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2015 OFFICIAL RACE GUIDE

FEBRUARY 20 - 28 • IRONDOG.ORG

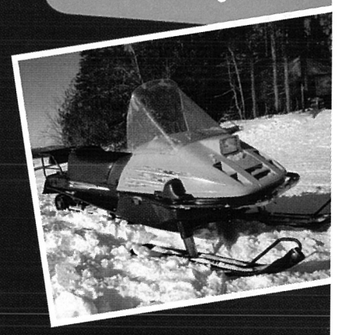


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Valdez ALASKA

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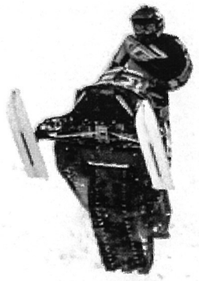
FEBRUARY 14-16, 2015 - Ice climbing in Keystone Canyon and beyond by day. Music, prizes, slideshows and fun by night. Big Ice, Big Fun!

MAYORS CUP

MARCH 14TH - A 200 mile cross-country snowmachine race.

WOUNDED WARRIOR POKER RUN

MARCH 28TH, 2015 - A 13-mile groomed snowmachine course open to everyone including families, kids and beginners.



TAILGATE ALASKA–SNOWBOARD WORLD FREERIDE CHAMPIONSHIPS

APRIL 3-12, 2015 - The foremost backcountry free-ride event that hosts the World Freeriding Championship. www.worldfreeridefestival.com.

SNOWKITE FESTIVAL AT THOMPSON PASS

APRIL 3-12, 2015 - Speed-riding and paragliding athletes from around the world demonstrate acrobatic skills & compete for prizes. Snowkite instructional training available & demos for spectators.

MOUNTAIN MAN SNOWMACHINE HILL CLIMB

APRIL 17TH-19- This is the 25th anniversary Valdez Mountain Man Hillclimb. Event takes place in Thompson Pass, just north of Valdez on the Richardson Highway, where snowmachiners attempt to cruise up a 1,700-foot slope to reach the top in winning time. This is a spectator-oriented event with high-stakes action. SPONSORED BY THE VALDEZ SNOWMACHINE CLUB.

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GOOMY ANDERSON

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PHOTO BY: HEATHER SOTTOSANTI • VETERAN IRON DOG PRO CLASS RACER RYAN SOTTOSANTI & DAUGHTER FAITH

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*Team Sponsors: **Alaska Financial Co.**, Bilan Chiropractic, Lisa Guillory - Residential Mortgage, Team CC, Alaska Safety Wasilla, Klim, Seldovia Wild Puppy Love Dog Treats, Northwoods Lodge.*



MARK JOHNSON

AGE: 53 / **FROM:** Palmer
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo Renegade

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan. I have been riding sleds most of my life and spend as much time as I can riding the mountains and glaciers around Alaska in the winter. As a spectator, I have enjoyed following family members who participated in the Trail Class as well as Team 8 in the Pro Class. I'm looking forward to my own Irondog experience with Team 80 "Ice Agers."

RACING EXPERIENCE: Rookie

Sponsors: Marilyn Johnson, Stacy George, Eric Johnson, Tyson Johnson, John and Val Zentz, and the rest of the Johnson clan.



MARC PRATT

AGE: 37 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo Renegade X

BIO: Marc and his amazing wife, Chanel, have lived in Anchorage for the last 13 years where they spend their time chasing around their two beautiful daughters, Isabella and Sophia. Working as a wildlife biologist, Marc has been privileged enough to see vast swaths of Alaska. He can't imagine a better way to see the wilderness, villages, and remote areas between Big Lake and Nome than on the back of a trail demonizing Ski-Doo, screaming down the Iron Dog Trail.

Sponsors: RE/MAX Dynamic Properties, Ostler Transportation, Chanel-Isabella-Sophia Pratt, family and friends, Joe and Heather Miller, and Honey Bee McLeod.



CHARLES PRESTON

AGE: 31 / **FROM:** Chugiak
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo Renegade X

BIO: I grew up in Homer and spent the summers commercial fishing in Prince William Sound. My folks picked me up a new 1996 Tundra II, and dad and I would ride the Caribou Hills whenever conditions allowed. That Tundra experienced more air than its suspension was designed for. The dream of running the Iron Dog started back then, following the race in the newspaper. Today, I'm blessed with my bride of seven years, Jessica, who loves snowmachining and four-wheeling with me, as well as Eden, Justice and one on the way. Between kids and playing outside, our days are rounded out fellowshipping with our church family at Eagle River Grace.

Sponsors: Jessica Preston, doTERRA

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*Team Sponsors: **Hatcher Pass Polaris**, Team CC, Bedard Brother's Racing, K.E. Bergeron Mechanical Systems, Knights Auto Body, Deckadence by Jaimie Kierstead*



RANDY BEDARD

AGE: 52 / **FROM:** Willow
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo Backcountry X

BIO: Adventure and snowmachines are my passion. My parents purchased our first Polaris sled in 1971. This is my seventh adventure on the Iron Dog Trail. I have been employed in the snowmobile industry since 1986. I am employed at Hatcher Pass Polaris Willow as the store manager. I am an avid vintage sled rider.

RACING EXPERIENCE: I raced my first XC race in 1981. First snow cross in 1982. My first Iron Dog Trail Class ride 1989. I served as an Iron Dog Board Member in 1990 and 1991. I participated in the 1994 Iron Dog Snowmobile Congress ride. I raced the 2014 I-500 XC Veteran Vintage on a 1981 Polaris 340 TXL- 2nd place.

Sponsors: Thank you to all the Iron Dog volunteer's at the start line, along the trail, and at the finish line! Special thanks to Korey Cronquist and John Faeo.



DANIEL G. BEMBENEK

AGE: 54 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo Summit Everest
RACE HISTORY: 1999, Finished.

BIO: I've been an active, all-around outdoorsman all my life, both quiet and motorized. I started all that in Minnesota where I grew up on the same street with Randy Bedard. We've partnered up on many an expedition over the years, and our weekend rides are generally cross country throughout the Susitna Basin.



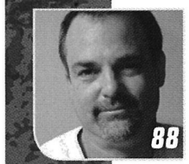
KIM BERGERON

AGE: 46 / **FROM:** Dublin, N. H.
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo XRS

BIO: Avid Snowmobiler since 1996, first visit to AK in 2001, hooked on riding the extreme.

Racing Experience: Rookie

Sponsors: Bergeron Mechanical Systems



JAIMIE KIERSTEAD

AGE: 47 / **FROM:** Dublin, N.H.
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS

BIO: I like snow. I've been riding for as long as I can remember. I'm a first-time racer. So I decided go big or go home: Big Lake to Nome.

Sponsors: Deckedance by Jaimie Kierstead, Nancy Kierstead, Soheagan Valley motorsports, The Kierstead family.



THOMAS KNIGHT

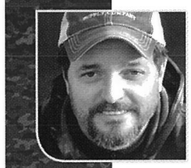
AGE: 46 / **FROM:** Dublin, N.H.
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo Renegade X-RS

BIO: I've been an avid snowmobiler for 35 years. This is my fourth tour in the Alaska Bush, and I'm looking forward to the personal challenge.

Sponsors: Knights Auto Body, Bergeron mechanical systems, Deckadence, Souhegan Valley MotorSports Milford, N.H.

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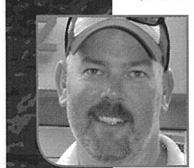


JIMMY GEE

AGE: 45 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Skidoo Freeride 800
RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: I live in Wasilla and have a 13-year-old daughter, Aurora Gee. I primarily work as a surveyor and as an Alaska registered hunting guide. I love the outdoors and everything Alaska has to offer.

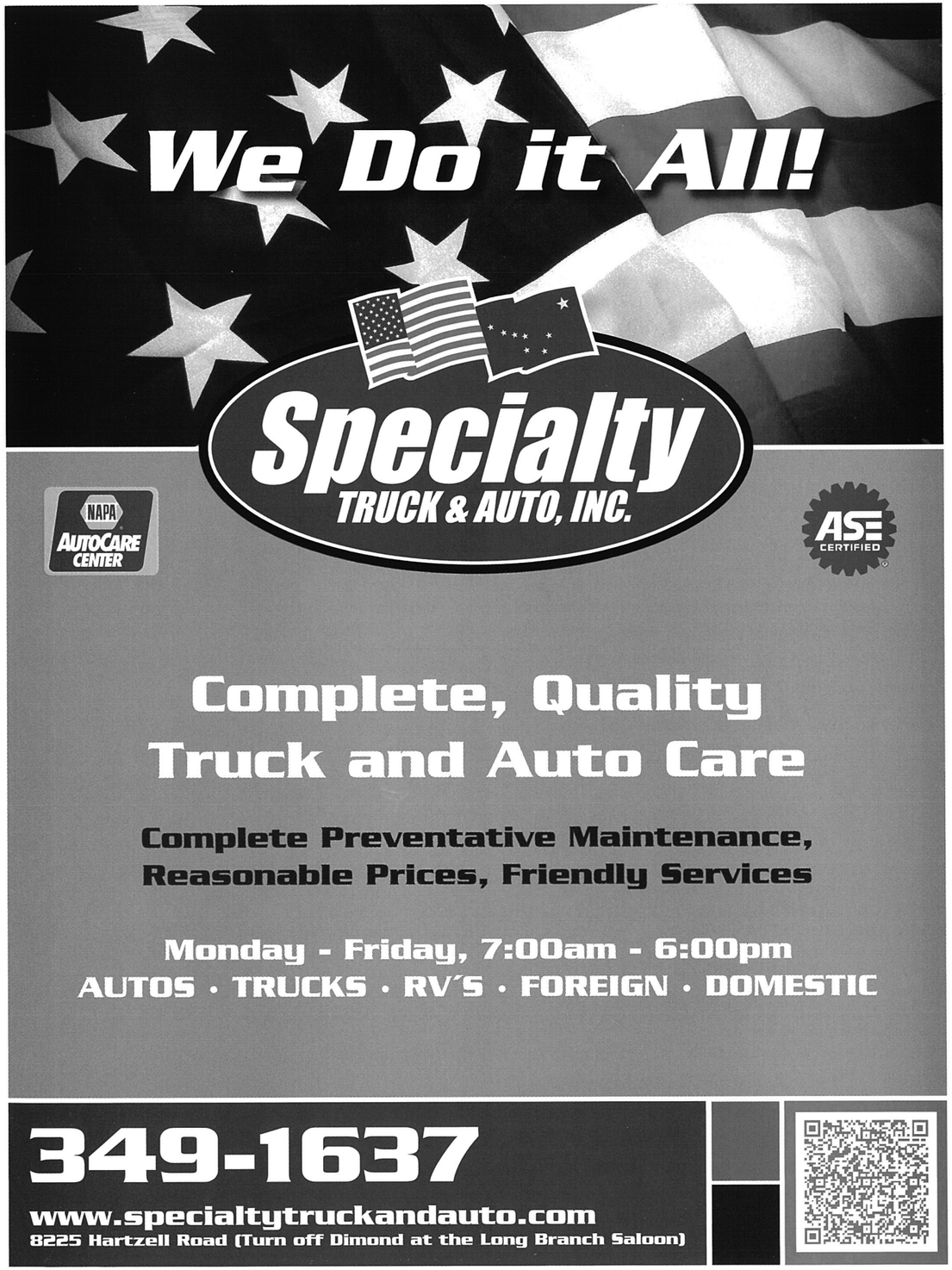
Sponsors: Bob Gee, Wilderness Surveyors, Jimmy Gee's Guide Service.



BRIAN WEBB

AGE: 41 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Indy
RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: I enjoy hunting, fishing, playing hockey, woodworking, and spending time with my family.



FROM IRON DOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS
JIM WILKE, PRESIDENT

Ultimate Test

In the fall of 1983, Bob Kowalke of Anchorage Cycle Sales called a meeting and a group of racers gathered in his office. Anchorage Cycle was the Alaska Yamaha distributor and the word had come from Yamaha Motor Corp. that they wanted to promote a long-distance race in Alaska. Yamaha had been organizing the I-500 from Winnipeg, Canada, to St. Paul, Minn., but they were looking for a new, tougher challenge to prove their product. Instead of a 500-mile race in highway ditches, they wanted to race at least 1,000 miles across the most rugged terrain on earth: Alaska.

Maps were spread across Kowalke's 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? Where would it start and finish? Bethel? Barrow? Nome? Could a route be found that was even feasible?

Eventually, the plan evolved: two-man teams racing over 1,000 miles from Wasilla to Nome with required fuel stops every 100 miles and mandatory rest. Over the years, there have been many changes. In order to avoid conflicts with the Iditarod, the first race didn't start until late March, which proved to be too late in the spring. The next year, the date was moved to mid-February. The route has also changed a number of times. In 1993, the race ran round trip from Wasilla to Nome, and the length was doubled. In 1998, the finish line was moved to Fairbanks for the first time. One thing has stayed the same all those years: The Iron Dog is the ultimate test of man and machine.

This year will mark our 32nd event, and for the first time, we will start in downtown Anchorage. More than 100 racers will 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 is the longest, toughest snowmobile race in the world.

Jim Wilke, president
Iron Dog

FROM ANCHORAGE MAYOR
DAN SULLIVAN

Alaskan Perseverance



Dear racers, families, friends and visitors,

Welcome to the 32nd annual Iron Dog Race!

The Iron Dog has become a tradition that is synonymous with the Alaskan spirit of perseverance, strength and courage. Racers will venture across some of the most treacherous terrain in the world, through extreme weather and for distances that require tremendous endurance. They are challenges that remind us of the powerful nature that surrounds us and they are challenges that Alaskans have persevered through for generations. For over three decades the Iron Dog has reminded us of the nature of Alaska and the rewards that ensue when we dare to achieve the seemingly impossible.

This year, the Iron Dog's tremendous staff and the Municipality of Anchorage worked together to accomplish something that has never been done before—a Downtown start. This presented many logistical challenges, but organizers rose to the occasion, making it possible to bring the world's longest and toughest snowmobile race to the heart of Anchorage. The new Downtown start comes just in time as Anchorage celebrates its 100th anniversary this year. To further celebrate the momentous occasion, the Iron Dog team has added several first-time events, including the Flying Iron Freestyle Show and the Iron Dog Safety Expo at Cabela's. It's sure to be the best Iron Dog yet.

To all those visiting Anchorage, I hope you enjoy your stay in our beautiful city; to those who call Anchorage home, I trust you'll extend a warm welcome to our visitors and I hope you enjoy this special Centennial Celebration event; and to all of those competing in this year's race, I wish you safety and success in what is sure to be a rewarding journey.

Start your engines!

Mayor Dan Sullivan

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*Team Sponsors: **EMC Engineering**, Falldorf's Snowmobile Adventures, Evans Waterless Coolant.*



REBECCA CHARLES

AGE: 34 / **FROM:** Big Lake
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback Adventure

BIO: As a recovering competitive dog musher and 2014 trail class finisher, I have spent multitudes of time in the Alaska wilderness. I have an insatiable appetite for the peace of traveling through some of the most remote places of Alaska, and constantly crave the challenge of problem solving and survival in the Arctic environment. I began snowmachining in 2008 and became enthralled with Iron Dog in 2009. Since that time, I have worked tirelessly to hone my wrenching and riding skills to prepare for the unforgettable journey. Finishing the trek from Big Lake to Nome was one of the most amazing experiences of my life and I am officially addicted to the trail. I am also very excited to be coaching my 4-year-old daughter, this winter, in her first 120cc racing season. I am looking forward to my first season on a two stroke and can't wait to run Pro Class in 2016.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2014 Iron Dog Trail Class Finisher

Sponsors: KLiM, Brown Jug Warehouse, Life Family Chiropractic, Big Lake Powersports, AFT Trucking, Napa of Big Lake.



