipefitters Union. I have a beautiful wife named Heather and a 4-year-old little girl named Faith. I enjoy spending time with my family and friends. Also in my spare time I enjoy snowboarding, wake boarding, stand up jet skis, golf, fishing, running my jet boat, hunting big game, working on my toys, fabricating, and welding.

Veteran

Andrew Zwink, Wasilla, AK

Andrew is a lifelong Alaskan who grew up in the outdoors. He started his quest on the Iron Dog glory in 2008 and this year will be his fifth Iron Dog. He currently works as a truck driver in remote Alaska. When he's not working he spends his time working on sleds, or enjoying the Alaska outdoors with his family and a close circle of friends. He is known for his friendly personality and to always be looking towards the horizon for new adventures.

Veteran

Sponsors:

UA Local 367, Teamsters Local 959, NEESER Const, Last Frontier Mechanical, Polaris Industries, Alaska Regional Council of Carpenters 1281, Big Lake Powersports, Prizim Helicopters, Alaska Specialty Equipment, Mat Su Dental, Baileys Rental, Klim Sledware, Independent Lift Truck, Interstate Batteries, Walker Evans Racing, Stud Boy, General Mechanical, Fine Line Interiors, Alaska Plumbing and Heating and Design Graphics. Special thanks to Frankie Harris, Al Sottosanti, Carl Dixon, Byron Flippin, Pete Nolfie, Rob Spear, Mike Kistler, Heather Sottosanti, Lynnette Carrier, David Zwink, Ian Zwink, Ben Zwink and Sara Zwink and all the families that help us each year along the trail and everyone else that has helped over the years.

3




Wilkes, Wold

Arctic Cat

Bill Wilkes, Wasilla, AK

"Hard work pays off!" I work, ride, hunt, fish and make sure I'm the best father my girls could ask for. That's all folks!

Veteran

Wayne Wold, Wasilla, AK

Married to the baddest ass wife you could ask for, have three hotrod children and a dog.

Veteran

Sponsors:

Wilkes Quality Floors, AAA Fence, GCI, Fine Line, Specialty Truck & Auto, Granite, Motorfist, Stud Boy, Gene Lamay Fab, Zugger Shocks, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Grams

4




Dow, Kruse

Ski-Doo

Chad Dow, Fairfield, ME

I have been snowmobiling since 8 years old, and have ridden many miles through Maine and Canada. I competed in the Rock Maple Sno X series throughout New England and also competed in Cains Quest in 2012. I enjoy stock car racing as I have been involved in auto racing for 16 years as a crew member and driver. I enjoy hunting and also working in my shop.

Rookie

Chris Kruse, Skowhegan, ME

Chris is a resident of Skowhegan, ME with his wife Tracey and two sons. He's the owner and operator of Bridgeside Marketplace in Norridgewock, ME. Chris enjoys snowmobiling, flying, hunting, and coaching football and baseball.

Rookie

Sponsors:

Coutts Brothers Inc., Innovative Specialties, Bridgeside Market, Sport Shack Ice Shacks, Chase Toys, Grip N Rip, Lake Parlin Lodge, Suntower Suites, Klim, Trail Jesters, Ski-Doo X-Team, Dysarts, Waste Management, Maine National Guard, Gordon Contracting, Fort Kent Ski-Doo, Lincoln Powersports, AE Robinson, ZBros Racing, RPM Composites, Monster Performance, Curve Industries, Fly Racing, Katahdin

5




Chvastasz, Hopson

Polaris

Ray Chvastasz, Wasilla, AK

Ray is a lifelong Alaskan, married to Debi, and has three kids; Jake, Gavin and Emilie, and a dog, Gus. He likes to hunt, ride sleds, coach the kids' hockey and spend time with the family.

Rookie

Jens Hopson, Anchorage, AK

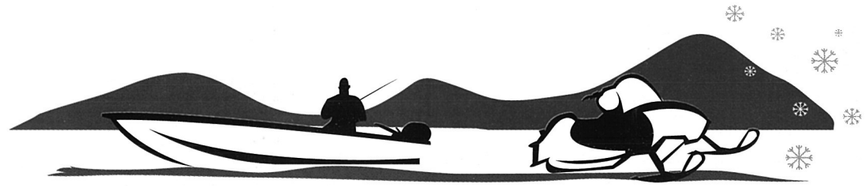
A born-and-raised Alaskan, Jens is married to Joanna Hopson, has two kids, Eden Jade and Andrew Jens, and enjoys hunting, hiking, fishing, riding snowmachines and family time.

Rookie

Sponsors:

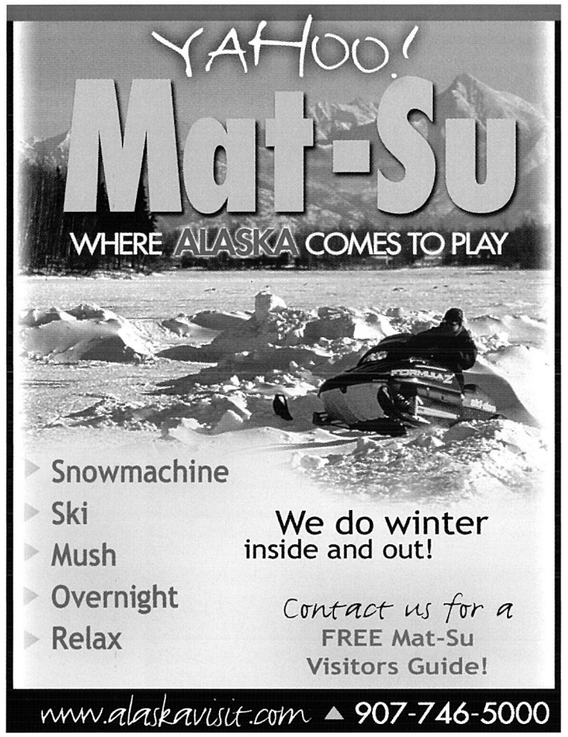
ASRC Energy Services, Hatchers Pass Polaris, Check Six, Klim, Light Force, Magtec Alaska, Mechanical Specialist Inc., Stud Boy, Big Lake Powersports, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Fine Line Interiors, Valley Moving and Storage, special thanks to Ron Kuzina, Kurt Makenzie for air support and Joey Thorpe

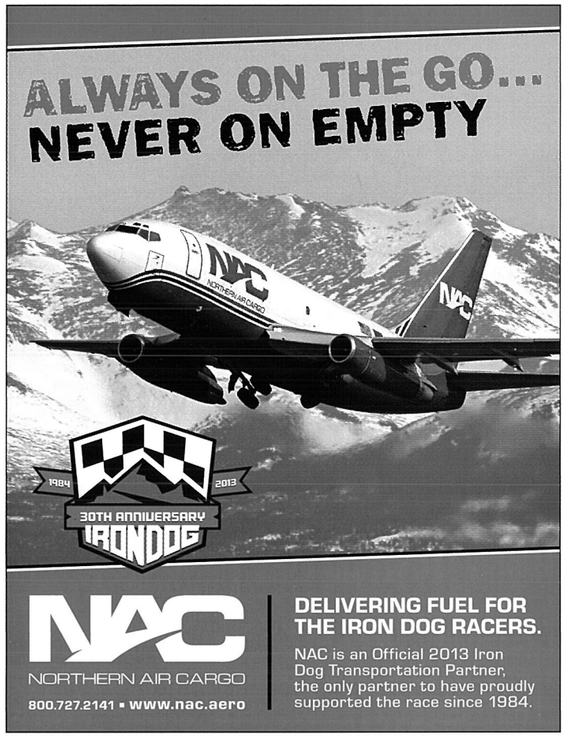




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had a great first experience in Iron Dog last year, he too will be tackling Alaska's backcountry for a second time.