DENNIS FALLDORF

AGE: 60 / **FROM:** Ketchikan
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Sno Traveler

BIO: Dennis looks forward to reacquainting himself with the fine country and folks of the Iron Dog trail.

RACING EXPERIENCE: First place, every time I squeeze the trigger.

Sponsors: Falldorf's Snowmobile Adventures Iron Dog Racing, Curt's Pit Stop.



JAKE FALLDORF

AGE: 25 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris 800 SnoTraveler

BIO: Jake is a lifetime Alaskan and longtime rider. His father and teammate, Dennis, has been getting him out onto the snow since he was a small child on a Kitty-Cat going back and forth on the driveway. He recently graduated from Southern Oregon University with a major in political sciences. He hopes to one day use his education and knowledge of the Trail to be a different kind of politician.

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DAVID TILLETT

Team Sponsors: Northern Power Sports, Arctic Cat, Stud Boy Traction Products, Hi-Performance Engineering, FXR, Street Sounds

AGE: 40 / **FROM:** Fairbanks
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

Race History:

BIO: I arrived in Alaska over 15 years ago as a member of the military, but my wife and I realized right away that Fairbanks was going to be our home. When I'm not working to pay the bills I am taking full advantage of all that Alaska's great outdoors have to offer. My personal time is divided equally between my love for motorsports and the training of my search and rescue K9.

IRON DOG **TRAIL CLASS** 2015



JON TOLLEY

AGE: 40 / **FROM:** Fairbanks
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR6000 R XC

Race History:

BIO: I've lived in Alaska for almost 25 years now, and enjoy hunting, fishing, moto-x, four-wheeling and anything to do with sleds. I live for mountain riding and started my love for it with my Uncle Dave taking me out, first on trails and then mountain riding. I also value the time out hunting each fall with my dad; wouldn't miss it for anything. I have been a miner for the past 14 years; most at Fort Knox, with a short run at Pogo Gold. I've raced/competed on sleds for past seven years and have a close group of friends who help keep it competitive. I actually got talked into doing Trail Class by two friends running Pro Class; thanks Tony & Ryan :-). Go Team 36!

RACING EXPERIENCE: Mayor's Cup: 2011 Vet Pro , 1st place; 2012 Vet Pro 1st; 2013 Vet Pro 1st place; Eureka XC 2013 Vet Pro 1st place; Alyeska Motor Madness 2012, Vet Pro XC race 1- 1st place; Vet Pro XC race 2- 1st place.

Sponsors: Bank of Jon Tolley :-), Unconditional support from my wife for husband's adventures.

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*Team Sponsors: **BDO USA**, Alaska Foot & Ankle Specialists, Valley Upright Imaging, University Imaging Center, Klim*



ERIC CAMPBELL

AGE: 47 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo MXZ
RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished; 2014, Finished.
BIO: Partner in BDO USA, LLP.

Sponsors: BDO USA, LLP.



STAN JAMES

AGE: 38 / **FROM:** Palmer
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback Pro-R

BIO: I love my wife, Pam, and daughters Olivia, Kaydynce, Jadrian and Aurora. I enjoy snowmachining, hunting and all the adventures Alaska has to offer.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2002 WSA Terain X high points Champion; 2002 Dayco 200 1st; Alcan 200 1st 2010, 2nd 2009; Iron Dog 2014 trail class.

Sponsors: Team 49 Construction, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Alaska LED Industries, Klim, University Imaging Center, Alaska Spine institute, Valley Upright imaging.

IRON DOG FACT

The Iron Dog course is roughly the distance from New York City to Phoenix, Miami to Denver or Seattle to Chicago. For those with a European or Asian reference of distance, how would you like to race from Liverpool, England, to Moscow, Russia; or Vienna, Austria, to Mosul, Iraq, through nothing but wilderness?

54

Team Sponsors: ***Big Lake Powersports****, Klim*



DAN PARIS

AGE: 54 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback

BIO: I'm looking forward to riding to Nome.

AGE: 50 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback

RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished.



PATTI PARIS

AGE: 50 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback

BIO: Though from the state of Maine, my husband and I moved to Alaska in 1999. I am a physician at Alaska Native Medical Center. We moved here for my career, but the reason we stay is all the snow in the winter-time and Prince William Sound in the summertime.



BRIAN WALSH

AGE: 54 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback

RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished.

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan and enjoy the nice country and people along the trail.

Sponsors: My wife and family.

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Team Sponsors: ***Hatcher Pass Polaris****, Klim*



CHARLES DARNELL

AGE: 50 / **FROM:** Palmer
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback

BIO: I have been an Alaska resident since 2006. I have been a RN/EMT for 24 years, currently working for the Mat-Su Borough DES as the area assistant for the Emergency Medical Service. I am married to a beautiful, intelligent woman who is my biggest supporter and sponsor. I have three kids, ages 30, 22, and 17, and two wonderful grandsons. My hobbies are just about anything outside, hunting, fishing, camping, motorcycles and four-wheelers.

Racing Experience:

Sponsors: Vanessa Darnell, Rick Blake PA, LLC, Darnell Electric, Mat-Su Tactical, PRS.



JOSEPH KIREN

AGE: 44 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback Adventure

BIO: I have been riding snowmachines in Alaska since 2006, and prior to that in the Laurel Mountains of Pennsylvania. I also enjoy boating, fishing, camping, and many other Alaska outdoor activities.

Sponsors: Riding In Memory of Joseph A. Kiren (father) and my dear friend Melissa Peterek. Also Rick/Diane Fait, Jeremy/Wendy/Jenna/ Juliet Fait, Anne Kiren, Lorinda Karageorgiou, Carolyn Aust, Carl/Kirsten Ostrowski, Mark Meuser, Deb Lerner MD, Emily Stevens, Ross Forys, Heather/Pete Isackson, Joni Brodie, Jo/Tom Wolfson, Anne Zink MD, Gail Sela, Dan/Christi Goff, and other Friends at Matsu Regional Medical Center, BCPediatrics, Matsu Emergency Physicians Group.



MARK MEUSER

AGE: 48 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Adventure

RACE HISTORY: 2012, Finished; 2013, Finished.

BIO: Mark is an nine-year resident of Alaska and is a flight nurse with LifeMed Alaska. Mark and his wife, Deborah Lerner, enjoy travel, riding snowmachines and boating.

Sponsors: BC Pediatrics



JOHN THIEL

AGE: 49

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris

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Team Sponsors: ***Ivy & Co. Architects****, EMC Engineering, Insulfoam, Exterior Technologies System, Continental Motors, Swank Contstruction, F & W Construction, Nordic Lights, Machine Fabrication, Inc., Amercican Piledriving Equipment, Big Lake Powersports, Allied Steel, Rain Proof Roofing, Ron Webb Paving, Digital Blueprint, Capital Glass/Northerm Windows, Ben Oien & Associates Inc. and Dr. Elizabeth Morgan.*



BERNARD DROEGE

AGE: 54 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback Axys Pro-S

BIO: I was born and raised in Anchorage. I am a recreational rider. I've been married for 18 years to my wife, Michelle. We have four girls and four boys. I work in the construction industry as a building envelope and Geofoam consultant to Owners, Designers, Engineers & Contractors. This is going to be fun.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Recreational rider. I've been back on a sled for four years, after a 30-year hiatus.

Sponsors: Alaska STOL Specialists (Air Support), my mom, Rita Droege; DRZipay Alaska Pro Trucking, Spark Design, Jammin Java, Century 21 Michael Droege, Curzie Chiropractic.



MARK A. IVY

AGE: 59 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Pro-S

RACE HISTORY: 2011, Finished; 2012, Finished.

BIO: Mark is a lifelong Alaskan, riding since the mid '60s. Mark and his wife, Bonnie Ivy, have jointly owned and operated Ivy & Co. Architects for 30 years. They have two children, Brooke and Andy. Mark volunteers for the Iron Dog and enjoys alpine and cross-country skiing, vehicle restoration, boating, sailing, hunting, fishing, building, welding, flying and spending time with family.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2011, Ambassador team; 2012, Trail Class.

Sponsors: Bonnie Ivy, Andy Ivy, Brook Ivy, Enid Weatherby, Trip dedicated to my sister Carol Bryant

IRON DOG FACT

Iron Dog is fast approaching a $1 million budget, but has been hovering closer to $700,000 to $800,000 to cover logistics, events, fuel, permits, race purse, staff and volunteer support.

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A SPECIAL THANK YOU TO OUR CONTINGENCY PRIZE SPONSORS AND TO EVERY ONE OF OUR GREAT IRON DOG COMMUNITIES, CHECKERS, VOLUNTEERS AND MEMBERS.

EVEN 30 YEARS AGO, having challenged teams to ride from McGrath (due to poor weather) to Nome, Iron Dog wasn't just asking racers to cover a long distance. It was pitting them against Mother Nature's worst mood swings, an unforgiving terrain, and the kind of remoteness one might feel on the open sea—if the sea was passing by at 80 mph. And now, with the inclusion of Downtown Anchorage as a ceremonial starting location, combined with the previous checkpoint additions of Fairbanks in 1998 and North Pole in 2011, Iron Dog's total course length is 2,050 miles. For anyone impressed — and you should be — or looking for a reason to get out and cheer, Pro Class teams begin their quest on Saturday, Feb. 21, in Anchorage with a restart scheduled for Sunday, Feb. 22. in Big Lake. Trail Class riders begin their journey earlier on Friday, Feb. 20, also in Big Lake.

While Trail Class teams cover much of the same terrain, getting checkpoints warmed up for the action and breaking a bit of trail, their journey will end in Nome with no hard pressure to get there. Pro teams will cover the extra ground from Anchorage to Eagle River for the ceremonial start.

They'll restart in Big Lake the following day then continue as in previous years to Nome for an initial 1,000 miles. From there, teams are released in the order they arrived to make a mad dash for Fairbanks over some of the fastest terrain — if snow and ice conditions cooperate. This extra leg from Nome to Fairbanks, by way of frozen rivers, open tundra, and a southeasterly swing into North Pole before turning back north for the Fairbanks finish on Chena River gives us the total 2,050 miles.

WHAT'S THAT MEAN for man and machine? It means more than 2,000 miles worth of jaw-jarring, frigid, Alaska terrain. Over seven days of exposure to the elements with limited sleep. Variations in snow cover from plush yet fuel-robbing powder to dry gravel and even open water crossings exist along the entire route.

Having experienced poor snow conditions last year, racers are hoping for an improvement.

"Last year's race conditions were tough," said Todd Minnick, last year's champion with Nick Olstad as Team 16, riding Polaris. "We had our machines out there with very minimal snow conditions — and ice conditions actually, up on the coast — so we're hoping for better snow and better ice this year but it's not looking so good to start with."

Lack of snow and ice affects engine temperatures and increases the abuse on both the machine suspension and the racer. Ice, in particular, keeps racers from having to skip open water and allows them to travel the rivers safely. However, a new rule for 2015 states that racers are not permitted to utilize coastal ice in one particular section of the race.

Minnick said, "That's from Unalakleet to Shaktoolik, only."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11

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YAMAHA

Team Sponsors: ***Yamaha Motor Corp.****, Performance Yamaha, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Doug's Synthetic Lubricants, Gorilla Fireworks, Alaska LED Industries, Zugger Shocks, FXR Factory Racing, Woody's Traction Products, Arctic Fox Steel Buildings LLC.*



KLINTON VANWINGERDEN

AGE: 34 / **FROM:** Big Lake

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Yamaha SRViper R-TX

BIO: Sons of Thunder Irondog Team is led and run by my brother and I. We are both lifelong Alaskans. We share a history in racing and have a passion for power sports and mechanics, which has been passed down by our father. We desire to do our best in all we do as if doing it unto our Lord, Jesus Christ. It is our desire to stay focused on what we believe to be matters of first importance: Remember the life Jesus Christ lived and demonstrated on earth, as documented in the Bible, and strive hard to model our lives after his example. It is our hope Christ will demonstrate his grace through our efforts and participation in this great race. We are supported by amazing families. My wife, Calli; daughter, Reese; and son, Miles, are my biggest fans.

Sponsors: Calli VanWingerden, Doug and Connie VanWingerden



KRIS VANWINGERDEN

AGE: 31 / **FROM:** Big Lake

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Yamaha SRViper R-TX

BIO: Kris is a lifelong Alaskan married to his beautiful wife, Heather, and their daughter, Tesa, is his delight. Kris is currently working as a controls and automation engineer on the Slope. Racing is part of the Van-Wingerden lifestyle, and team name Sons of Thunder embodies that; additionally, it is a nickname Jesus Christ gave to two disciples -James and John- who were brothers. The Sons of Thunder were known for their impetuosity and zeal, and more importantly held the gospel of Jesus Christ as The Truth.

Sponsors: My wife, Heather; HLV Massage, Bettye's Bake Sale, Alaska Container Cache LLC, Doug and Connie VanWingerden

IRON DOG FACT

Racers are required to bring stoves, fire-making materials and a way to melt snow into drinking water. While it may seem odd that today with GPS tracking there would be any need for real survival gear, the fact remains that the Iron Dog trail is remote enough that a team could get stranded for days if the weather became severe and impassable. It's conceivable that a team would have to fashion a shelter from a bivouac and live in a sleeping bag for a few days to survive. It's rare, but as the saying goes, "It's better to have and not need, than to need and not have."

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Team Sponsors: ***Team CC****, EMC Engineering.*



RYAN BLOOM

AGE: 52 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo Renegade X-RS

BIO: Ryan has run both the Pro Class and Trail Class, but did not finish either time due to mechanical isses.

Sponsors: EMC Engineering, LLC



THERON WILLARD

AGE: 38 / **FROM:** Newport, Vt.

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo Renegade X-RS

RACE HISTORY: 2011, Finished.

BIO: Sledding

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Team Sponsors: Country Cat, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Anderson Oil, DHS Grains, Sukup, Telkamp Farms, Paul Johnson Farms



PAUL JOHNSON

AGE: 36 / **FROM:** Hoffman, Minn.

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR600

BIO: I'm a lifelong resident of Hoffman, Minn. I grew up on a dairy farm and have always enjoyed the outdoors. I attended school to become a welder; however, my love for the outdoors and farming brought me back to farming. I'm excited to see Alaska and ride the Iron Dog Trail Class.

Sponsors: Paul Johnson Farm



MIKE TELKAMP

AGE: 45 / **FROM:** Hoffman, Minn.

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat 6000RR

RACE HISTORY: 2014, Finished.

BIO: I was born and raised in Hoffman, Minn. I have owned and operated a farm for 26 years. I have always enjoyed the outdoors and snowmobiling. Typically I find myself out in the mountains of Island Park, Idaho. In 2014, I decided to participate in a new challenge – the Iron Dog Trail Class – and was excited to see Alaska for the first time. Our team No. 45 of seven finished the race with a lot of fun and a few challenges along the way. I am excited to run the Trail Class again. I am married to Kris and have two sons, Trevor and Trenton. They also enjoy snowmobiling, skiing and hunting right alongside me.

IRON DOG FACT

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 hours, 50 minutes.