"After we won Cain's Quest in 2011 it seemed liked a natural progression to go race Iron Dog," said Gardner.

He and teammate David Hammond completed a successful race in 2012 and Gardner knew he'd be back.

"With Cain's Quest off for 2013 I probably would have been back to Iron Dog no matter what, but it certainly made it a lot easier to have had the experience of

"We'd rather crash and be out then just to say we finished."

Robert Gardner, Team Maine Racing

meeting the people along the way that were unbelievably helpful and nice and just couldn't go out of their way enough for us," said Gardner. "We felt like frickin rock stars."

Now riding with Chad Jones, Gardner is aware Iron Dog experienced unusually fair weather last year. Having been in terrible conditions during Cain's Quest, he says he's ready if things take a turn toward the worse but plans "to ride as hard as he can no matter what."

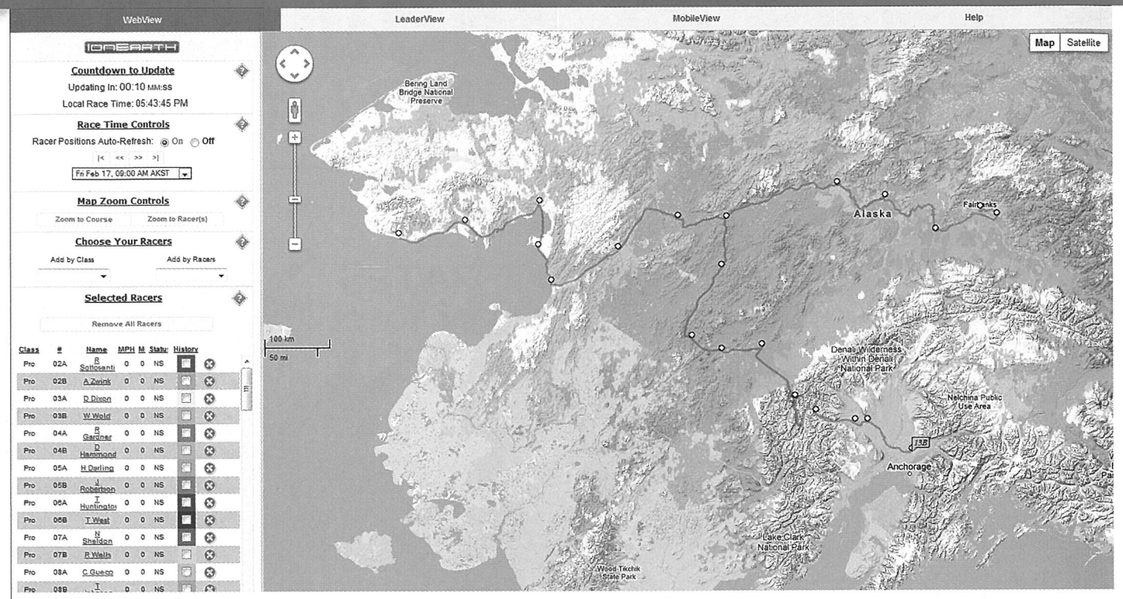
"Two of our three teams will have that same competitive mindset where we'll just ride hard and if we crash we crash, if we break we break; we're not really going to care," he said. "We're not going to play that conservative, gotta make it through to the end kind of mindset. We'd rather crash and be out then just to say we finished."

Team Maine will be racing cross-country in New York and the I-500 in Minnnesota on their way to Alaska for Iron Dog. The journey will incorporate trucking a caravan of family members and a couple of plane flights to pull off all that racing.

Other racers come from Maine, Minnesota, and two from Canadian provinces. According to Kastner, the astounding team turnout and diversity is the direct result of enhanced media coverage and positive race experiences over the past couple of years. Rural teams, seven in all, are also gaining more support from Native corporations.

And, it didn't hurt the numbers that so many racers finished last year, many are coming back for another run.





SOURCE: IRON DOG

Bringing it home

GPS tracking puts fans in the driver's seat

The map, in the real world, equates to a lot of unforgiving Alaska backcountry.

WEBSITE, BLOG, FORUM and Facebook updates are great, news broadcasts too, but one could argue that it was the invention of GPS tracking that helped Iron Dog fans rediscover their passion for this monumental snowmachine race. In the past, racer's positions where not officially known until they reached a checkpoint. Even then the information would have to be called or radioed in. By the time the information reached fans, it was old news, unless, of course, all the racers were held up at checkpoints or trying to weather a storm. It's almost hard to imagine why anyone would take much interest in a race they couldn't even watch. Luckily, the times have changed.

Each team member, and that includes Trail Class riders, now carries a GPS transponder. Their nearly exact location is continuously analyzed by satellites, and then passed to the system engineers at Ion Earth. All with the magic of computers and software, the racer locations are saved to a database that feeds information to the tracking website, www.irondog.org.

A brief look at Ion Earth's map and the list of racers puts the entire 2,000-plus miles of racing into perspective. All racers are listed and can be sorted by name or team number. Their current speed is available as well as the time since their last location was made available. The data is neat, but the true beauty of GPS tracking is the fact that each racer's location is marked on a map.

For the past few years fans have finally been able to keep an eye on their favorite team, their family member or friend, as the entire string of racers wind their way across the map, which in the real world equates to a lot of unforgiving Alaska backcountry.

The one thing that must be kept in mind is that the GPS tracking location does not correspond to a racer's standing in the race. Each team is turned loose in succession, not at the same time. Their place is based on the time it takes them to get from point A to point B, not who is physically in the lead. That said, if you see one team pass another that had been turned loose earlier in the lineup, unless the passing was caused by a choice in layover location, you've got some excitement on your hands. Likewise, a team sitting still for a length of time might be in trouble or suffering from a mechanical problem.

So, use GPS tracking wisely as it was intended, a tool to help fans stay connected with the action. As for the actual results of that action, keeping tabs on Iron Dog's regular website and Facebook posts is the only way to go.

I SEE
THE LINE
WHERE OTHERS SLOW DOWN.