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YAMAHA

*Team Sponsors: **Anchorage Yamaha**, Yamaha Motor Corp, Fine Line Interiors, Klim*

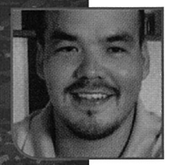


ARCHIE AGNES

AGE: 39 / **FROM:** Tanana
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Yamaha SRViper
RACE HISTORY: 2012, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: Archie is a lifelong Alaska resident who grew up in villages along the Iron Dog trail. He is married to Courtney Agnes and they have two children, 5-year-old Frances Cuppy, and 1-year-old Carrie Celeste. Archie enjoys spending time with his family, boating and snowmachining on the Yukon and Tanana rivers.

Sponsors: Lawrence Moses, Courtney Agnes, Dave & Eileen Whitmer, Darwin George.



ARNOLD MARKS

AGE: 32 / **FROM:** Tanana
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Yamaha SRViper
RACE HISTORY: 2011, Finished; 2012, Finished; 2013, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: Arnold is a teacher in his hometown of Tanana. He and his wife, Theresa, have two daughters, Reese and Bella. Arnold enjoys spending time in the great outdoors with his family.

Sponsors: Mary and Dennis Edwin, Aaron and Ginger Marks, Lawrence Moses, Dave and Eileen Whitmer, Milton and Doll Moses, The community of Tanana, and The Tanana Tribal Council, Danny Gueco, Doug Dixon, Andrew Smith.

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ARCTIC CAT

*Team Sponsors: **Arctic Cat**, Monster Energy, Lithia Jeep Dodge Chrysler Of South Anchorage , Cruz Crane Division, Davis Block & Concrete, B&D Simons Trucking , Fox Racing Shocks, Alaska LED Industries, Troy Lee Designs , Oakley, Truckboss, Stud Boy Traction Products, 139 Designs, Speedwerx, Hybrid Color Films, Winter Project.*



CORY DAVIS

AGE: 26 / **FROM:** Soldotna
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR6000 R XC
RACE HISTORY: 2011, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: Cory is a lifelong Alaskan who enjoys all aspects of Alaska life. He works as vice president of operations for Davis Block in the summer, and competes in many disciplines of snowmobiling all winter.

RACING EXPERIENCE: four-time X-Games medalist, two national semi-pro championships, 3rd 2011 Iron Dog, Multiple USCC race wins.

Sponsors: HMK USA, Anchorage Auto Glass, The Pioneer, @nwsledder, Total Truck, RSI, Ice Age, Atlas Brace, Scott Davis, Corey Berberich, Hector Olson, Mike Kloety, Brian Dick, Alyssa Giles, Winter Friends.



RYAN SIMONS

AGE: 32 / **FROM:** Camrose, Alberta, Canada
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR6000 R XC
RACE HISTORY: 2014, Finished.

BIO: I am born and raised in Alberta, Canada. I am the owner of Ryan Simons Trucking and work alongside my parents' trucking company B&D Simons Trucking. In the summer, when I'm not working, I enjoy riding jet ski, going camping and rzr'ing, or traveling. I've raced all over north America in all different kinds of snowmobile events since about 2001.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2007 X Games Sno-x Silver medal; 2009 X Games Sno-x Bronze medal; 2013 I500 Winner; five-time USXC cross-country champion.

Sponsors: FXR Racing, B&D Simons Trucking, Davis Block, Anchorage Auto Glass, Alaska LED, Kreative, The pioneer, Winter friends.

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SKI-DOO

*Team Sponsors: **Johnson River Enterprises, LLC**, Dark Horse Enterprises, Turnagain Hardcore, AMDS.*

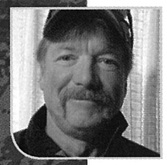


RURIK LINDNER

AGE: 37 / **FROM:** Fairbanks
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo MXZ XR-S

BIO: My wife, Teresa, and I live in Fairbanks, and we try to get out to explore Alaska, and visit one of our family's homesteads whenever possible. I'm looking forward to being out on the trail with my dad as a race partner.

Sponsors: Family and Friends, Tim and Bob Jauhola, Kyle Malamute, Jerry, Aggie, and Troy Miller, Jay and Ginger Delima, Dark Horse Enterprises, Turnagain Hardcore.



SONNY LINDNER

AGE: 64 / **FROM:** Two Rivers
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo MXZ XR-S

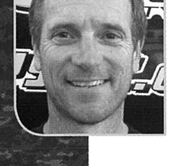
BIO: I graduated from University of Alaska Fairbanks in 1972 and have been involved in dog sled races and winter travel ever since. The Iron Dog will provide a new experience for me and a chance to share the trail with my son, RT.

Sponsors: Family and Friends, Tim and Bob Jauhola, Kyle Malamute, Jerry, Aggie, and Troy Miller, Jay and Ginger Delima

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SKI-DOO

*Team Sponsors: **Lake Parlin Lodge**, Bridgeside Market, SnowsCove Painting, Baja Designs, Klim, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, Waste Management, New England Racing Fuel, Chase Toys, Monster Performance, Hot Rod Sled Shop, Boyesen, Stud Boy Traction Products, PowerMadd, Between the Lines Designs, RPM Composites, Mainway Solutions, BRP , Fly Racing, Maine Fire Equipment, Sunoco , H.A. Mapes, Kriega, Judged, Pelican Grand Beach Resort, Nitro Trailers, Sherwin Williams*



WAYNE DYER

AGE: 46 / **FROM:** Sedgwick, Maine
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo X

BIO: I reside in the small coastal town of Sedgwick, Maine, with my wife, Irene, and my daughter, Ashley. I started out riding on small local trails and over the years I gradually started riding on much more challenging courses, which have led me here to the Iron Dog Race. I have helped as part of the support crew during a previous Iron Dog Race and also in last year's Cain's Quest race. I look forward to participating as a competitor this year for Team Parlin Racing. Outside of snowmobiling I enjoy hunting and fishing here in our rural area.

Sponsors: SnowsCove Painting, Bridgeside Market, Lake Parlin Lodge, Sherwin Williams,Color Concepts,Hot Rod Sled Shops.

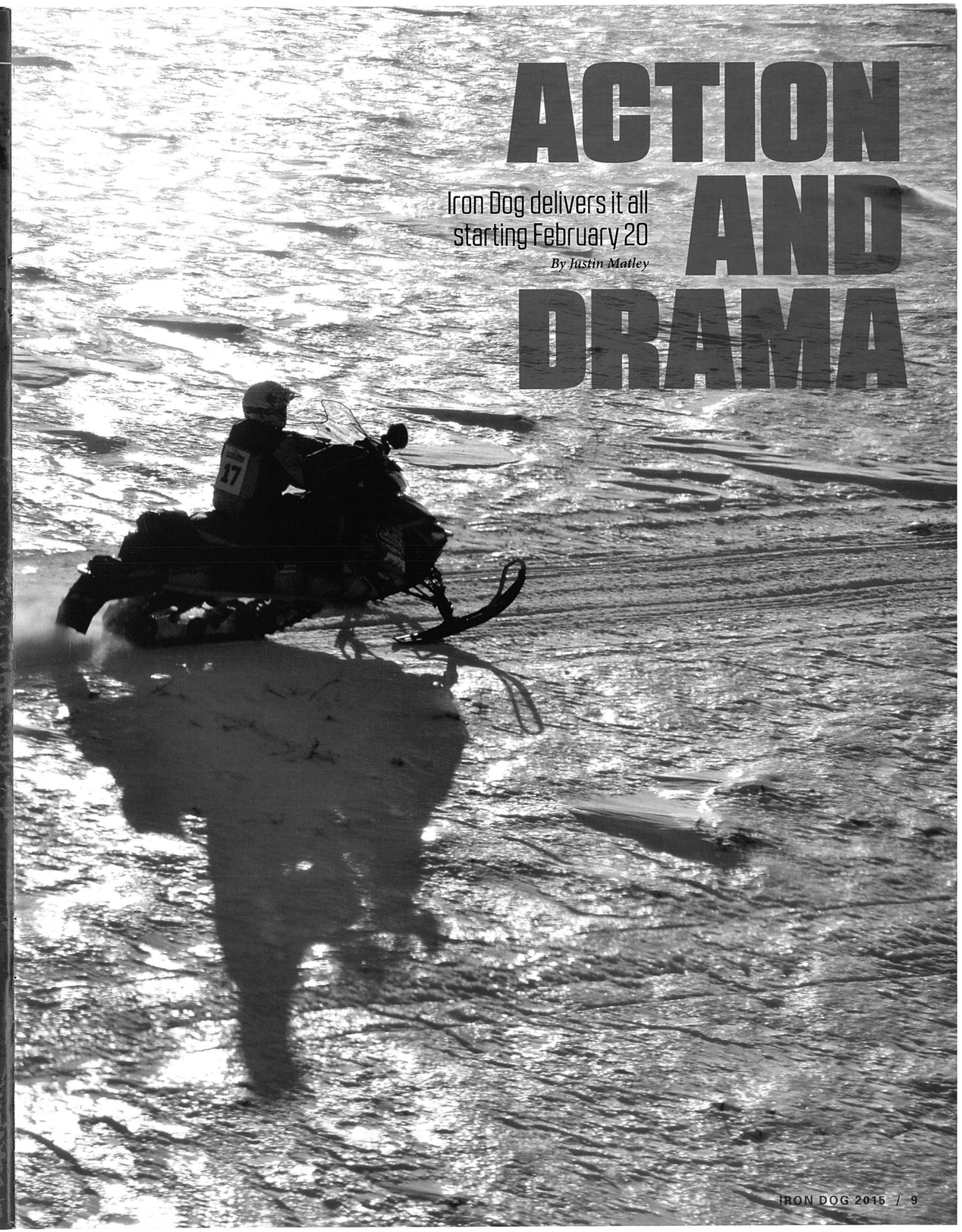


CHRIS KRUSE

AGE: 46 / **FROM:** Skowhegan, Maine
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo X

BIO: Chris and his wife, Tracey, along with their two sons, C.J. and Kyle, reside in Skowhegan Maine. Chris is the owner of Bridgeside Marketplace in Norridgewock, Maine. Chris enjoys spending his free time hunting, flying, motorcycling, and coaching football and baseball.

Sponsors: Joe Kruse, Animal Medical Clinic, Travers Electric, Mattingly Products, Jim Preble, Chris Carey, Randy's Automotive, York Signs, Workstore, Motor Supply, All our family and friends.



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By Justin Matley

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SKI-DOO

Team Sponsors: ***Interstate Batteries of Alaska****, Wilderness Ski-Doo.*



JOHN BAHNKE

AGE: 42 / **FROM:** Nome
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo X
RACE HISTORY: 2002, Finished; 2008, Finished; 2013, Finished.
BIO: John was born and raised in Nome, and owns and operates Wilderness Ski-doo. He has been married to his wife, Nancy, for the past 14 years; four kids, Brayden, 13; Reese, 11; Audrey and Sarah, 8.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Nome-Golovin: Racing cross-country in Nome & Kotzebue since 1994 with mixed finishes (some good/some dnf).
Sponsors: Vern & Tami Monet, wife Nancy, kids Brayden, Reese, Audrey & Sarah, Mom & Dad.



CHRISTOPHER COLLINS

AGE: 33 / **FROM:** Kotzebue
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo X
RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished.
BIO: My name is Chris Collins, and I was raised in Kotzebue. I love to hunt, fish, ride snowmachines and tinker around in my little shop. I have raced the Iron Dog in 2013, placing 7th and in 2014 but DNF just past Ruby.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2006 Nome-Golovin fan class 1st, 2006 AF/WG open class 3rd; 2007 Nome-Golovin fan class 5th, 2007 AF/WG fan class 5th; 2008 Nome-Golovin fan class 5th, 2008 AF/WG 600 class 7th.

2009 Nome-Golovin fan class 1st, 2009 AF/WG fan class 5th; 2010 Nome-Golovin open class 1st, 2010 AF/WG open class 3rd; 2011 Nome-Golovin open class 5th; 2012 Nome-Golovin 600 class 2nd; 2013 AF/WG 600 class 3rd.

Sponsors: Jana Demoski, Susan Collins, Vern & Tami, Sarah Crumbley, Dickie Motto Jr.,Bob Foster,Lawrence Jones, Bruce Nelson, Howard & Freda Beasley, Pongy Carlo, Brad Reich, Yogi Snyder, LJ's store.

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POLARIS

Team Sponsors: ***FXR Racing*** *, Delta Powersports, Western States Inspection Company, FXR Outdoor, TrailTank, T&D Services, Sumitomo Metal Mining, Pogo LLC, Stud Boy Traction Products, Polaris Racing, Zugger Shocks, Walker Evans Racing, Nanook Dental, High Performance Engineering, EVS, Custom Canvas Alaska LLC, Rep AK Designs, PowerMadd, Darbys Performance Machine, Last Frontier Barber Shop, Apocalyps Design Inc., Tammy's Wiggles & Giggles Daycare , Niff's Badger Rd. Tesoro, HTR Designs, Northstar Performance, SUBWAY, The Fox General Store*



RYAN FOLSOM

AGE: 33 / **FROM:** Fairbanks
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Indy SP
RACE HISTORY: 2014, Finished.
BIO: I was born and raised in Fairbanks. I am a Mill Operations General Foreman for SMM Pogo LLC, and have been mining for 14 years. My hobbies are snow-machining, four-wheeling and camping. I love being outdoors. I have been riding sleds all my life, from free riding in the mountains to racing cross-country in the various clubs (AMMC and Valdez Snowmobile Club) around the state.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Valdez Mayors Cup 2010 11th Semi Pro; Valdez Mayors Cup 2011 4th Semi Pro; Eureka K100XC 2011 3rd Semi Pro; Alyeska K60 2011 3rd and 6th Semi Pro; Valdez Mayors Cup 2012 2nd Semi Pro; Eureka K100XC 2012 1st Semi Pro; Alyeska K60XC 2012 3rd Semi Pro; Valdez Mayors Cup 2013 7th Pro.

Sponsors: Dennis & Birdie Folsom, Jeanne Folsom, Kendra Lee, Larry and Dawn Thrun, Daniel & Aileen Valdez, Troy & Chloe Conlon, Adam Martinson, Earle Martinson, Billie Mohrbach, John Walters, Monica Tolley, Ray Richards, Dave Tillet, John Riddle, Raven Riddle, Jo Augdahl, Dave Miller, Lamanier Family, Kristy Brower, Lancer Green, Amanda Hanson, Virgil Bullard, Jason Pyecha, Travis Johnson, Dan Simmons, Wes Rice, Brian Norris, Ed Coronado, John Kelly, Jason Hanson, Jeff Ross, Bob Musgrove, Pete Eichermann, Jon Tolley, Pat Augdahl, Jeremy Pennington, Dana Luce, Chad Bouchard, Lynn Thompson, Jason Burk, Chris Mohrbach, Don Maynor, Lori Hair, Jason Augdahl, Stan Hendrickson, Mike Hays, Rich Barfield, Garrett Howard, Pro Bo, Paul Morgan.



TONY GREENE

AGE: 39 / **FROM:** Fairbanks
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Indy SP
Race History:
BIO: I have lived in Fairbanks for a little over 35 years. I enjoy spending time with my wife, Alexa, and my son, Ramsey. We love everything that Alaska has to offer from camping in the summer to riding at Summit and Cantwell in the winter. I have been racing for many years now from Valdez Mayors Cup to AMMC events. In the summer months we can be found either at the motocross track or wherever the motor home has stopped for the day.

Racing Experience: I have raced many different races, from Mayor's Cup to I-150 to Arctic Man.