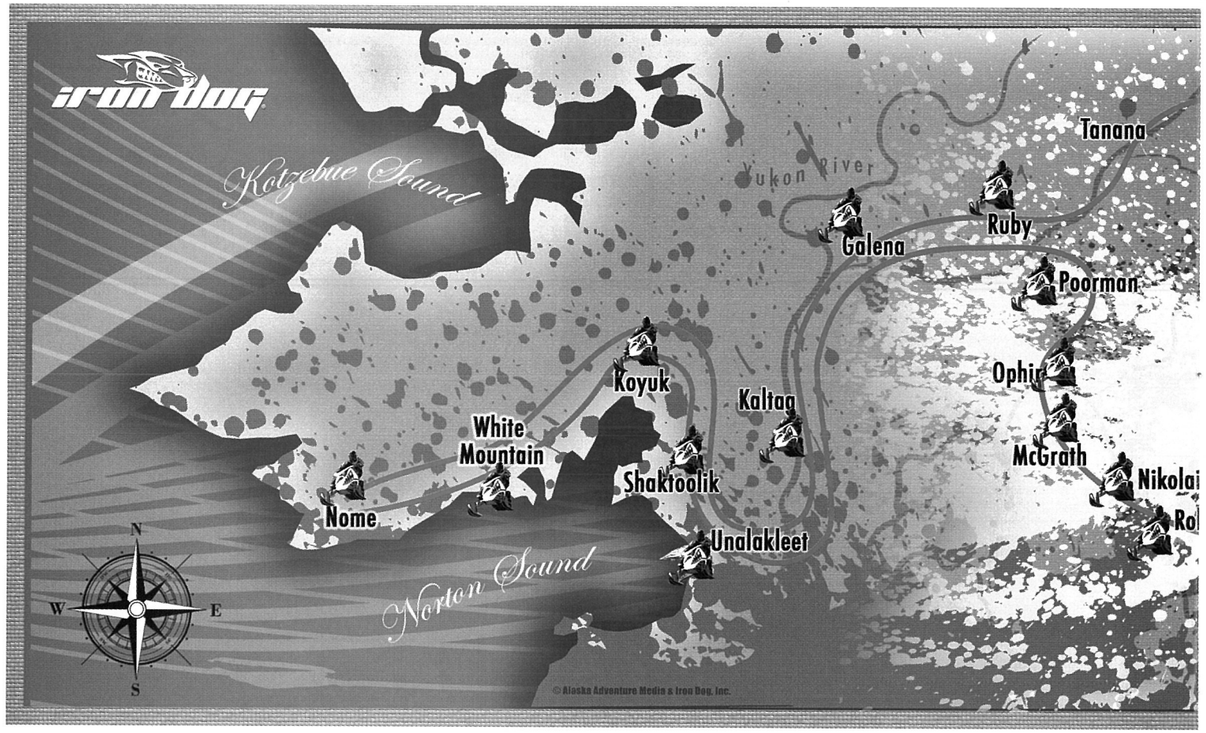
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COURTESY IRON DOG

1984 • First Iron Dog Race Called the "Iditarod Iron Dog Classic"
• Due to warm weather the race was from McGrath to Nome.
• 15 Teams raced for a purse of $20,000
• John Faeo & Rod Frank, First Place win $8,500
• Average Speed, 35mph

1985 • Race name changed to "Gold Rush Classic"
• Race route Wasilla to Nome, 1,049 miles.

1987 First woman, Melinda, to enter the race with husband, Doug Lyman

1988 John Faeo and partner Dan Zipay win their third straight Iron Dog race.

1989 • Doreen Long, the first woman to cross the finish line in trail class with husband Bill.
• Lowest number of Race Class entrants, 7 teams.
• First race to start in Nome.
1990 First husband and wife team compete, Bill and Doreen Long.

1993 • Race route changes from Wasilla to Nome to Wasilla doubling miles, 2,098
• Five time Iditarod Champion, Rick Swenson, enters the Iron Dog with partner Pat Delia.

1994 $50,000 first place prize money.

1996 With partner Bob Gilman, John Faeo takes his seventh first-place finish.

1997 First all female team enters, Lisa Luther and Laura Carr.

1998 Race route changes to include Fairbanks, Wasilla to Nome to Fairbanks, 1,971 miles.

1999 Largest amount of participants entered, 122.

2000 First all-women's team to cross the finish line, Jackie Page and Missy McClurg.

2002 Race cancelled due to warm temperatures and poor trail conditions.

2003 • Race route flipped, starting in Fairbanks to Nome to Wasilla.
• First time a Ski-Doo Team crosses the finish line in first place.

2004 • Race route changed, Wasilla to Nome to Wasilla
• First Rookie in a pro class team crosses the finish line in first place, Nick Olstad.

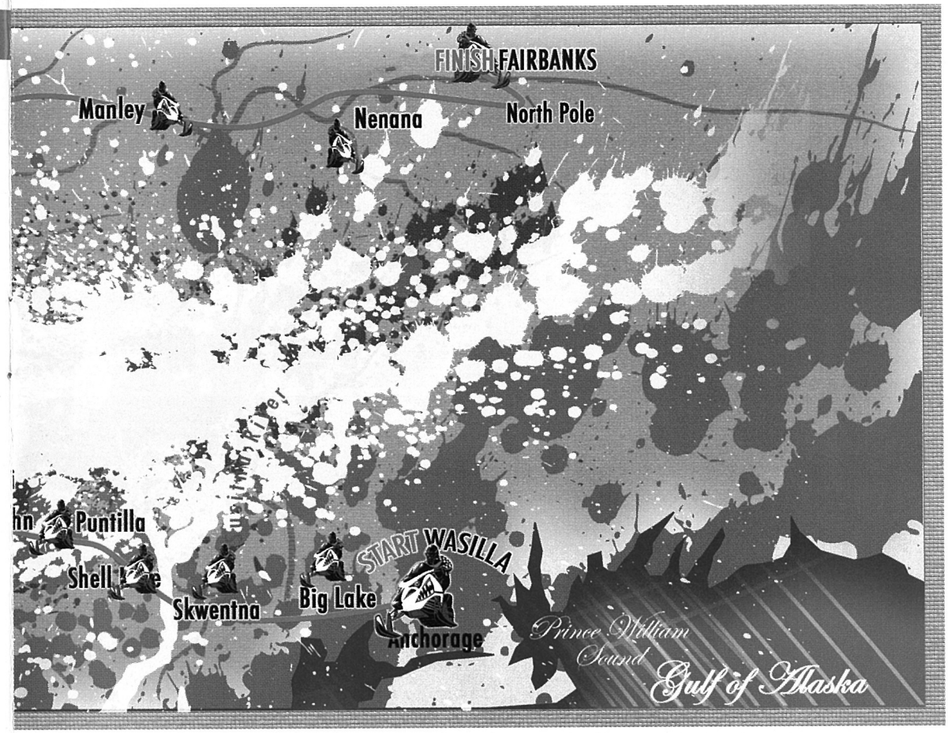
2007 Scott Davis ties John Faeo with seven championships.

2008 • Record number of Pro Class Race Teams, 40; Rookies Teams, 23; Lower 48 Teams, five.
• Largest race purse, $165,000

2009 Todd Minnick and Nick Olstad win the race in 37 hours, 19 minutes and 8 seconds.

2011 Race route extended to 2,031 miles and North Pole added as a checkpoint.

2012 Dusty VanMeter and Marc McKenna win with a record course time of 35 hours, 39 minutes, and 56 seconds.



Northbound

Big Lake to Skwentna	79
Skwentna to Shell Lake	17
Shell Lake to Puntilla	55
Puntilla to Rohn	75
Rohn to Nikolai	74
Nikolai to McGrath	52
McGrath to Ophir	63
Ophir to Poorman	99
Poorman to Ruby	72
Ruby to Galena	52
Galena to Kaltag	98
Kaltag to Unalakleet	95
Unalakleet to Shaktoolik	41
Shaktoolik to Koyuk	57
Koyuk to White Mountain	94
White Mtn to Nome	75
Northbound Mileage	*1,108*

Southbound to Fairbanks

Nome to White Mountain	75
White Mtn to Koyuk	94
Koyuk to Shaktoolik	57
Shaktoolik to Unalakleet	41
Unalakleet to Kaltag	95
Kaltag to Galena	98
Galena to Ruby	52
Ruby to Tanana	120
Tanana to Manley	69
Manley to Nenana	110
Nenana to North Pole	77
North Pole to Fairbanks	35
Total Mileage	*2,031*



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$100 entry fee includes:

- continental breakfast before the ride
- WOW goody bag
- limited edition t-shirt
- entry for door prizes, costume contest and silent auction
- Post ride Lunch

February 23rd 9:00 am at Freddie's Roadhouse Mile 16 Caribou Hills

5th Annual Wild & Wooly Contest

For more information, contact Kathy Lopeman at 283-7602/398-4853 or the Central Peninsula Health Foundation at 714-4626.
You can also print a registration packet from www.givingheals.org.

Central Peninsula Health Foundation · central peninsula hospital · SnowRider · POLARIS The Way Out.

100% of the funds raised support Kenai Peninsula cancer patients

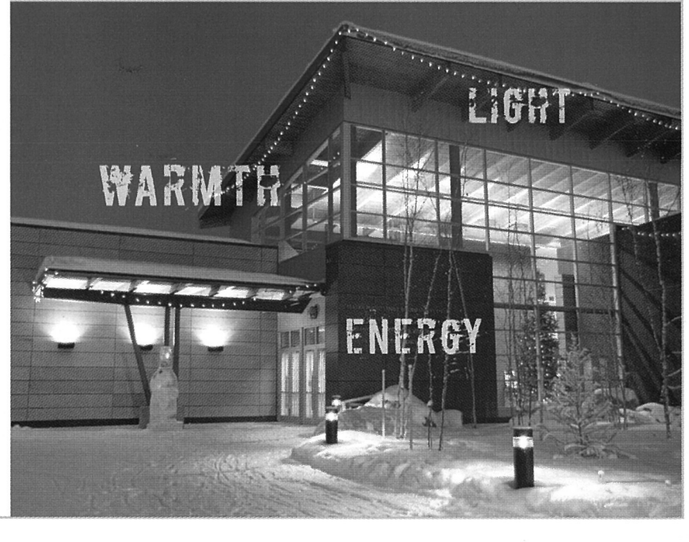
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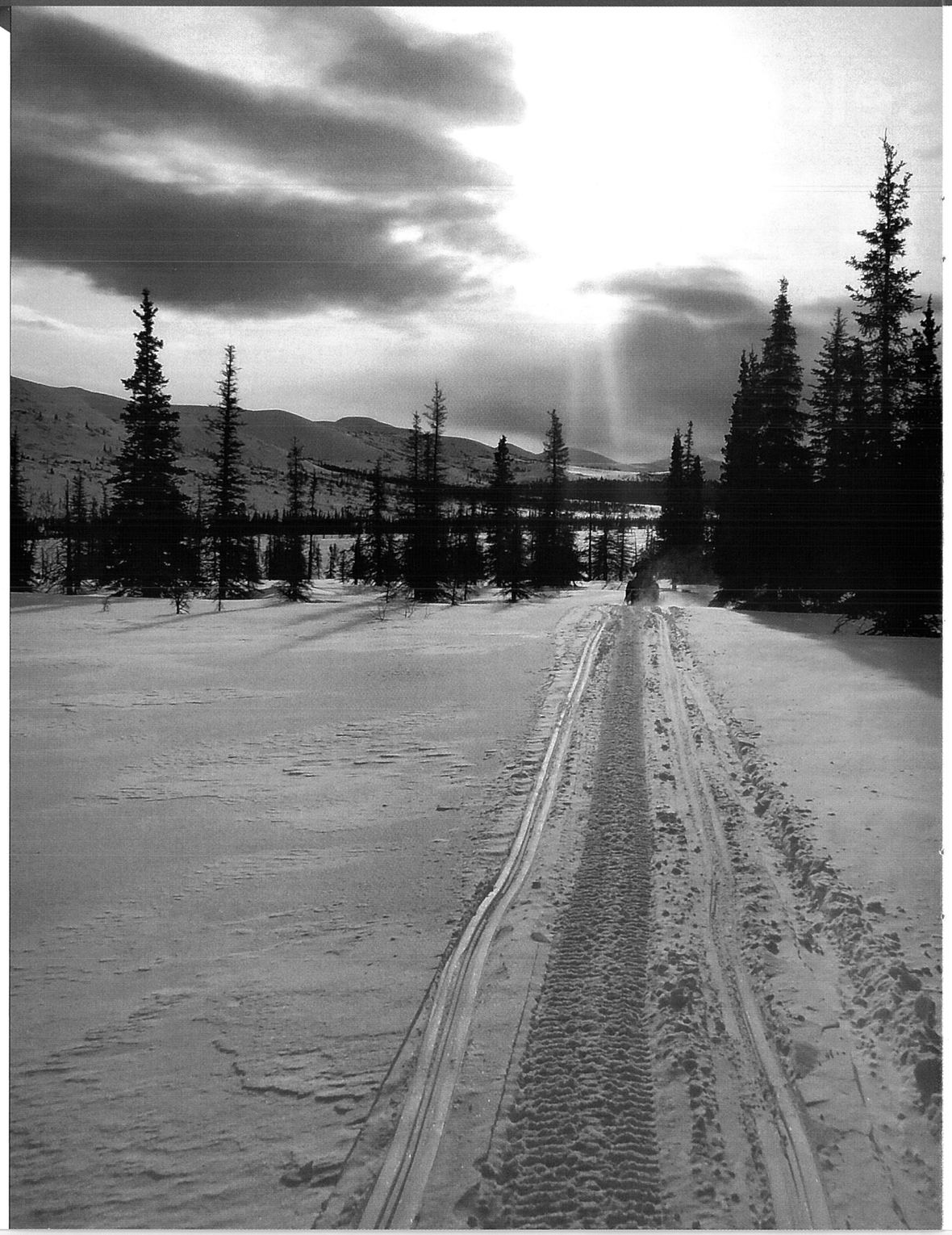
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FEBRUARY 9
Curtis Menard Sports Center
Wasilla, Alaska
Donlin Gold Safety Expo, Tech Inspection and Racer's Drawing Banquet
Doors Open to the Public:
10 a.m. – 3 p.m.
Mandatory Racer's Meeting: 5 p.m.
Drawing & Hall of Fame Banquet: 6 p.m.