Sponsors: Adam Martinson, Earle Martinson, Billie Mohrbach, John Walters, Monica Tolley, Ray Richards, Dave Tillet, John Riddle, Raven Riddle, Jo Augdahl, Dave Miller, Lamanier Family, Kristy Brower, Lancer Green, Amanda Hanson, Virgil Bullard, Jason Pyacha, Travis Johnson, Dan Simmons, Wes Rice, Brain Norris, Ed Coronado, John Kelly, Jason Hanson, Jeff Ross, Bob Musgrove, Pete Eichermann, Jon Tolley, Pat Augdahl, Jacob Pomeranz, Brain Augdahl, Jeremy Pennington, Dana Luce, Chad Bouchard, Lynn Thompson, Jason Burk, Chris Mohrbach, Don Maynor, Lori Hair, Jason Augdahl, Stan Hendrickson, Mike Hays, Rich Barfield, Garrett Howard, Pro Bo, Paul Morgan, Daniel & Aileen Valdez, Dennis Folsom, Troy Conlon.

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POLARIS

Team Sponsors: ***Webb Chiropractic****, Ace Water Wells, Alaska Air Balancing, Golfshot, Big Lake Powersports, Klim, Stud Boy Traction Products, Taylor Fire Protection, First Choice Physical Therapy, Warming Alaska, Alaska Safety, Inc., Fineline Interiors, Alaska Treeline Inc.*



CODY BARBER

AGE: 20 / **FROM:** Willow
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris
Race History:
BIO: I am 21 years old. I was born and raised in small town Willow, where I grew up riding, racing, hunting and anything else that involves the outdoors. I am married to an awesome woman who I've been with for about three years.



BRETT LAPHAM

AGE: 22 / **FROM:** Willow
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris
Race History:
BIO: I was born and raised in Alaska and have been racing sleds for the last three years. I enjoy dirt biking, hunting, fishing and spending time with family and friends. I currently work for Alaska Treeline as an equipment operator and welder.
RACING EXPERIENCE: Mayors Cup: 2012, Semi-pro 1st Place; Mayors Cup: 2014, Pro 4th Place; Willow XC: 2013, Pro 1st Place.
Sponsors: My family, girlfriend, Shana Barber, and the rest of the Barber family.

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SKI-DOO

*Team Sponsors: **Ski-Doo**, Grip N Rip Racing Products, Chase Toys, Nitro Trailers, Team CC, Crescent Lumber, Klim, Sled Freak, Bewteen The Lines, Innovative Off Road - Vision X, RPM Composites, Gates Belts, Sledwraps, Fox Racing Shocks, Fly Racing, Liquid Image, Triple 9 Optics, Flagstaff Snowmobile Rentals, Gueco Racing, Mathews Brothers, Earth X Batteries, Piaa Lights, Automatic Distributors, Workstore, Lynx Hooks High Torque Rollers, Trail Tank, Voss Signs, Maine National Guard, Laflamme Racing, Wilderness Ski-Doo.*



CHAD DOW

AGE: 30 / **FROM:** Fairfield, Maine
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

RACE HISTORY: 2014, Finished.

BIO: I was born and raised in Maine. I like working and playing in the outdoors. I have been a racer since 2001 and I also raced stock cars for 12 years. I love working in my fabrication shop where we manufacture all-aluminum trailers.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Multiple wins and top 3s throughout New England in Canada in Snow X and cross country racing, 2014 Iron Dog 8th Place overall - 1st place rookie Team.

Sponsors: Mom, Shawna.



TIM LESSARD

AGE: 44 / **FROM:** Monmouth, Maine
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

RACE HISTORY: 2014, Finished.

BIO: I was born in Jackman, Maine, and have lived in Maine all my life except for two years when I lived in Minnesota and worked for Arctic Cat in the engine department. Currently I am employed as a process engineer and my wife, Carey, and I own and operate Grip N Rip Racing Products. We have two children, a daughter, Paxton; and a son, Remington. My hobbies include, deer hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, snowmobiling, and spending time with my family. Racing the Iron Dog is something I have always wanted to do after having raced snowcross, cross country and Cain's Quest.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Cain's Quest, 2009, 1st Place; 2011, 3rd Place; 2012, 2nd Place; Iron Dog 2014 Iron Dog 8th Place overall - 1st place rookie Team.

Sponsors: Carey Lessard.

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POLARIS

*Team Sponsors: **Northern Solutions**, Alaska Spine Institute, Kanady Chiropractic, Klim, ICE services, KFC, BB's Coffee Shop, Alaska Mountaineering and Hiking, Big Lake Powersports, Eagle River Body and Paint, Pinnacle Project Management, Oracle, Metaswitch*



JERRY ALWARD

AGE: 49 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog 1992 Trail Class, finisher; Hatcher Pass five times top finish 3rd place; Anchorage to Talkeetna five times finisher; Sno-Cross five years top finish 1st place; K300, three times finisher; Sheep Creek 150, two times, top finish 3rd place.



TIM KANADY

AGE: 55 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris

BIO: Tim Kanady was raised in Anchorage, graduating from Dimond High School. He is married with two grown children. He has owned Kanady Chiropractic Center for 26 years.

IRON DOG **PRO CLASS** 2015

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POLARIS

*Team Sponsors: **Dr. Michelle Ireland with Ireland Clinic of Chiropractic, LLC**, RMG Real Estate Experts, Big Lake Powersports, Tri Jet Manufacturing, The Alaska Life, The Sunset View Boat House Bar and Grill, Klim, Stud Boy Traction Products, All Seasons Clothing Company.*



KYLE CONNER

AGE: 24 / **FROM:** Willow
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris

RACE HISTORY: 2014, Finished.

BIO: Kyle Conner is a lifelong Alaskan, raised in Willow. Kyle has spent most of his life snowmachining at Hatcher Pass during the winters and hunting or fishing in the summers. His teenage years were spent racing snowcross, putting his sled back together after races, and outriding his brothers. More recently, He completed the 2014 Iron dog with a 13th-place finish as a rookie. He's raced Arctic Man for the last four years and a few cross country races. He now resides in Wasilla with his beautiful wife, Molly, and their two dogs. Kyle has been employed as an operator for BP for the last five years.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2014 Iron Dog, 13th place. 2014 Arctic man, 4th place snowboard.

Sponsors: Molly Conner, Alaska Safety, Allure Day Spa and Hair Design, Lennie and Abby Brame, Surface Works Countertops, The Lamborn Family, The Conner Family, Frankie Harris, Savannah House, Tom Whitstine, Drifterz Paradise, Shelli Koontz.



DONALD KOONTZ

AGE: 25 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris

BIO: Donald Koontz was born Aug. 25, 1989, in Anchorage. He was raised in a family of lifelong Alaskans and started hunting, fishing and riding snowmobiles when just a toddler. Even as a young child, racing the Iron Dog has always been one of his goals. The many snowmobile trips to the family cabin helped him learn what it takes to care for and ride a snowmobile. In high school, Donald tried out his riding skills in his first official snowmobile race in Valdez and has been hooked ever since. After graduating from Anchorage Christian School, Donald got accepted into the sheet metal workers Local 23 union, served a four-year apprenticeship while taking construction management classes through the University of Alaska, and is now a sheet metal foreman. Donald and his wife, Stephanie, enjoy living in Wasilla and taking advantage of what this great state has to offer.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Donald has been involved with competition racing in the AMMC circuit including cross country, vintage, and snowcross races. Donald participated in the 2008/2009 AMMC snowcross season. He also raced his John Deere Spitfire in the vintage circuit from 2010 to 2012. Knowing he would be racing in the Iron Dog, Donald started training many seasons ago by riding most winter weekends. Over 2,000 miles in each of the 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 seasons and competing in the many AMMC cross-country races in the 2013/2014 race season has prepared Donald for the upcoming Iron Dog race.

Sponsors: Stephanie Koontz, Alaska Safety, Allure Day spa and Hair Design, Lennie and Abby Brame, Surface Works Countertops, The Koontz Family, The Gerk Family, Frankie Harris, Savannah House, Tom Whitstine, Drifterz Paradise, Jerrod Vaughn, Shelli Koontz, Tyler Crosby.

IRON DOG FACT

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 8

He emphasizes how valuable that crossing has been in the past for strategizing during competition. In fact it helped Team 16 get back into the leading pack last year, to eventually win the race, despite an early crash and serious illness. The same couldn't be said for Team 8, Tyler Aklstad and Tyson Johnson, riding Ski-Doo. When crossing the same area of ice Aksltad broke through near the shore, taking a dive in the water. The resulting sled recovery effort, towing and repairs, as well as drying out gear in Shaktoolik, robbed them of any chance of winning the race. The incident, along with past coastal incidents near Unalakleet, sparked the Iron Dog board of directors to establish the new rule to mitigate the risk.

To racers like Minnick, who had multiple successful experiences crossing that ice, the opportunity will be missed, but all racers recognize the Iron Dog possesses many more challenges.

"That's kind of the whole point of that race; it's just one big risk," Minnick said.

Team 16 is ready to take on those risks once again, and Minnick and Olstad know full well that the race doesn't belong to the champions. They'll have to work as hard as ever to keep their title.

"There's ten teams now that could win this race," Minnick said. "There used to be two or three or four, and maybe a wild card."

He attributes the competitive field partially to the number of riders who switched to riding Polaris, a brand with more Iron Dog wins than any other.

"With Marc McKenna coming over [to Polaris] and Todd Palin coming over, there's two winning teams right there added to the already strong mix of Polaris teams," Minnick said. "And if you look at the historical data the last few years, the Polaris teams are in the Top 5 heavily."

TODD MINNICK
2014 champion,
with Nick Olstad

'There's ten teams now that could win this race.'

McKenna won the previous two years of Iron Dog with Dusty VanMeter riding Ski-Doo. This year McKenna teams up with rookie Allen Hill, Team 17, riding Polaris.

Fans won't see VanMeter in the race, but he'll be watching as a spectator and expects that the Anchorage start and continued publicity will help make Iron Dog a household name and help people around the world to realize what Iron Dog racers endure.

"You watch some of this other stuff on TV and think man, if people could just see what we do and what we've got to go through, all the ingenuity to keep things going out there, and everybody's got their heartache somewhere along the way that you overcome and keep going, things like that, you know, it's a big deal," VanMeter said. "And every step they make that brings it [Iron Dog] more into the limelight is good for the race."

Seventy-four racers will participate this year, riding in 37 teams on all popular make of snowmachine. Most teams consist of veteran Iron Dog racers, including a handful of previous champs. Twenty-eight riders are rookies, most riding in all-rookie teams (including an all-female team) and it goes without saying they'll probably need to learn the ropes before securing a win. Knowledge and experience is key to knowing how to pace your race, when to relax and when to open the throttle wide, and how to stay healthy and focused.

'I was black and blue like no tomorrow.'

RANDY GRAVATT
returning to run
Pro Class in 2015

The 2015 race continues to attract racers from outside Alaska, and Idaho racer Randy Gravatt attests the benefits of being a veteran racer.

"I wish I had done the trail class first and then the real deal," says Randy Gravatt from Idaho of Team 22, riding Arctic Cat. "You really get an understanding of the trail at a slower pace and looking around and learning."

Gravatt ran the Pro Iron Dog in 2012, crashing 60 miles into the race, severely injuring his shoulder and chest and breaking a rib. He pushed on with his teammate but ended up hitting stumps near Rohn, breaking suspension components and losing more time. They left Tanana in 11th place but broke more suspension and finished in 16th place.

"I ended up doing what all the top riders like Marc McKenna told me not to do which was to not crash on the first day," says Gravatt. "I was black and blue like no tomorrow."

Gravatt returned for a Trail Class run in 2014 with a seven-man team that reached Nome with all members, and through a great deal of community support from his home town of Island Park, Idaho he'll be in the Pro Class once again with Deiter Strobel of Minnesota.

It's easy to see why Iron Dog is regarded as the longest, toughest snowmachine race in the world. Thrill-seeking racers from around North America, weather conditions, terrain and both man and machine's abilities and shortcomings culminate to create an unquestionably exiting event. That event, the 2015 Iron Dog, can now be enjoyed by fans more easily than ever before.

Visit Iron Dog online to stay informed, www.irondog.org. ■



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POLARIS

*Team Sponsors: **PMSI**, Big Lake Powersports, Toklat Electric, Think Office, Body Works Salon, Alaska Snowmobile Salvage, Mocha Motion, Arctic Refrigeration, Trail Toyz Offroad, Colville Inc, Extreme Auto Accessories , Vision X, Midtown Machine, Go Pro.*



TYLER DELIMONT

AGE: 26 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Indy
RACE HISTORY: 2014, Finished.

BIO: Tyler was born and raised in Anchorage and he works for Western Peterbilt. His hobbies are riding snowmobiles in the winter. In the summer he likes riding his dirt bike and hanging out with family and friends.

Sponsors: Steve and Marti Delimont, Dan and Lori jones, Dan and Marlene Keough, Christina Jones.



LARRY JONES

AGE: 28 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Indy
RACE HISTORY: 2012, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: Larry was born and raised in Anchorage and owns a property maintenance company. He is married to Christina and has two sons, Wyatt and Austin. His favorite hobbies are snowmobiling in the winter and being on the lake with family and friends in the summer.

Sponsors: Christina Jones, Dan and Lori Jones, Steve and Marti Delimont, Dan and Marlene Keough.

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SKI-DOO

*Team Sponsors: **Gundersen Painting**, Sourdough Express, Allstate-Chris Marok, Walsh, Kelliher & Sharp, Compeau's , Hale and Associates, GBC, Inc., Big Ray's - Classic Alaska, Fairbanks Lawn King, TrailTank, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, Klim, Trail Toyz Offroad, Los Amigos, Gene's Chrysler, State Farm - Stacey Roy, Auto Trim Design.*



JASON GUNDERSEN

AGE: 27 / **FROM:** Fairbanks
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

BIO: I was born and raised in Alaska. I enjoy being in the outdoors, during the summer months golfing, fishing, boating and hunting, then come winter snowmaching, snowboarding and just being able to do all of this with family, friends and the Alaska outdoors.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Arctic Man, 2010, 2011, 2012 and 2013.

Sponsors: Debbie and Gary Gundersen, Dorothy Laiti, Sandy Weaver, Ron's service and towing, water wagon, Jon Binkley "Air Support," Kourtney Roy.



JOSH NORUM

AGE: 27 / **FROM:** Fairbanks
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

BIO: I was born and raised in Fairbanks and am a fifth-generation Alaskan. I enjoy riding snowmachines, hockey, hunting, fishing, golf, and spending time with my wife, Jayme, and son, Owen.

Sponsors: Jayme Norum, Dave and Debbie Norum, Jim and Lisa Currie, Ed Kornack, Jeff Gregory, Mark and Cathy Norum, Mike and Nansi Norum, Karen and Tim Conover.

IRON DOG **PRO CLASS** 2015

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POLARIS

*Team Sponsors: **Alaska Spine Institute**, Northern Solutions, Klim, Big Lake Powersports, Ace Fuels, LLC, MGM Auto Accessories, Glacier Autoworks.*



STANLEY ENGLISH

AGE: 52 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris

BIO: I was born and raised in Anchorage. I'm also new to snowmachine racing but have helped out on Arctic Man in years past with Team LDR. When my partner, Larry Levine, called needing a wing man, it was an easy answer, "yes." I'm a B737 pilot for Conoco Phillips and on off days have been known to push a broom around at Northern Solutions. I enjoy personal flying and tinkering with stuff in the shop. I look forward to meeting my fellow racers with whom I have been a big fan through the years of following Iron Dog.