FEBRUARY 15
Southport Marina,
Big Lake Power Sports
Big Lake, Alaska
Trail Class Start
9-11 a.m.

FEBRUARY 16-17
Big Lake, Alaska
Big Lake Winter Fest
All day festival during the Iron Dog weekend. 10 a.m. – midnight

FEBRUARY 17
Southport Marina,
Big Lake Power Sports
Big Lake, Alaska
Pro Class Start
Setup: 7:30-9 a.m.
GPS Install/Pit Line Up: 10 a.m.
Ceremonies: 10:30-10:45 a.m.
Race Start: 11 a.m.

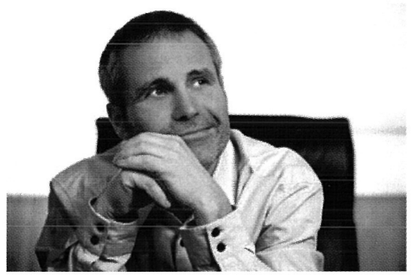
FEBRUARY 20
Nome National Guard Armory
Nome Halfway Ceremonies
Buffett Dinner: 6 p.m.
Awards and Ceremonies: 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 23
Downtown Fairbanks
Race Finish
First team arrives approximately 1 p.m.
Podium Photo Opportunity: 3 p.m.
Race Finish Winds Down: 4:30 p.m.

FEBRUARY 23
Pike's Landing
Fairbanks, Alaska
www.pikeslodge.com
Awards Ceremony and Reception
Pike's Waterfront Lodge
Cocktails: 6 p.m.
Awards: 7 p.m.

FEBRUARY 23
Lights Out Party:
Pike's Landing Bar Until 2:30 a.m.
Chill Out:
Pike's Waterfront Lodge,
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The long run

Teams battle elements,
2,000 miles of Alaska's backcountry

By Justin Matley

The Iron Dog race start will once again be held at Southport Marina on Big Lake where spectators will find ample parking on and off the ice and easy access to the festivities. The most noticeable change comes in the form of a larger, longer race chute to accommodate the growing number of spectators who turn out annually to cheer the racers off on their quest.

The start experience includes music, interviews with racers, food, and team preparations before the racers tear through the corridor of cheering fans and across the lake.

Watching the start from home will be made possible by KTUU Channel 2, which will provide live race coverage at the start, on the trail and at the finish.

From Big Lake the course travels through remote checkpoints at Skwentna, Nikolai, Poorman, Unalakleet and Nome. Pro Class racers leave Nome to visit Tanana, Manley Hotsprings and North Pole on their way to Fairbanks. Mandatory layovers are required at these and other checkpoints. However, this year teams have been given greater freedom for where and when they take those layovers. This ensures they all get adequate rest, yet gives teams more room to strategize. The flexibility is also meant to keep teams from being forced to push on to specific layover locations. Weather, daylight or mechanical issues can now be managed the way teams want.

Of course, as always, teams are released from the start in sequence. This means that even though a team may appear on GPS tracking to be ahead on the trail, they may in fact be behind other racers who covered the same ground faster. This is another factor taken into account when teams choose to take a layover or push on.

They don't call Iron Dog the longest, toughest snowmobile race for nothing. The toughness comes from enduring deep snow, whiteouts, frozen rivers, trenches, open water, sometimes bare ground, and every racer's nightmare, the kidney jarring tussocks. The length is unmatched.

Since 2011 the course has stretched over 2,000 miles. The additional mileage was the result of routing the course around Fairbanks on the Tanana River, through Fort Wainwright Recreation Area, through North Pole, to the Corps of Engineers flood project. They eventually enter the frozen Chena River from the opposite direction as in previous years.

Now in 2013 the same route will continue, having provided for a better finish in downtown Fairbanks. The Corps of Engineers flood project also proved to be a great place for spectators to watch racers cruise toward the finish line.

At the end of the day when all racers are accounted for, Iron Dog hosts the awards ceremony at Pike's Waterfront Lodge. Again, TV and other media will be there to cover the action and keep fans posted on the final results of this magnificent test of rider skill, endurance and snowmachine engineering.

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NORTHBOUND LAYOVER LOCATIONS AND TIMES

Up to four layovers will be required during Northbound racing. Three layovers will be fixed at eight hours each and a flexible layover at six hours for a Northbound total of thirty hours. The flexible layover may be used on its own or in combination with one of the fixed eight hour locations listed by or before Kaltag. Layovers must be taken in any one of the listed locations and regions as follows:

- Northbound Layover #1: Skwentna or Puntilla or Rohn or McGrath
- Northbound Layover #2: Ruby or Galena or Kaltag
- Northbound Layover #3: Unalakleet or Koyuk or White Mountain
- Six hour flexible Layover: Skwentna or Puntilla or Rohn or McGrath or Ruby or Galena or Kaltag

SOUTHBOUND LAYOVER LOCATIONS AND TIMES

Two layovers will be required during southbound racing. Both layovers will be fixed at ten hours for a southbound total of twenty hours. Layovers must be taken in any one of the listed locations and regions as follows:

- Southbound Layover #1: Koyuk or Unalakleet or Kaltag
- Southbound Layover #2: Galena or Ruby
- Tanana Hold: A hold in Tanana will ensure racers finish on the same day.

NOME ARRIVAL AND RELEASE PROCEDURES

All participating Pro Class teams must arrive in Nome by 11:59 p.m. on the fourth day of the race, Wednesday. The Nome restart is scheduled for the morning of the fifth day, Thursday. Any Pro Class team that does not arrive into Nome within the required time limit is automatically scratched.

RACE RESTART

The halfway release will begin at 8 a.m., Thursday morning.

- Teams 1-5 will be released on their actual trail split times not to exceed 45 minutes apart. After the release of the fifth team there will then be a 30 minute break.
- Teams 6-10 will then be released on their actual trail split times not to exceed 30 minutes. After the release of the tenth team there will be a 15 minute break.
- Teams 11-15 will then be released on their actual trail split times not to exceed 15 minutes. After the release of the fifteenth team there will be a 10 minute break.

The remainder of the teams will then be released on their actual trail split times or every 10 minutes whichever comes first. Course Times will reflect any Nome work times and time adjustments.

DID YOU KNOW?

The first Iron Dog was known as the Iditarod Iron Dog Classic, ended in Nome, and was won by John Faeo and Rod Frank riding Polaris with a time of 23:50.

Iron Dog is a **family tradition**. After thirty years, Iron Dog's first champion, John Faeo, will be flying cover for his two sons, John Jr. and Scott, riding Polaris, during their rookie race this year.