Sponsors: Candice English



LARRY LEVINE

AGE: 51 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris

BIO: I was born and raised in Anchorage. I'm a newcomer to snowmachine riding as my daughter became involved. I look forward to a safe completion of the race with my wing man Stan English, whom I have known since kindergarten. I enjoy flying. It has been great meeting the other racers over the last few years. Racing Experience: 2013 Arctic Man.

Sponsors: Karen Levine

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ARCTIC CAT

*Team Sponsors: **Arctic Cat**, Norcoast Mechanical, Inc., Alaska Mechanical Contractors Association/ SMACNA, H&K Sheetmetal Fabricators, Inc, JP Sheldon, Anchorage Suzuki Arctic Cat, RSA Engineering, Trane, GMW Fire Protection, Carlos Mexican Restaurant, Fly Racing, Klim, Stud Boy Traction Products, Adventures in Eye Care, Re-Bath, Anchorage Sand & Gravel, Taco Loco, HZA-Engineering, Madden Real Estate, Precision Powder Coating, Proctor Sales, TH Racing, Broadway Signs, Team 50 Cowbell Nation, Panache Hair Design, Support Services of Alaska, Aero Twin, Inc., Jack Links Beef Jerky, Meridian Systems, Fine Line Interiors.*



GEOFF CROUSE

AGE: 31 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR6000 R XC
RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished.

BIO: Geoff is 31 years old and was born and raised in Alaska. He 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 playing golf. He is employed by Norcoast Mechanical. Geoff has been married for seven years to his wife, Jenna, and they have two sons Blake and Eli.

Sponsors: Jenna Crouse, Doc and Laurie Crouse, Lori Lindquist, John & Mitzi Crouse.



JERROD VAUGHN

AGE: 31 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR6000 R XC
RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: I have lived in Alaska for 20 years and I am employed at JP Sheldon. I have been racing different venues of snowmachines since 2001 and have completed the Iron Dog in 2013 and 2014. I am married to Jennifer and we have three children, Makenna, Austin and Rylee. When not racing, I enjoy camping, four-wheeling, softball and family time at the cabins. www.outcoldracing.com

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog: 2013, 3rd place rookie team.

Sponsors: Jennifer, Makenna, Austin & Rylee Vaughn, Mark & Lynne Vaughn, Joan & Pops Laury, Larry Vaughn, Jim & Sandy Potvin, Rick Teel, Simon Muller, Jadee & Stacey Moncur, Tyler Crosby, Jeremy Rogers (our pilot).

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SKI-DOO

*Team Sponsors: **Tracy Vrem's Blue Mountain Lodge**, EMC Engineering, Alaska Ear Nose & Throat, Rulien & Associates, Pioneer Door, Inc., Legacy Dental Arts, Bob's Services, Residential Mortgage, Rodney P Kinney Associates, Emulsion Products, Rhode & Associates Inc, Team CC, Clear Sky Lodge, Totem Equipment, Dean Construction & Development, Martin Construction, Usibelli Coal Mine, Home Inspections Plus, Alaska Directional LLC, Shields Paving, McKinley Fence Co., Wakeland Construction, Yukon Equipment, Carlos Tree Service, Ancor, Gueco Racing, Klim, Smartwool, HMK USA.*



STAN BROWN

AGE: 29 / **FROM:** Eagle River
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo
RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished.
BIO: I have lived in Alaska my whole life and enjoy the outdoors. I love spending time with my wife, Madisyn, and baby Harper. This is my third Iron Dog race.
RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog Rookie, 2012 DNF; 2013, 10th.

Sponsors: Madisyn and Harper Brown, family and friends.



JOHN DEAN

AGE: 30 / **FROM:** Eagle River
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo
RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished.
BIO: I'm a lifelong Alaskan. I enjoy snowmachining, four-wheeling, hunting, fishing and hanging out with friends and my girlfriend, Kristie.
RACING EXPERIENCE: Arctic Man 2011, 2013.

Sponsors: Korey Cronquist, Danny Gueco,Tracy Sunke, Sterling Shearer, Kristie Clark.

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ARCTIC CAT

*Team Sponsors: **Arctic Cat**, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Kirk Hibbert Racing, Fox Racing Shocks, Gerald Walter & Family farm, Corner Cenex- Tim & Nancy Heideman, DHS Grain LTD, Country Cat, Telkamp Farms, Caliber Products, Hamdorf Farm, Anderson Oil & LP, Wildwest Pizza & Saloon, Vipond Farm, Hugoe Trucking, Planet Powersportz, Ponds Lodge, Midwest Doors, The Repair Shop Island Park, TenEyck Distributing-Amsoil , Dan Slominski Farms, AZFA, Crossfit REPO, Johnson Jet-Line Inc., Gille Roy Log Home Construction, Amy Winter Photography.*



RANDY GRAVATT

AGE: 51 / **FROM:** Island Park, Idaho
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR6000 R XC
RACE HISTORY: 2012, Finished.
BIO: I enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, camping and racing Motorcycle Hare Scrambles and Enduros. Currenty a co-holder of a Guiness World Record for riding the most miles on a snowmachine in 24 hours (1,289).
RACING EXPERIENCE: 1992 & 1993 I-500 top 50 finisher; 2014 Iron Dog Trail Class.

Sponsors: Mom, family, Rusty Gravatt and The Communities of Island Park, Idaho and West Yellowstone, Montana.



DIETER STROBEL

AGE: 34 / **FROM:** Barrett, Minn.
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR6000R XC
Race History:
BIO: I am married with two children, Brooklyn and Bennett. I own and operate a grain-handling sales and installation business for the last five years. I enjoy working outside and riding snowmobiles in the mountains and now Alaska.
RACING EXPERIENCE: 2014 Trail class finisher with a team of seven.

Sponsors: Thank you to family and friends for all the support and my wife, mostly for all her support – and everyone else who has made this possible.

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SKI-DOO

*Team Sponsors: **Academy Mortgage**, Wilderness Ski-Doo, Alaska LED Industries, MTNTK Performance, Big Kid Racing, Rigid Industries, Frontier Service Automotive, Fly Racing, Valley Insurance Services.*



JONATHAN SINDORF

AGE: 18 / **FROM:** Hatcher Pass
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo X
BIO: I was born and raised in Alaska. I currently attend Colony High School. In the summer I enjoy hiking, biking, or racing motocross.

Sponsors: My Parents.



PAUL SINDORF

AGE: 51 / **FROM:** Hatcher Pass
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo X
RACE HISTORY: 1998, Finished; 2000, Finished; 2001, Finished; 2002, Finished; 2004, Finished; 2006, Finished; 2009, Finished.
BIO: I live in Hatcher Pass with my wife, Mary, and have four grown children (Heather, Melanie, Kristofer and Jonathan). I have been employed in the oil and gas industry for most of my adult life and enjoy mountain biking, hiking, ATV racing, skiing, and snowmobile riding.

Sponsors: Mary Sindorf, Leon McKean, David Harris, Roy Bloodworth, Katherine Devine, Paul & Vivian Sindorf, Heather Morrow, Melanie Sindorf, Kristofer Sindorf, Steve McKean, Diane & James Pankowski.

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ARCTIC CAT

*Team Sponsors: **Team Arctic Alaska**, A-1 Welding, Advanced Powder Coating, Alaska LED Industries, Alaska Skydive Center, Amsoil, Arctic Cat, Arctic Extreme Environmental Products, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Bills Distributing, Elete Electrolytes, Evans Coolant, Fastlane, Inc., Fly Racing, Fox Racing Shocks, Gates Belts, Greatland Welding and Machine, Northern Power Sports, Oakley, Racewerx, Inc., RCS, Rigid Industries, RV Sports, Shoreside Petroleum, Stanley Ford, Thunder Products, Trail Tank, Ultimate Dog Bags, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Western Power Sports, Woody's Studs & Runners, Zugger Shocks, Larson Racing, Northern Contractors, GU Sports.*



MARK CARR

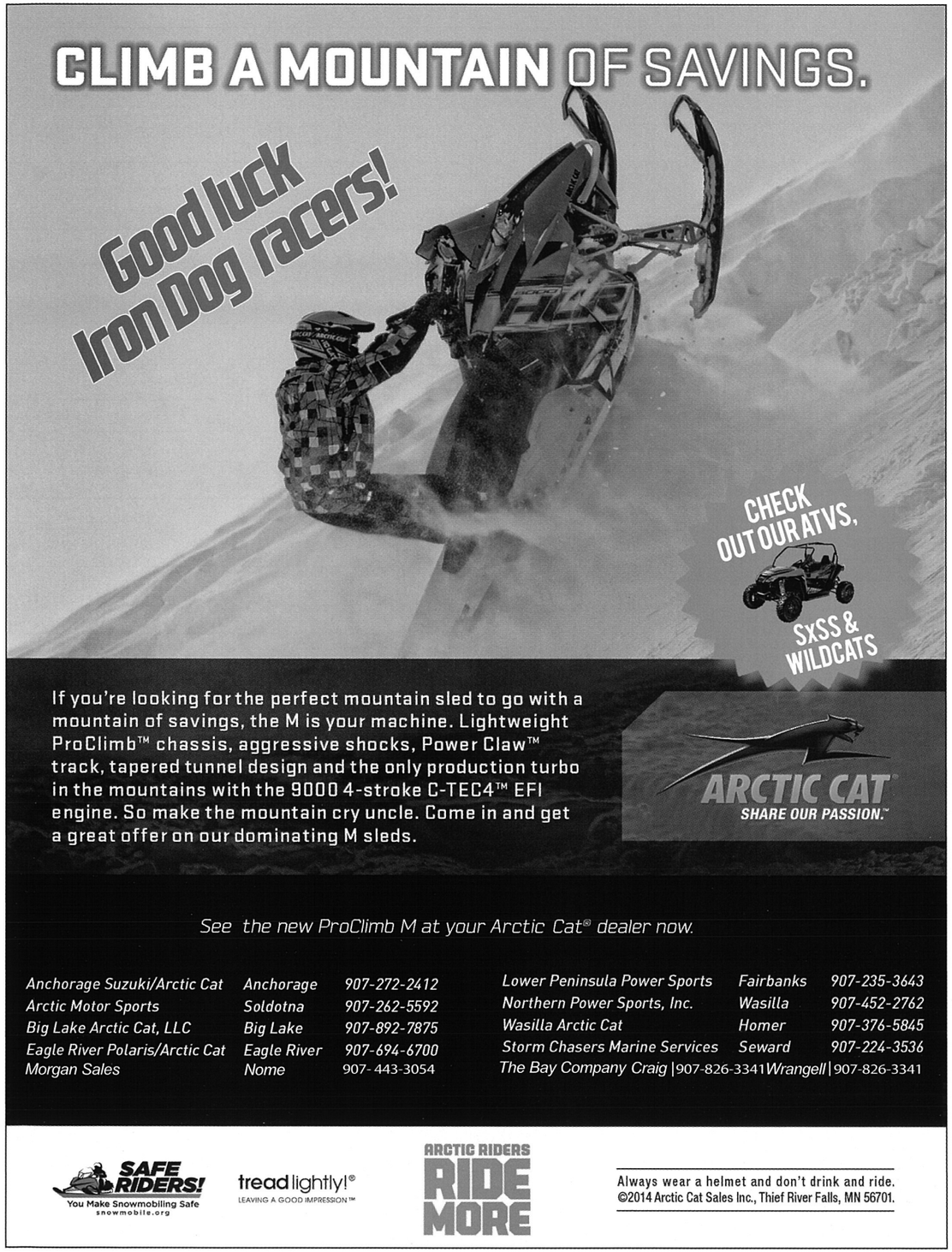
AGE: 55 / **FROM:** Soldotna
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat
RACE HISTORY: 1994, Finished; 1997, 1st Place; 1998, 1st Place; 1999, 1st Place; 2000, Finished; 2001, Finished; 2004, 1st Place; 2005, Finished.
BIO: I've finished the Iron Dog eight times, with four 1st-place finishes, two 2nd-place finishes and one 4th- and 8th-place finishes. I enjoy mountain riding and moto-cross.
RACING EXPERIENCE: I was an Alaska state champion in sno-cross cross-country and grand prix in USSA and AMMC and 1st at Pike's to Nenana, Arctic Man Iron Dog (four times).



MICAH HUSS

AGE: 39 / **FROM:** Willow
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat
BIO: I grew up racing in Kotzebue and Nome, winning numerous races. I raced the I-500 in Minnesota in 2010 and 2011. I am manager/owner of Team Arctic Alaska for Arctic Cat in Alaska. I also work as a boat captain and operations manager for Television Shows "Bering Sea Gold" (Discovery Channel) and "The Raft Man vs. Water" (National Geographic). I enjoy racing, all motor sports and spending time with family and friends. I've been married 16 years to Judy Huss and have three beautiful children, Ronnie 9; Ayden, 5; and Kaitlin, 3.
RACING EXPERIENCE: Many 1st-3rd place finishes in Kotzebue region races throughout the years. Raced the I-500 in 2010 and 2011. Raced the Nome-Golovin race seven times, as well as Arctic Man.

Sponsors: Christine Harrington, Glenda Carr, Howard Gregg and Family, Jason Moore and Family, Judy, Ronnie, Ayden and Kaitlin Huss, Cliff Johnson and Family, George Greene and Family, Memory of Tom Kottke, Tony and Lisa Haugen.



THE WORLD'S LONGEST, TOUGHEST, snowmachine race is always exciting, and the 2014 match was no exception. But last year, when news was shared about a possible first-time-ever, downtown Anchorage start, it was a little hard to focus on the race in motion while daydreaming about the year ahead. After three decades of racing, an Anchorage start is one of the biggest developments Iron Dog has ever known, up there with the 1998 addition of Fairbanks as the race finish.

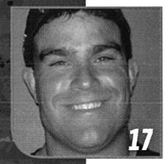
Now, after much planning and community support, Iron Dog has made good on their plans, adding another of Alaska's largest communities to the course. For 2015, spectators and supporters can experience a more festive and approachable Iron Dog than ever before. All we need to do is show up in downtown Anchorage on Friday and Saturday, Feb. 20-21, and share in Iron Dog's excitement for this monumental improvement.

Largely spearheaded by Iron Dog's executive director Kevin Kastner, the Anchorage start has been brewing since 2010, with a massive effort to gain official cooperation and approval during the latter half of 2014.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 17



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MARC MCKENNA

AGE: 40 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris AXYS Pro-S

RACE HISTORY: 1999, Finished; 2000, Finished; 2001, Finished; 2002, Finished; 2005, 1st Place; 2008, 1st Place; 2009, Finished; 2011, Finished; 2012, 1st Place; 2013, 1st Place, 2014, 2nd Place.

BIO: Marc is a lifelong Alaskan with two children, Teya and Asa. Marc is president and co-owner of McKenna Brothers Paving, Inc.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Four-time Iron Dog Champion; 1999 13th place; 2000 6th place; 2001 8th place; 2002 2nd place; 2004 DNF; 2005 1st place; 2006 DNF; 2007 DNF; 2008 1st place; 2009 3rd place; 2010 DNF; 2011 6th place; 2012 1st place; 2013 1st place; 2014 2nd place.

Sponsors: Matthew McKenna, Daniel Ryznar, Korey Klingenmeyer, David McRae, Chris Baxter, Don Jones, Mike Tope, Brian Horschel, Paul Miranda, Crude Magazine, Body Renew Alaska,

18 SKI-DOO

Team Sponsors: ***Team CC****, Ski-Doo, Gueco Racing, Fox Racing Shocks, Stud Boy Traction Products, Motorfist, Cruz Construction, Split Rail Skis, Mud Busters Car Wash, Caelus Energy.*



CHAD GUECO

AGE: 30 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

RACE HISTORY: 2012, Finished.

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan who has been racing snowmobiles since the age of 6. I have raced all over the United States on a professional level in the past 10 years. I spend as much time as I can hunting, fishing, riding and enjoying the outdoors. I am married to my beautiful wife, Jayme Gueco; we have three children Allie, Ella and Haiden.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2013 Alyeska Motor Madness XC, 1st place; 2013 Valdez Mayors Cup XC, 3rd place; 2012 Eureka 100 XC, 1st place; 2012 Iron Dog, 6th place; 2011 Valdez Mayors Cup, 1st place; 2011 Eureka 100 XC, 2nd place; 2009 Ada, MN 100 XC, 6th place; 2009 Red Lake 500 MN XC, 6th place; 2008 Valdez Mayors Cup, 3rd place; 2008 Big Lake 500 Grand Prix, 1st place; 2008 Thunder Bay 200 Enduro MI, 1st place; 2008 Alpena 300 Enduro MI, 1st place; 2004-2010 Soo I-500 MI, 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 4th, 5th, 6th and 12th; 2007 Eagle River World Championship, 1st place.

Sponsors: A special thanks to Korey Cronquist, Tony Webster and a big shout-out to my father Danny Gueco. It would not be possible without any of you.



ANDREW ZWINK

AGE: 25 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

RACE HISTORY: 2011, Finished; 2012, Finished; 2013, Finished.

BIO: Andrew is an Eagle Scout, and through Scouting, an interest with the wilderness grew. In 2008 that fascination led him to a greater quest, Iron Dog glory. When he's not racing sleds he's a heavy hauler on the Slope. Andrew spends his free time playing sports, hiking and adventuring with his friends and family.

Sponsors: Skidoo Team CC. Special thanks to Lynnette Carrier, David Zwink, Ian Zwink, Ben Zwink Sara Zwink and my close friends. All the families that help us each year along the trail and everyone else who has helped over the years.

20 POLARIS

Team Sponsors: ***Polaris Industries****, Polaris Racing , Klim, Swanson Steel, Anchorage Suzuki, IBEW Local 1547, Yukon Electric Inc, Immpound Lodge, Canyon Lake Lodge, Mountain Dew, Marc and Deanne Hamblen, Big Lake Powersports, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Eagle River Polaris, Alaska X, Weldin Construction, Walker Evans Racing, Rain Proof Roofing , Perfect Start Espresso, Sena's Professional Painting , GMC Contracting , Dean's Automotive, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Cindi Heal Allstate Insurance, Summit Farms, International Aviation, Renton Coil Springs, Blue Skye Designs, Alaska Roteq, Bob's Services, Taylor Leasing, R & M Consultants, Inc., Fine Line Interiors, Arctic FX Graphics, Alaska LED Industries, HMK USA, Stud Boy Traction Products, Len Story, Brad Helwig, Faeo Family, Waylon & Sarah.*



SCOTT FAEO

AGE: 30 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris

RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan who has been involved with the Iron Dog since the day I was born. I was born within weeks of the first race ever, and a victory by my father, John Faeo. I work as an IBEW foreman wireman at Yukon Electric, Inc. I also enjoy riding and racing cross-country snowmachine races statewide. Any free time from work is spent at the cabin with the family.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2014 Larry Heal 150 2nd place; 2013 Larry Heal Memorial 150 1st Place; 2012 Big Lake 150 1st place.

Sponsors: My parents, John and Vicki, and brother John.



ERIC QUAM

AGE: 44 / **FROM:** Palmer
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris

RACE HISTORY: 2000, Finished; 2001, Finished; 2002, Finished; 2008, 1st Place; 2009, Finished; 2010, Finished; 2011, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: 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 with one 1st-place finish in 2008 with Marc McKenna.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Arctic Man 2013, 3rd Place; Arctic Man 2008, 2nd Place.

Sponsors: Darcy and Henley Quam

IRON DOG FACT

Today's record time is 35:39:56 set by Marc McKenna and Dusty VanMeter in 2012 on their Ski-Doos. Their record time was set on the 2,031-mile course, but they topped all times for the previous, shorter 1,971-mile and 2,000-mile courses. Compared to the first Iron Dog, McKenna and VanMeter's 2012 race was nearly double the length, yet only took 1.5 times longer to complete. They averaged 60 mph.

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SKI-DOO

Team Sponsors: ***Compeau's*** *, AMDS, McKenna Brothers Paving, Tope Transportation.*



MARK TOPE

AGE: 43 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo Sport MXZ

RACE HISTORY: 2010, Finished.

BIO: I'm a lifelong Alaskan, and I love flying and having fun with my family.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2010, 5th Place; 2009, DNF stopped to render assistance. Also has raced in various Alaska trail and lake racing events.

Sponsors: Trisha, Kyle, Justin, Mom, brother Mike and mechanic Scott Miller. Marc and Matthew McKenna.



MIKE TOPE

AGE: 51 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo Sport MXZ

BIO: I'm a 45-year Alaska resident, married to Terri, with two kids Garrett, 12; and Elli, 10. I enjoy spending time with family and friends in Petersville.

Sponsors: Terri Tope, Trish Tope, Fish, Scott Miller and Paul Miranda.

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ARCTIC CAT

Team Sponsors: ***Arctic Cat****, Klim, Able Locksmith & Security Center , Marina Air, Scott Goggles, ODI Grips, CW Tack & Western Wear*



BRIAN JURENKA

AGE: 32 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR6000 R XC

BIO: Brian is a 27-year resident of Alaska. When not working on the slope, Brian enjoys hunting, fishing, snowmobiling, and also spending time on his boat in the summer.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog 2012 trail class finisher and 2013 pro class; GCI Arctic Man Classic, 2014 Men's Adaptive ski 4th place, 2013 Men's Adaptive ski 4th place, 2005 Men's Snowboard 5th place; Alaska Moto Mushers Club semi-pro sno-cross series 2002-2009; Alaska Moto Mushers Club cross-country race series semi-pro 50-200 mile races with Top-10 finishes 2003-2009, 2011, 2012 and 2014; Valdez Mayors Cup cross-country race semi-pro 150 miles 2003-2009, 2011 6th place and 2014 7th place.

Sponsors: Rob Cannon Snap-On tools, Carl Swenson, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Dick and Lena Renkins, Sleipner Transport LLC.



CHARLIE POTTER

AGE: 31 / **FROM:** Big Lake
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR6000 R XC

RACE History: 2009, Finished; 2012, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: Charlie is a 31-year Alaska resident, he 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, spending time with family and friends.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2008, DNF; 2009 finish; 2010, DNF; 2011, DNF; 2012, finish; 2013, DNF; 2014, finish.

Sponsors: Western Bling Alaska, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Team Arctic Alaska, Brewed Oasis, Valley Boys Racing, Tony and Cynthia Jacobson, Danielle Gallagherr, Thomas Funk, Curt Ensminger, Beagle, Stephen and Dawn Primera, Rodeo Alaska, Jones Driveline, Jana's Jumpin' Java, Melanie Camargo, friends, familly and all who made It possible for Team 15 to race.

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POLARIS

Team Sponsors: ***Polaris Industries****, Weldin Construction, Cruz Construction, Big Dipper Construction, Edge Fitness, Renton Coil Springs, Big Lake Powersports, A1 Pawn, B Original Signs, VFW Post 9365, Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, Inc., Cindi Heal Allstate Insurance, Blu Skye Design, Shoreside Petroleum, Klim, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Walker Evans Racing, Quam Tech, Carl's Cycle Sales, Canyon Lake Lodge, Stud Boy Traction Products, Crystal Clear Creative, Alaska LED Industries, Glacier Autoworks, Construction Machinery Inc., Mt Dew.*



TODD MINNICK

AGE: 35 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris AXYS

RACE HISTORY: 2002, Finished; 2004, Finished; 2005, Finished; 2006, Finished; 2007, Finished; 2008, Finished; 2009, 1st; 2010, Finished; 2011, Finished; 2012, Finished; 2013, Finished; 2014, 1st.

BIO: Todd was born and raised in Alaska. Todd is a foreman at Big Dipper Construction. He has been racing snowmachines most of his life. Todd has a beautiful wife named Sharilyn and has two children, Emma and Canyon, who are the light of his life. Todd enjoys adventuring at the cabin, hunting, fishing and exploring with his family.

Sponsors: Mike & Jayne Koskovich, Ken Lee, Rod & Arden Miller, Paul & Diane Minnick, Sharilyn Minnick.



NICK OLSTAD

AGE: 32 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris AXYS

RACE HISTORY: 2005, 1st Place; 2009, 1st Place; 2011, Finished; 2014:, 1st Place.

BIO: Nick is a longtime Alaskan who enjoys the outdoors. When not working as a project manager for Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, Inc., he's spending time with his wife, Brianne, and daughter, Kaia. Nick loves to be out riding his ranger in the summer, and snowmachines until the snow is gone. This will be Nick's 10th time racing Iron Dog.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Mayor's Cup 2005 and 2006: 1st Place; 2011: 3rd Place; K-150 2005 and 2006: 1st Place.

Sponsors: Mike and Jayne Koskovich, Brianne & Kaia Olstad, Ken Lee.

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POLARIS

Team Sponsors: ***Ryznar Industries,*** *Hatcher Pass Polaris, Big Lake Powersports, Motorfist, Body Renew Alaska Polaris Industries, Bruce Friend, Knik Construction, McKenna Brothers Paving, Valley Moving and Storage Inc., Cruz Construction, Quality Asphalt Paving, Construction Machinery Inc., Fine Line Interiors, Alaska Directional LLC, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Ice Age, Lead Dog Helmet Light, Yukon Equipment, Castable Ceramics Dental Laboratory, STR Alaska.*



ALLEN HILL

AGE: 30 / **FROM:** Big Lake
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris AXYS Pro-S

BIO: Allen is a lifelong Alaska. He has followed and flown the Iron Dog the last several years. He works for McKenna Bros. He enjoys the outdoors, loves riding snowmachines and spending time with family and friends.

RACING EXPERIENCE: K-150 in 2000; K-150 in 2010; Several ice races

Sponsors: Parents David and Sidonia; sister, Ginel; my girlfriend, Heather; Steve Lebida, Frankie Harris, Jill Friedman, Don Jones, Sena's Professional Painting, Perfect Start Espresso, Jim Wilke.

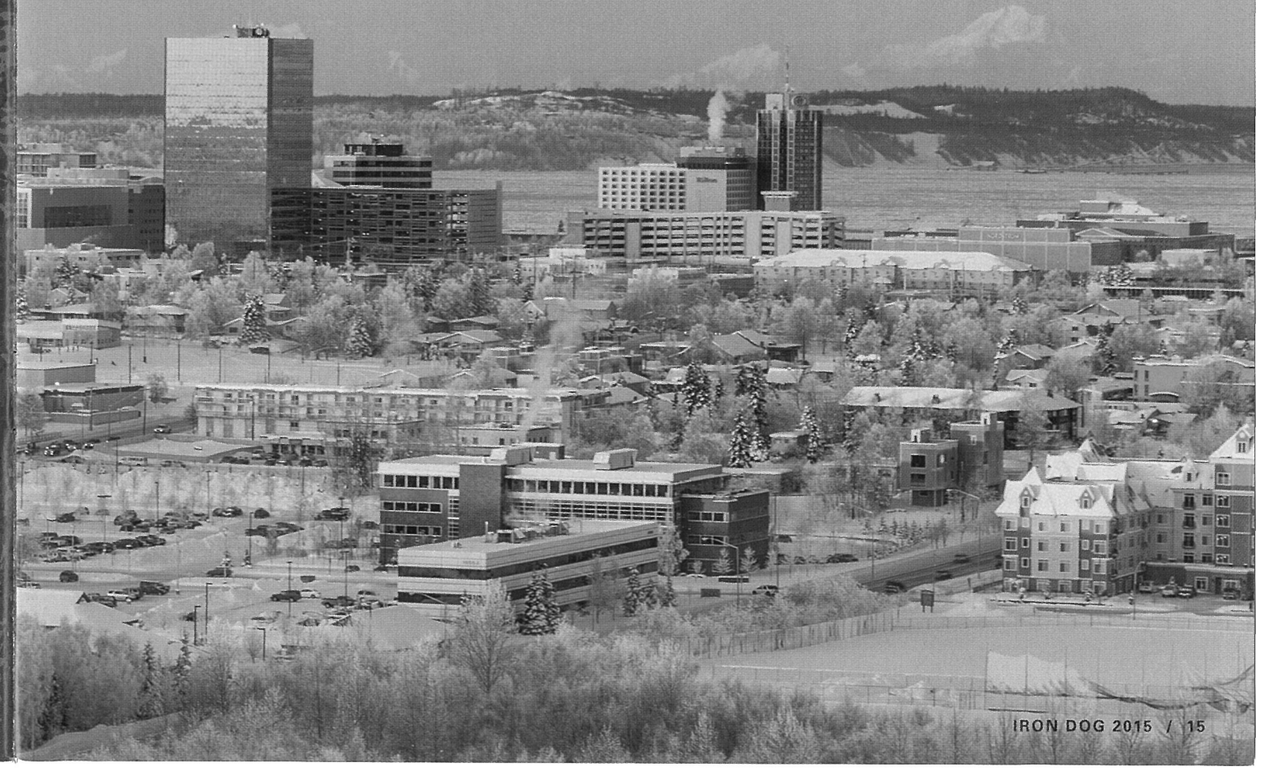
IRON DOG FACT

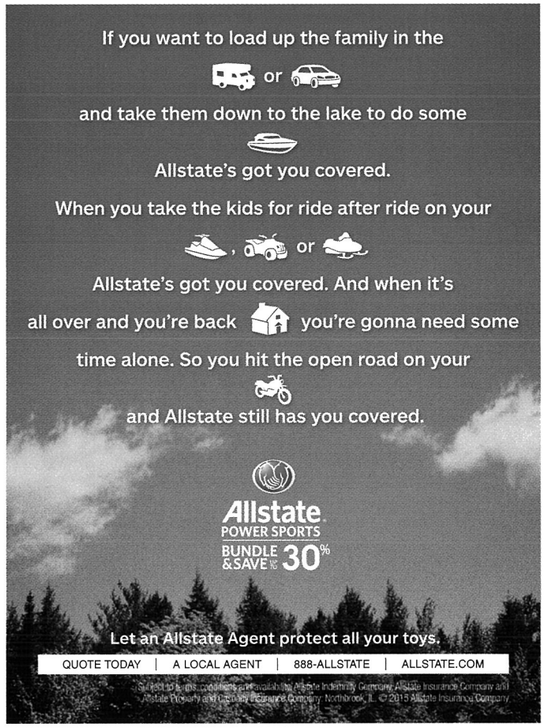
In 1990 Bill and Doreen Long were the first husband and wife team to race competitively.