Today's **record time** is 35:39:56 set by Marc McKenna and Dusty VanMeter just last year on their Ski-Doos.

McKenna and VanMeter's record time was set on the new **2,031-mile course**, but their time also topped leading times for the previous 1,971-mile and 2,000-mile courses.

Compared to the first Iron Dog at 1,049 miles and a winning time of 23:50, McKenna and VanMeter's 2012 race was nearly double the length, yet only took 1.5 times longer to complete. They averaged **60 miles per hour** for the duration!

John Faeo and Scott Davis are tied for the most wins with seven each and they **never once rode together**.

Northern Air Cargo has been providing continuous support to Iron Dog since the beginning.

In 1987 the **first woman** to enter the race, noncompetitively, was Melinda Lyman who raced alongside her husband, Doug.

13 Wins on Polaris

10 Wins on Arctic Cat

3 Wins on Yamaha

2 Wins on Ski-Doo

In 1990 Bill and Doreen Long were the **first husband and wife team** to race competitively.

In 2003 the race was **cancelled** for the first time due to warm weather and poor conditions.



Snow Warriors



IBEW Local 1547 is proud to support the 2013 Iron Dog.

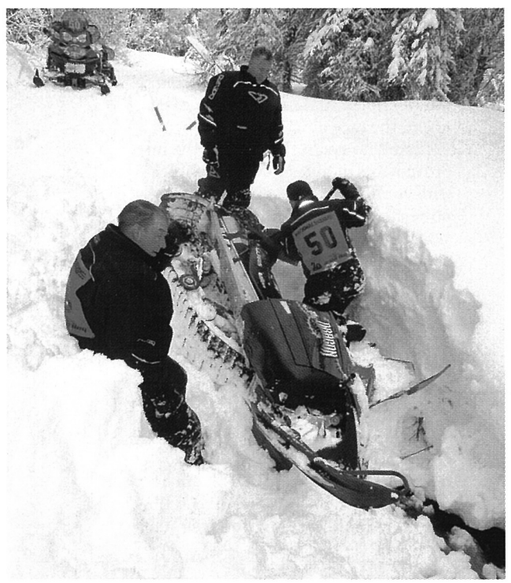
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RACE ROUTES OVER THE YEARS

Year	Route	Mileage
2011–Current	Wasilla – Nome – North Pole/Fairbanks	2,031
2006–2010	Wasilla – Nome – Fairbanks	1,971
2005	Wasilla – Nome – Wasilla	2,000
1998–2004	Wasilla – Nome – Fairbanks	1,971
1993–1997	Wasilla – Nome – Wasilla	2,000
1984–1992	Wasilla– Nome	1,049

"I think Iron Dog developed out of a group of people with the idea for this challenge, a challenge among friends," said Kastner. "That remains fairly the same today. It's stayed the same in the sense that that's still a big reason for people to come, the challenge. Sort of like, why do people climb Mount McKinley? Well, because it's there."

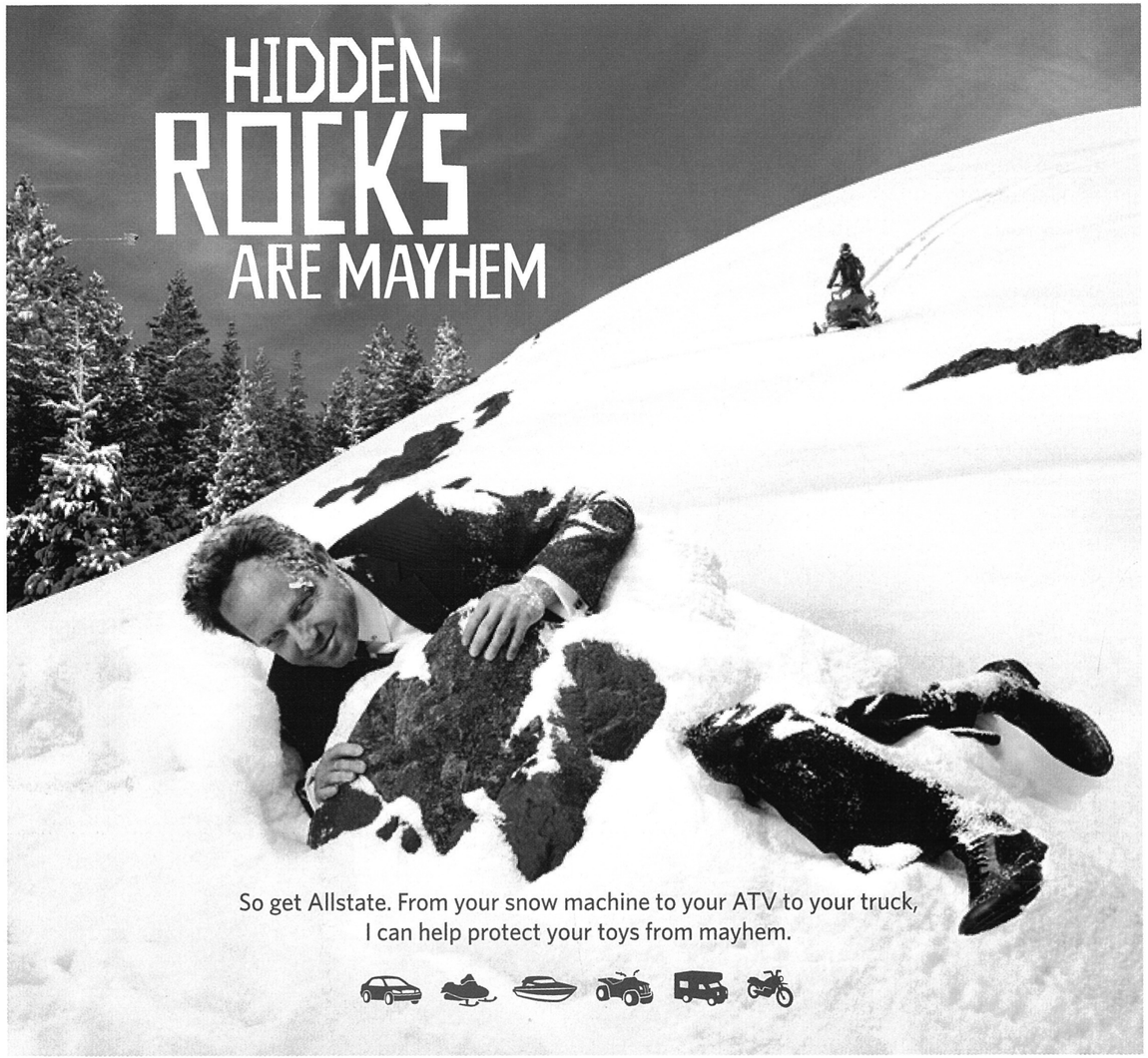
Kastner added that though many aspects of the race have changed over the years, its essence remains the same, calling on riders to use their physical abilities, navigation skills and mechanical acuity to cross one of the most unforgiving landscapes on the planet.