START YOUR ENGINES

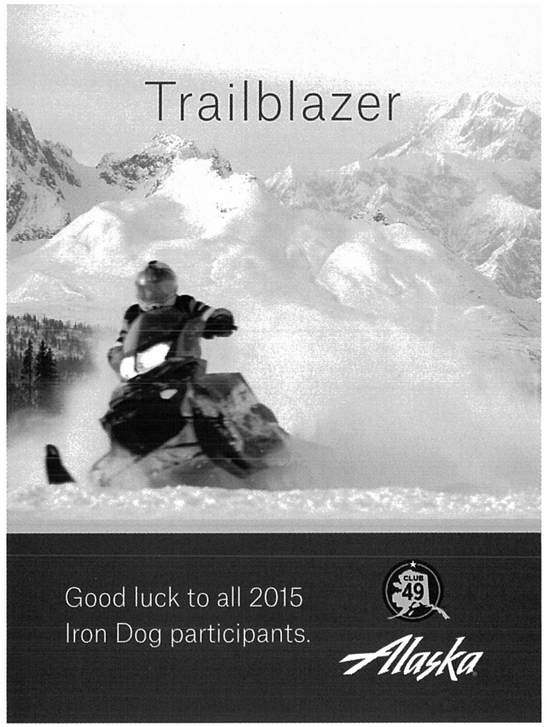
Downtown Anchorage hosts Iron Dog ceremonial start in 2015

By Justin Matley









Anchorage is proud to welcome the Iron Dog and race fans to town on February 21, 2015. Get in on the action at BigWildLife.com/iron

visit anchorage
100 years of big wild life

11

POLARIS

*Team Sponsors: **Polaris Outpost Alaska**, Polaris Industries, AMES Research, R&D Electronics, Walker Evans Racing, Doyon, Jim Binkley, L&M Supplies Dillingham, Zugger Shocks, Ice Age Performance, Klim, Al Palma Technologies, Anchorage Drag Bike, Big Lake Powersports, Cruz Construction, Darbys Performance Machine, Riverboat Discovery, St. Michael Fuel, Stud Boy Traction, Fine Line Interiors.*



TYLER HUNTINGTON

AGE: 29 / **FROM:** Galena
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris AXYS

RACE HISTORY: 2007, Finished; 2008, Finished; 2009, Finished; 2010, 1st Place; 2011, 1st Place; 2012, Finished.

BIO: Tyler is a lifelong Alaskan raised in Galena and now residing in Fairbanks. Tyler works for Doyon Drilling, Inc. Tyler has three boys at home, Trevon Tyler (7), Hayden James (6) and Kaysen Ray (1). Tyler enjoys spending time with his family. Tyler is also a winner of the Yukon 800 River Boat Race.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2012 Yukon 800, 1st Place.

Sponsors: Trevon, Hayden and Kaysen Huntington, Joyce Huntington, Terry Pitka, Charles M. Huntington, Ed Pitka, Justin Esmailka and Family of Kaltag, Evan Booth, L.A. Commack and family of Unalakleet, and all of my people up and down the Yukon River and along the trail.



TODD PALIN

AGE: 50 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris AXYS

RACE HISTORY: 1993, Finished; 1995, 1st Place; 1997:, Finished; 1998, Finished; 2000, 1st Place; 2001, Finished; 2002, 1st Place; 2004, Finished; 2005, Finished; 2006, Finished; 2007, 1st Place; 2008, Finished; 2009, Finished; 2011, Finished; 2012, Finished; 2013, Finished.

BIO: Todd is a lifelong Alaskan, self-employed as a commercial fisherman. Todd is married to Sarah and they have five children, Track, Bristol, Willow, Piper, Trig and two grandchildren, Kyla and Tripp. Todd and his family enjoy outdoor time in Alaska fishing, hunting, flying, four-wheeling, riding snowmobiles and commercial fishing in Bristol Bay.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2007, 2002, 2000 and 1995, 1st; 2011, 2006, 2005 and 2004, 2nd; 2008, 1997, 4th; 2013, 2012, 5th; 2009, 6th.

Sponsors: My wife, Sarah, and family.

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POLARIS

*Team Sponsors: **Community of McGrath**, Chinook Printing, Motorfist, Donlin Gold, Big Lake Powersports, Alaska Commercial Company, Pay Dirt Excavation, B&H Furs, Alaska Air Transit, Susies Iditarod Trail Cafe, Pen Air, Alaska Logistics, Cabela's, Racewerx, Inc., Stud Boy Traction Products*



ROBERT STRICK

AGE: 29 / **FROM:** McGrath
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris PRO-R

RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished.

BIO: I was born in Alaska and have lived here my whole life. I enjoy spending time with my wife, Noel, and our children, and hunting, snowmobiling and some fishing. I would like to thank all of our supporters who have helped us participate in this race, and a big thank you to all of the volunteers along the race trail that make this race possible.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog 2013, 12th.

Sponsors: Mom and Dad, Grandma Strick, Craig and Sheri Losby, my beautiful wife and kids, Jimmy Gee, Brett and Holly, Roberta, Maria, Uncle Mansey



STEFFEN STRICK

AGE: 27 / **FROM:** McGrath
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Pro-R

RACE HISTORY: 2013, Finished.

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan and love to be in the woods with family and friends camping, hunting, boating and I also love to ride. I am a dedicated father to my two beautiful children, Grace Lynn and Rally Jo and a dedicated spouse to my fiance, Hope. Without them, a lot of this would not be possible, Also a big thank-you to everyone out there who supports me and my brother in this Race.

Sponsors: Hope Collins, Grace Strick, Rally Jo Strick, Mom & Dad, Grandma Strick, Maria Strick, Berta Strick, Brett & Holly Gibbens, Craig & Sheri Losby.

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ARCTIC CAT

*Team Sponsors: **Team Arctic**, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Northern Power Sports, Zugger Shocks*



RICK LIE

AGE: 36 / **FROM:** Kotzebue
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat 0r XC

BIO: I was born, raised and reside in Kotzebue. I come from a long history of racers; my grandfather Harold Lie owned and operated H&L Yamaha shop for many years. My uncles Chris and Michael Lie, both avid snowmachine racers, have run the Iron Dog. I have run many races in Kotzebue and Kiana, and this is my first Iron Dog race I will be running with John Schaeffer. I work seasonally at Red Dog as a heavy-equipment operator for Pah River Construction; this allows me to have winters off to ride. My hobbies are wrenching, riding my snowmachine, hunting and working in my shop with friends. My son, Dylan, who will graduate in May, has inspired me to always do what I love, I would also like to thank my mom, sisters, family and all my sponsors and friends.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Archie Ferguson/Willie Goodwin: 2010, 3rd place.

Sponsors: Tula Lie, Dylan Lie, Ginger Douglas, Charlie Lee, David McConnell



JOHN SCHAEFFER

AGE: 28 / **FROM:** Kotzebue
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat 0r XC

BIO: I was born and raised in northwest Alaska. I am a heavy-equipment operator at the Red Dog Mine. I enjoy racing and wrenching on my spare time.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2012 Big Lake 500, 2nd place open class; 2011 Kotzebue Night Riders champion.

Sponsors: Unch Schuerch, Marquita George, Ginger Douglas and kids, Mom Renee Douglas, Liz and Cookie, Blair, Zander and Mazie, Charlie Lee, Alexis Savage and family, Annabel and Dracen, Dennis Davis, JD Schaeffer & family, Daniel and Lois Dallemolle, Eric Newlin, Mickey and Jayme Jorgensen, many friends and family for the support.

IRON DOG FACT

At 2,050 miles, Iron Dog teams will be racing within or through 52,115 square acres of wilderness.

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SKI-DOO

Team Sponsors: ***Team CC****, Ski-Doo, Alaska Spine Institute, IBEW Local 1547, Rockstar Energy Drink, Northwoods Lodge, H&K Sheetmetal Fabricators, Inc, Northern Chiropractic, Global Fuel, Alaska Lighting & Supply, HMK USA, Stud Boy Traction Products, Fineline Interiors, Hybrid Color Films, Taco Loco, RPM Composites, Lead Dog Helmet Light, Gates Belts, Fifty Six North Designs, Grip N Rip Racing Products, Formula XPS.*



TYLER AKLESTAD

AGE: 29 / **FROM:** Palmer
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

RACE HISTORY: 2007, Finished; 2009, Finished; 2012, Finished; 2013, Finished.

BIO: I was born and raised in Alaska and love the outdoors. I enjoy flying, fishing, hunting and dirt biking. I am married to my amazing wife, Erin. We just had our first child, Liam. I work for MTA as an IBEW journeyman cable splicer.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Arctic Man 2014, First place; 2013, First place; 2012, First place; 2011, First place; 2008, First place.

Sponsors: My wife, Erin; Korey and Barbara Cronquist, Chris McDowell, Eric and Shan Johnson.



TYSON JOHNSON

AGE: 34 / **FROM:** Eagle River
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

RACE HISTORY: 1997, Finished; 1999, Finished; 2000, Finished; 2001, Finished; 2002, Finished; 2007, Finished; 2009, Finished; 2012, Finished; 2013, Finished.

BIO: I have been racing Iron Dog since I was 17 years old, with this year's race being my 17th entry. I have many Top 5s, including three second-place finishes. I have six Arctic Man titles and many Cross Country race wins. I work for H&K Sheetmetal Fabricators as a sheet metal journeyman. I enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, welding, and pretty much anything that involves the outdoors.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog three second-place finishes; Arctic Man, five men's ski wins and one men's snowboard win; Mayors Cup, three wins; K150 four wins; many other wins and top 3s in all venues of sled racing.

Sponsors: Special thanks to Korey and Barbara Cronquist, Dave Harris, Eric and Shan Johnson, my girlfriend, Alexis, our pilot Johnny "Thunder" Tovsen, Al Palma.

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SKI-DOO

Team Sponsors: ***Repsol****, Team CC, Chris Manion, Mike McNamara- Alaska Hand Elbow Shoulder, Plumbline LLC, Carlos Tree Service, S&P Auto Care, Yukon Equipment, Kurt Mentzer, Alisons's Relocations Inc., ReMax of Eagle River- Team Mason, Motorfist, Stud Boy Traction Products, Alaska Express Services , Regal Air, Bush Construction Surveys, Inc.*



JOSHUA PLUMB

AGE: 22 / **FROM:** Eagle River
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

RACE HISTORY: 2014, Finished.

BIO: Joshua is a lifelong Alaskan from Eagle River. He is enrolled at the University of Alaska Anchorage seeking a business degree, and works as an operator in the construction field. When Josh is not working he enjoys spending time with his friends and family, trips to the cabin, snowmachining, camping and traveling.

Sponsors: A huge thanks to Chris Manion, Barry Bridges, John Fields, Jim Reynolds, and all our family and friends who support us.



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JORDAN STARR

AGE: 23 / **FROM:** Eagle River
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

RACE HISTORY: 2014, Finished.

BIO: Jordan moved to Alaska when he was 4 years old. He's a commercial fisherman in the summer in Bristol Bay. Jordan received his pilot's license, and works as an A&P mechanic. He enjoys everything that Alaska has to offer – flying, camping, snowmachining, hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends and family.

Sponsors: Special thanks to my mom and dad, my girlfriend, Ellicia, Barry Bridges, and all of our friends and relatives for supporting us.

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POLARIS

Team Sponsors: ***Polaris Industries****, UA Local 367 Plumbers & Pipefitters, Klim, Big Lake Powersports, Walker Evans Racing, Northern Powerline Constructors Inc., Northern Air Cargo, Stan Morgan, Polaris Engineered Lubricants, ARC Welding, Q-Trucking, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Alaska Spine Institute, Bering Air, Skinz Protective Gear, Fine Line Interiors, Pemco Corporation, Anchorage Drag Bike, Aurora Health Care Clinic, Morgan Enterprises, Stud Boy Traction Products, Holeshot Inc., Starting Line Products, Alaska Industrial X-Ray, Alwayz Graphyk, Emmons Mechanical, Glacier Autoworks, Alaska Functional Fitness, Christy Hedrick, Jeremy Hanson , Ginny Emmons, Aeroworks of Alaska, Projekt 907, Micah Straughn, Christine Olds.*



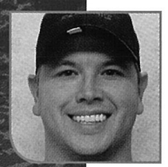
MIKE MORGAN

AGE: 29 / **FROM:** Nome
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback Pro-S

RACE HISTORY: 2009, Finished; 2012, Finished; 2013, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: Mike was born and raised in Nome and currently lives in Anchorage, having spent all of his 29 years here in Alaska. Mike enjoys taking advantage of Alaska's outdoors, hunting, fishing, traveling, riding and racing snowmobiles and hanging out with friends and family. Mike works construction as a Welder/Pipefitter out of the Local 367 Plumbers & Pipefitters Union. This will be Mike's sixth Iron Dog race and fourth with current teammate Chris Olds.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2002 Kotz-Kiana race, 2nd; 2006 Nome-Golovin 200, 1st; 2007 I-150, 1st; 2008 Nome-Golovin 200, 1st; 2009 Kotzebue race, 1st; 2009 Arctic Man, 1st; 2010 Nome-Golovin 200, 1st; 2014 Kotzebue race, 1st; Placed in Top-5 in every Iron Dog race finished.



CHRIS OLDS

AGE: 43 / **FROM:** Eagle River
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback Pro-S

RACE HISTORY: 2000, Finished; 2001, Finished; 2002, Finished; 2006, Finished; 2007, Finished; 2008, Finished; 2009, Finished; 2010, 1st Place; 2011, 1st Place; 2012:, Finished; 2013, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: I am a 31-year Alaskan married to Christine with two children, Haley and Mya. I work for UIC Construction as a project manager. I enjoy hunting, fishing, four-wheeling, dirt bikes, mountain bikes and hanging with family. I have been racing snowmobiles since 1998.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 1st Place K-400, numerous Top-3 finishes in Hillclimb, Hillcross, Cross Country and Snowcross. 12 Top-10 and 10 Top-5 finishes in the Iron Dog.

IRON DOG FACT

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

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 14

"There's been quite a few months of buildup to this, of course, so once we got the full approval from not only the municipality but JBER, the (Alaska) Railroad and the Port of Anchorage, yeah, we were really excited from both the perspective of the board and staff, and to a degree the racers have been real supportive," Kastner says. "They recognize that it brings additional attention not only to the race but to them and their supporters."

A benefit to the new start location is improved accessibility. Fans from all around the Anchorage Bowl, and those flying in from outside Alaska, can finally get a firsthand sense of the action and meet the race teams without braving the long drive to Big Lake. As for the racers, a ceremonial start means a bit of fun for them, too.

Spectators will find the Iron Dog teams more available and approachable. As Kastner puts it, they'll be in a "non-race mode" compared to the Big Lake start when teams are keenly focused on race preparations and visualizing what they'll encounter down the trail. Kastner also emphasizes just how much of an improvement the downtown Anchorage start will be for sponsors and volunteers.

"Everyone will be able to duck into a local business to get warm, grab a hot bite to eat, have a coffee or beer, and relax and have a great time," he said.

Iron Dog organizers expect a lot more participation on all fronts. But if accessibility, firsthand experience and comfort amenities aren't enough to entice a bigger crowd, then perhaps the additional festivities are. Iron Dog has a lot more to offer than a parade of snowmachines.

"Maybe some people aren't interested in cross-country snowmachine racing but they're interested in vintage races, the kids' Iron Pup 120 race, or the freestyle show with X-Games riders showing another snowmachine extreme," Kastner says. "From a spectator standpoint, it's more exciting and will appeal to a broader audience."

CONTINUED ON PAGE 18

Starting Line Events

IF YOU'RE LOOKING for a little more action to please your entire family, Iron Dog, in cooperation with other organizations such as Mat-Su Vintage Racing Club and Alaska Motor Mushers Club, and sponsors like Hard Rock Café and EasyPark, have a few things in store to liven up the moments before and after the releasing of the race teams. Enjoy the festive mood on two separate days.