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Orion Safety Products	$2,000	Big Lake Power Sports	$2,500
KLIM USA	$1,000	Guardian Flight	$500
ABC Motorhomes	$1,800	EMC Engineering, LLC	$500
Pike's Landing	$500	Donlin Gold	$10,000
Rookies Finish Line Challenge	$20,000	GCI	$1,500
LEAD-DOG Helmet Lights	$500	Certificate for Free Entry in the 2014 Iron Dog Race	$5,500
Polaris Industries	$3,000	Bering Sea Lions Club in Nome	$3,000
Arctic Cat	$9,000	City of Nome	$5,000
Ski-Doo	$9,000	Kiska Metals	$1,000
Skwentna Roadhouse	$1,000	2013 Contingency Prize Total	$84,800

iron dog NATIONAL GUARD

Not all dollar amounts represent a cash price. In said case dollar amounts represent the prize's cash value. Scan QR code or see website for details. irondograce.org/prizes





to 2,031, but also added another community to the route and made it easier to end the race downtown.

There's no doubt that despite the improvements of today's snowmachines with comfortable riding positions, powerful motors and improved suspension, Iron Dog will still put man and machine through the paces. Racing over 2,031 miles of bone shaking, pride swallowing, extreme terrain – in the middle of winter no less – is enough to make any rider cash in their chips at the nearest checkpoint.

And no matter what happens, we'll be able to see it in real time through media coverage and online tracking. Observation of the world's, longest, toughest snowmachine race has increased by 300 to 400 percent over the last few years according Iron Dog staff.



IRON DOG'S CHAMPIONS

Year	Racers	Machine	Time
2012	Marc McKenna & Dusty VanMeter	Ski-Doo	35:39:56
2011	Chris Olds & Tyler Huntington	Polaris	37:38:09
2010	Chris Olds & Tyler Huntington	Polaris	41:04:09
2009	Todd Minnick & Nick Olstad	Polaris	37:19:08
2008	Eric Quam & Marc McKenna	Arctic Cat	42:33
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	52:59
2004	Mark Carr & Dusty VanMeter	Ski-Doo	39:03
2003	Race Cancelled		
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	Scott Davis & Mark Carr	Arctic Cat	38:30
1998	Scott Davis & Mark Carr	Arctic Cat	44:47
1997	Scott Davis & Mark Carr	Arctic Cat	61:08
1996	John Faeo & Bob Gilman	Polaris	38:44
1995	Todd Palin & Dwayne Drake	Polaris	58:24
1994	Dan Zipay & Evan Booth	Polaris	71:38
1993	Scott Davis & Bill Long	Arctic Cat	58:36
1992	Dan Zipay & Evan Booth	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	40:12
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

30 years and stronger than ever

By Justin Matley

"You've got to be willing to go out there and take some chances."

John Faeo, inaugural Iron Dog champion

THREE DECADES OF RACING has proven that Iron Dog has the long-term support of the adventurous men and women in the snowmachine community. Competitors come for many reasons: adventure, tradition, to seek the prize money, or simply to test their abilities. No matter the reason, since the very beginning Iron Dog, much like Alaska itself, has been best suited for the strong at heart.

Just ask John Faeo, Iron Dog's first champion of the inaugural race in 1984 with teammate Rod Frank. Their race route was 1,049 miles long with a finish time of 23:50. Covering the course in less than a day was challenging to say the least.

"You've got to be tough, that's for sure," says Faeo. "You've got to be willing to go out there and take some chances."

He cautions rookie racers that "it's a no man's land out there," solid white, often with nothing for perspective.

For years Iron Dog racers relied on a compass and sectional charts to help them find their way. Today, preprogrammed GPS units help racers stay on course so they can focus on riding harder and faster while staying safe.

Today's clothing has added a new level of safety, too. Faeo won in Levis, wool pants and a nylon bib. You didn't want to get too sweaty in that, but there was little hope of staying dry. Early racers worked hard to break trail. Machines of the day allowed just four to five inches of suspension travel and only limited traction by today's standards. Faeo's 1984 Indy Trail 440 carried him to victory but the machine's limitations made deep snow a dreaded challenge and hindered race progress.

"We were constantly leap-frogging and taking turns breaking trail because no one guy could break away," Faeo says. "There was no feasible way. It took a series of bodies out there to plug along and punch the trial open because even the villagers back then couldn't commute as far and easy and that's what we rely on today, the local village traffic routes."

Today's machines perform better and have made travel easier across bush Alaska. Faeo would rather ride 2,000 miles on a new snowmachine than 1,000 on the old one.

Though the new machines have made the ride less challenging, the longer course has brought the current race on par with the old one.

For almost ten years the course was just over 1,000 miles long, but in 1993 length was doubled to 2,000 miles. In 1998 the course was rerouted to Alaska's second largest city, Fairbanks, altering the mileage to 1,971 miles.

The most impressive course change since then was in 2011 when race organizers routed teams through North Pole and then into Fairbanks from the east. This not only pushed the mileage

Iron Dog leads in philanthropy

Bringing people together and supporting good causes across Alaska

By Justin Matley

ALONG WITH the fast moving men and machines, the Iron Dog has become a leader in promoting charitable giving and raising cultural awareness throughout the great state of Alaska.

"The Iron Dog, especially in the last few years, has become much more than a race because there's the Urban Rural Student Exchange program to add some cultural balance to this and also what we're doing with our charitable partners to use this as an avenue to do some charitable giving in the community," says Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner.

The exchange program is unique to the racing community, giving young students the opportunity to not only be involved with the race but to travel around the state and share their community and culture with one another.

Young people often serve as volunteers in villages through which the race passes. Their hands-on involvement includes just about any task that requires their assistance including working with the timers, maintaining signage and setting up fencing, They also have fun learning about race logistics and the value of volunteerism.

"We put them in roles of responsibility and especially over the last couple years we've seen that it really helps with their self-esteem," says Kastner. "We had one student that was checking badges and he got so excited about it that his comment after the race was that he might want to be a police officer. He got a little taste of authority, and he thought that was fun. It gave him some ambition."

Another benefit to the program is the travel. Students are given the opportunity to visit remote villages or come to the city.

"They're learning about resource development, subsistence lifestyle, learning about the cost of living and energy costs," Kastner says, "so there's a lot of practical learning about hunting and trapping and a cultural exchange."

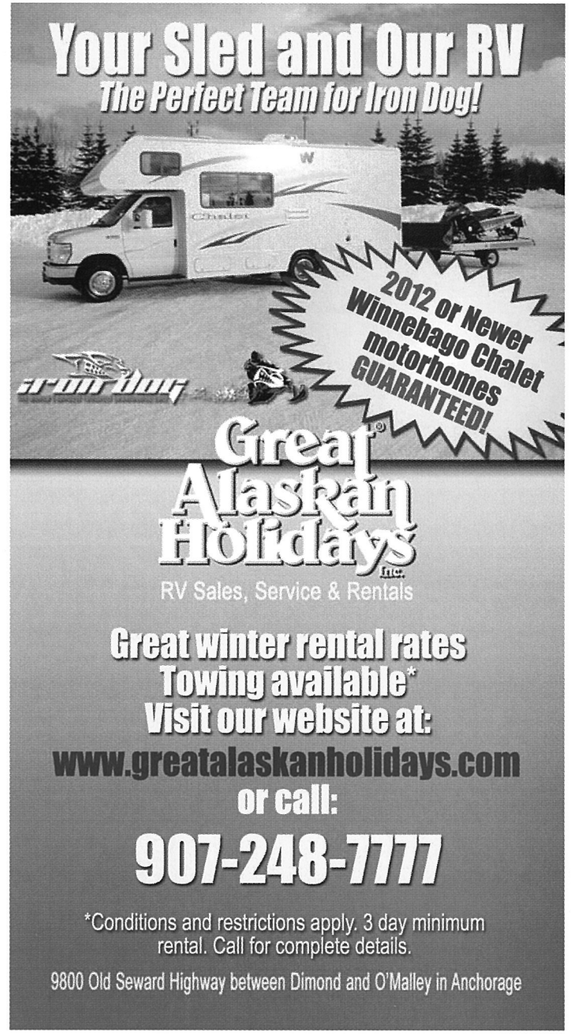
The hope is that this experience will help students understand the wide cultural gap that exists between urban and rural Alaska and help them become well-rounded, critically thinking Alaskans. Iron Dog plans to expand the program to include more schools in the future.

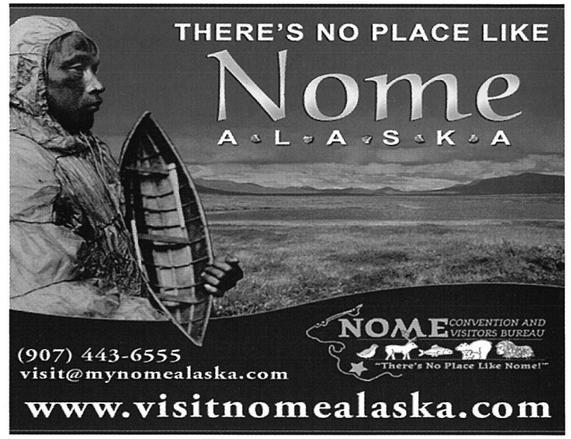
Iron Dog also supports Armed Services YMCA. "We're benefitting in several ways, through advertisements to get our name out there and proceeds from raffle tickets we're selling," says Mari Jo Imig, executive director for Armed Services YMCA.

A full-size pickup, snowmachine, trip to Hawaii, ride-along with an Ice Road trucker and other prizes will be raffled off to help Armed Services YMCA make military life easier. They focus on junior enlisted and families with a food pantry, on-base transportation, daycare services, services to help kids stay close to their parents when deployed, and over 30 programs in all for military members.

"This is a great partnership," says Imig. "I know our National Guard works with Iron Dog and has for years, and we support our National Guard so it's a great partnership and we're excited to be chosen and look forward to a continued relationship with Iron Dog."

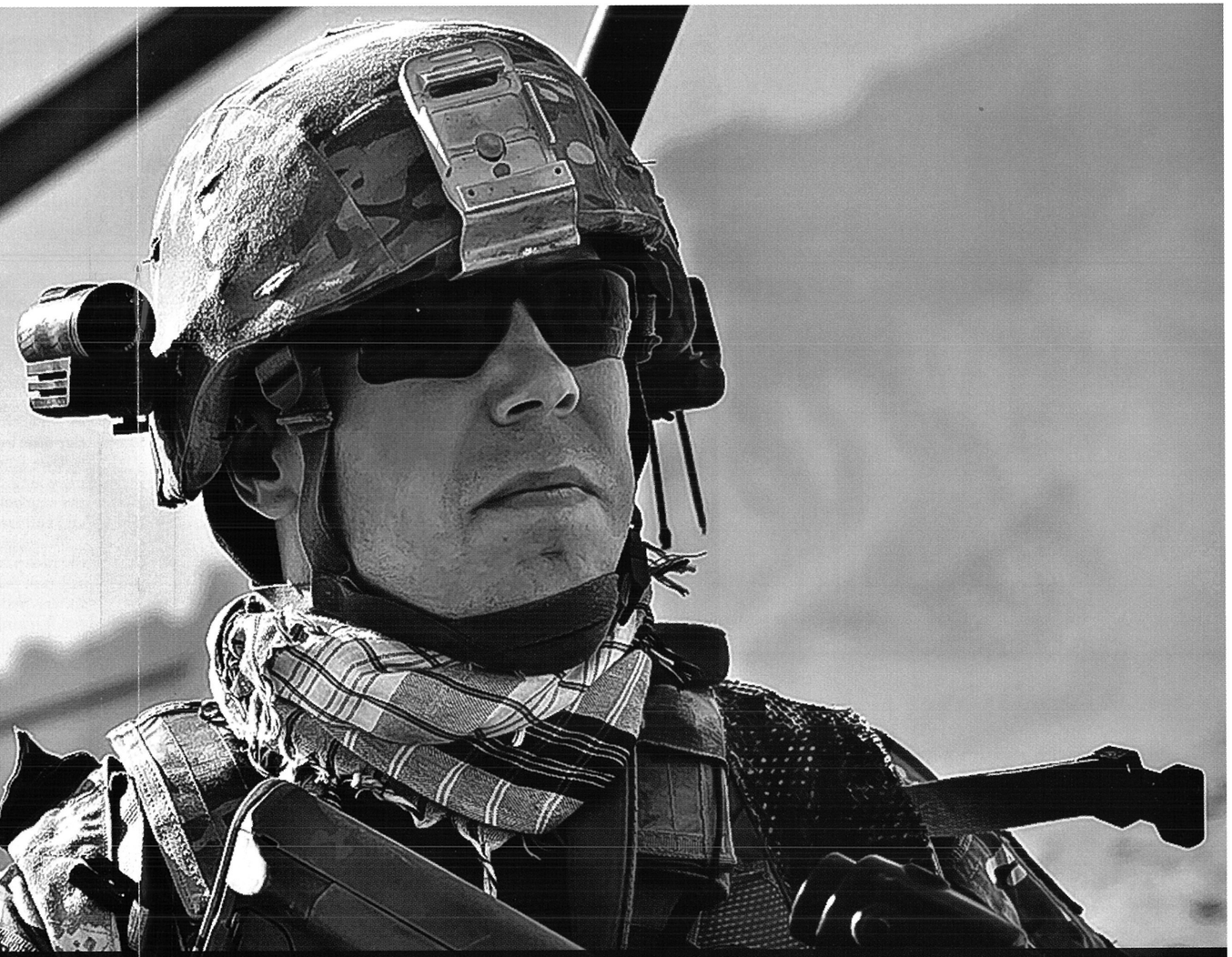
Further details and sponsorship information for Iron Dog's charity and philanthropy programs can be found online, www.irondog.org.





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