FRIDAY EVENING, FEB. 20
7 P.M.
The first Flying Iron freestyle show will kick off in downtown Anchorage. If you love watching freestyle exhibitions you'll have another chance to see the show on the following day after the Iron Dog Start.

SATURDAY, FEB. 21
10 A.M.
Vintage snowmobile "Shine & Show" and Iron Pup kids in front of Hard Rock Café. Racers must be positioned at the race pit.
10 A.M.
Meet and greet the Pro Class racers.
10:30 A.M.
Mat-Su Vintage Racing Club's vintage snowmobile parade.

SATURDAY, FEB. 21
11:00 A.M.
Closing of the pit area.
11:30 A.M.
Color Guard, National Anthem and announcements.
12:10 P.M.
First Green Flag drops for the first team
1:45 P.M.
AMMC's Iron Pup Kids Parade
2:30 P.M.
Flying Iron freestyle show at the EasyPark Coho parking lot (Third Avenue & E Street).
AN AFTER PARTY will be held at Hard Rock Café, and spectators can expect music, vendor hospitality, prizes and gifts, food and fun activities mixed with the scheduled events.



Best viewing areas for the ceremonial start in Anchorage

A MAJORITY OF THE ACTION in downtown Anchorage will take place on **Fourth Avenue** for two to three blocks from **D Street to G Street**. Iron Dog teams will first head east on Fourth Avenue between G and E streets, then turn north on E Street, and finally along Second Avenue heading downhill past First Avenue and across Ship Creek before vanishing through Port of Anchorage property on their way onto JBER property.

Spectators will be able fill the sidewalks along this route, or even stand in **Barrow Park** or the hill on either side of Second Avenue. From the Iron Dog starting line to First Avenue is also the same route that will be used for an initial parade of teams. There's plenty of room for all to watch the action.

Vintage and Iron Pup exhibitions will take place on Fourth Avenue from the starting line all the way to D Street and back.

As for the **Flying Iron Freestyle Show**, fans can watch the aerobatics at the EasyPark lot on Third Avenue, between C and E streets. The lot will be sectioned off with a specific spectator area and hospitality tent adjacent to the snowmachine ramp and landing area.

Don't let parking get you down

PARKING ISN'T A PROBLEM. Arrive early and take your time finding a good spot. Iron Dog is cooperating with EasyPark and other facilities to ensure spectators have improved signage and even parking promotions to save a couple bucks. There are multiple parking garages within a couple blocks of all the events. Iron Dog's preferred location is the **EasyPark Fifth Avenue and B Street Garage**. Other options are the garage connected to the bus station at **G Street and Sixth Avenue**, the garage at **Fifth Avenue and K Street**, or seeking out one of many paid and free parking lots nearby. Another alternative is to park along the Delaney Park on 10th Avenue. It's a bit farther to walk, but always a sure bet.

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 17

According to Iron Dog, fans also can expect plenty of hospitality from sponsors and vendors, food, T-shirt giveaways, and other fun.

As for any drawbacks to hosting in Downtown, there aren't many. Of course people will need to navigate to the best parking options (watch for parking promotions from EasyPark and additional signage), and there are additional concerns with snowmachines or other moving vehicles involved with the race, and road closures and how that might affect certain businesses has been taken into consideration.

Fortunately, downtown Anchorage, including the Mayor's Office, businesses and nearby residents are no strangers to hosting enormous events. Anchorage will now have a Triple Crown of knockout events to spark spring tourism and the economy. Iron Dog, followed closely behind by Fur Rondy and then the Iditarod, should make for some exciting, fun-filled weeks. Combined with Anchorage Centennial celebration activities, Anchorage, at 100 years old, looks to be ushering in a new era of tourism and prosperity. Visit Anchorage president and CEO Julie Saupe had already reported an increase in tourism and visitations to Anchorage in late-2014 even prior to new events and expos, and the prospects for continued growth through these events is promising. ■



Race Restart in Big Lake

IF YOU MISSED OUT on the Anchorage ceremonial start, you'll have one more opportunity to wave the racers off on their journey. Iron Dog rolls up its sleeves and gets down to business on **Sunday, Feb. 22, in Big Lake**, on the lake. Race teams will be released in succession starting at 10 a.m. As in past years, each team can be watched as they speed away across icy Big Lake before vanishing into the Alaska wilderness.

Fans won't find as much of a festive atmosphere as compared to the Anchorage start, but they will see the serious side of the race teams and witness their anticipation to compete.

SUNDAY, FEB. 22
8 A.M.
Teams must be parked on the ice and start unloading. (Don't be late!)
9 A.M.
Race teams must be positioned at the start in the race pit.
9:45 A.M.
Color Guard, National Anthem and announcements.
10 A.M.
First Green Flag drops and continues in two-minute intervals.
12:30 P.M.
End of the restart. (Time to pack up for Nome and Fairbanks.)

5

POLARIS

*Team Sponsors: **ASRC Energy Services,** Magtec Alaska, Mechanical Specialists Inc, Valley Moving and Storage, McKinley Polaris, Big Lake Powersports, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Phillips Recreation, Eagle River Polaris & Arctic Cat, Ginger Orem Reality, Waste Management, Fibershield Windows & Insulated Glass, Rigid Industries, Stud Boy Traction Products, Ben Atkinson Allstate Insurance, Alaska LED Industries, Arctic Marine Solutions, Klim, Air Support by Chris Maynard.*



CHRIS CARROLL

AGE: 33 / **FROM:** Fairbanks
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Pro-S

Bio: I enjoy hanging out and having fun with my beautiful wife, Trinity, and our two boys, Austin and Kyler. Snowmachining, fourwheeling, hunting and fishing seems to take up all of our time. I have been riding snowmachines since I can remember. I've been a part of multiple races from Sno-cross, Cross Country, Hill Cross and Hill Climbs. I've raced in a World European Championship race in Finland, and have raced for multiple years in Moto X. I heard a saying I firmly agree with and has stuck with me ever since: "You can't win if you don't play."

RACING EXPERIENCE: Multiple Top-3 finishes in Sno-cross, Moto-cross, Hill Cross, Hill Climb. Arctic Man, World European Championship Sno X (Finland)

Sponsors: Jake Hollier, Jay Inglet, Rick Phillips, Jon Gerik, Ginger Orem.



RAY CHVASTASZ

AGE: 38 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Pro-S

BIO: I work on the slope as a well-testing operator for ASRC Energy Services. Married to Debi with three awesome kids, Jacob, Gavin and Emilie. I love to spend time with my family, playing and coaching hockey, riding sleds, bikes and wheelers.

Sponsors: Ron Kuzina, Kurt Mackenzie, Debi Chvastasz, Joe Chvastasz, Karla Jones, Matt and Terri Trask, Bill and Wendy Hollifield, Jay Inglet, Jeremiah Shaw, Ryan Vonlolhoffel, ASRC well-testing family.

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SKI-DOO

*Team Sponsors: **Ski-Doo**, Team CC, Hank Swan/Swan Employer Services, Motorfist, Mr. Lube, Delta Western/Inlet Petroleum, Alaskan Auto Napa Inc, TCI, Arby's, Renton Coil, Ohlins USA, Alaska Sales and Services–Valley.*



ANDY GEORGE

AGE: 51 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

RACE HISTORY: 2000, Finished; 2001, Finished; 2002, Finished; 2004, Finished; 2005, Finished; 2006, 1st Place; 2008, Finished; 2009, Finished; 2010, Finished; 2011, Finished; 2013, Finished; 2014, Finished.

BIO: Andy enjoys being on the river, camping and spending time with his family.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2006, First Place Iron Dog

Sponsors: Zugger Shocks, Unch Racing, Vision-X, Blue Sky Design, Ak Goldstar, Nite Shift Janitorial, Dan Trotter, Hiltop Recycling, B-Original Signs, Geoff Trabits Group, Alaska Cab Valley,Tommy Kriska, Chris Kuhn, Steve Becker, Wasilla Arctic Cat, South Port Marina, Tre West, Advanced Powder Coating, Board of Trade Saloon, Design Graphics, Skwentna Road House, Alaska Frontier Fabrication, Six Roblees, Lynn Slusher, Kenny Hughes, Weld Air, Big Dipper Constuction, American Dream Construction, Alaska DTS/Dave Kane, Yentna Station, Wilderness Skidoo, Alvin Williams, ACLS, Troy Davis Homes.



BRAD GEORGE

AGE: 20 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

RACE HISTORY: 2012, 2013, Finished, 2014

BIO: Brad enjoys hunting, fishing, hanging out with friends and family and anything with a motor.

Sponsors: Zugger Shocks, Unch Racing,Vision-X, Blue Sky Design, Ak Goldstar, Nite Shift Janitorial, Dan Trotter, Hiltop Recycling, B-Original Signs, Geoff Trabits Group, Alaska Cab Valley,Tommy Kriska, Chris Kuhn, Steve Becker, Wasilla Arctic Cat, South Port Marina, Tre West, Advanced Powder Coating, Board of Trade Saloon, Design Graphics, Skwentna Road House, Alaska Frontier Fabrication, Six Roblees, Lynn Slusher, Kenny Hughes, Weld Air, Big Dipper Constuction, American Dream Construction, Alaska DTS/Dave Kane, Yentna Station, Wilderness Skidoo, Big Dipper Construction, Alvin Williams, ACLS, Troy Davis Homes.

7

SKI-DOO

*Team Sponsors: **GCI Communications**, Team CC, Criterion General, Alaska Oil Sales, Stud Boy Traction Products, Klim, Alaska LED Industries, Rockstar Energy Drink, BC Excavating LLC, Davis Block & Concrete, CMI, Fine Line Interiors, Gates Belts*



AARON BARTEL

AGE: 24 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo

RACE HISTORY: 2009, Finished; 2011, Finished; 2013, Finished.

BIO: Born and raised in Alaska, Aaron enjoys hunting, fishing and anything outside.

Sponsors: Korey and Barbara Cronquist, Gordon and Susan Bartel, Nathan and Kaleen Haines, Delene Bartel, Mike Tope, Al Palma, Ron Davis, Regina Daniels, Mike Tope, Gordon Bartel, Doug Dixon.



SCOTT DAVIS

AGE: 55 / **FROM:** Soldotna
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS

RACE HISTORY: 1984: Finished, 1985: 1st Place, 1986: Finished, 1987: Finished, 1988: Finished, 1989: 1st Place, 1990: Finished, 1992: Finished, 1993: 1st Place, 1994: Finished, 1995: Finished, 1997: 1st Place, 1998: 1st Place, 1999: 1st Place, 2000: Finished, 2001: Finished, 2002: Finished, 2004: Finished, 2005: Finished, 2006: Finished, 2007: 1st Place, 2008: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2010: Finished, 2011: Finished, 2012: Finished, 2013: Finished

BIO: Owner / President of Davis Block and Concrete for 36 years.

RACE EXPERIENCE: Scott has competed in all but 2 Iron Dog races since its inception in 1984, 7 wins, 20 top 3's.

Sponsors: Ron Davis

IRON DOG FACT

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

2

POLARIS

*Team Sponsors: **Walker Evans Racing,** UA Local 367 Plumbers & Pipefitters, Neeser Construction, Alaska Air Taxi, Klim, Last Frontier Mechanical, Polaris Industries, Big Lake Powersports, Anchorage Fracture and Orthopedic Clinic, Webb Chiropractic, Fineline Interiors, Aurora Drilling and Consulting, Construction Machinery Inc., Alaska LED Industries, Carpenters Local 1281, Max Muscle, LLC, Rex's Wrecker Towing Service, Big Wayne's Roofing, Interstate Batteries of Alaska, Big Dipper Clothing, Woody's Studs & Runners, Stripper Juice Cleaners, Air Liquide Anchorage AK, Alaska Portable Buildings, Truck Well Of Alaska*



SHANE BARBER

AGE: 40 / **FROM:** Willow
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris AXYS Pro-S

RACE HISTORY: 2000, Finished; 2004, Finished; 2006, Finished; 2007, Finished; 2009, Finished.

BIO: I am a born-and-raised Alaskan. I enjoy life to the fullest and have found my greatest rewards come from spending time with my wife, Tammy, and my three children, Cody, Shana and Evan. I have been racing on and off since I was 13. I'm adventurous and enjoy outdoor acitvities of most kinds. I strive to meet any and all of lifes challenges, whatever they may be, with a smile. I thank God every day for the many blessing I have received. One of my favorite quotes is "Don't mistake kindness for weakness."

RACING EXPERIENCE: 10th, DNF, 3rd, 3rd, 3rd, DNF, 7th, DNF, DNF

Sponsors: A special thank-you to my beautiful bride, Tammy, for all her support, my three children, Cody, Shana and Evan. Momma, Dad, in-laws Mike and Michelle Spain, Evan and Crystal Booth in Nome; Ivanoffs in Unalakleet; Walker Evans, Frankie Harris, Jason Kasper and all our friends and family for their support.



RYAN SOTTOSANTI

AGE: 37 / **FROM:** Wasilla
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris AXYS Pro-S

RACE HISTORY: 2010: Finished, 2011: Finished, 2012: Finished, 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished

BIO: I have lived in Alaska for over 20 years. I am employed by Last Frontier Mechanical as a journeyman plumber/fitter in the UA Local 367. I am married to my beautiful wife Heather and have a wounderfull daughter named Faith. I really enjoy everything Alaska has to offer, from jet skiing to hunting big game there is so much to offer here. Also in my spare time I train a lot in the gym I believe Iron Dog racers are top athletes and to compete at this level you need to be in the best shape of your life. Some other things I enjoy are fishing, running my jet boat, working on my toys, wakeboarding, snowboarding and spending as much time as I can with family and friends.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2010 Iron Dog top rookie 6th place, 2008 Mayors Cup 3rd place, 2009 Mayors cup 2nd place, Trapper Creek 200 2nd place, K150 2nd,3rd,5th place, Alyeska Cross Country 1st place, 4th place, 2012 Arctic Man 5th place. 2014 Arctic Man 7th place. Finished the Iron Dog in the top 10 four years in a row. Best finish 3rd place Iron Dog

Sponsors: Heather Sottosanti, Al Sottosanti, Walker Evans, Jack Barber, Pete Nolfi, Byron Flipin, Broach Family, Straughn Family and everybody else that helps us throughout the year.

IRON DOG FACT

Northern Air Cargo has been providing continuous support to Iron Dog since the beginning. That's now over 30 years of service.

3

YAMAHA

*Team Sponsors: **Yamaha Motor Corp.**, Anchorage Yamaha, Prop Shop, Inc., Donlin Gold, Ravn Alaska, Coca-Cola of Alaska, Specialty Truck & Auto, Fine Line Interiors, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Top Fuel, Tunda Technologies, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products*



STEVEN BONEY

AGE: 34 / **FROM:** Bethel
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Yamaha VIPER

Race History: 2012: Finished, 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished

Bio: Born and Raised in Bethel, Yamaha Snowmobile Mechanic for 18 years, 9 year Private pilot, I have a loving and supportive wife Dolly and three awesome girls, Brittney 16, Payton 9, Riley 5.

Sponsors: Wife Dolly and kids Brittney,Payton,Riley, My Father Craig, Vinny, Blazo, Ozzie,



DOUG DIXON

AGE: 47 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Yamaha VIPER

Race History: 2010, Finished.

Bio: Doug is a lifelong Alaskan who owns and operates Fine Line Interiors, The lead Iron Dog bag supplier. Doug is married to Johnteil and has three children, Ashley, Kial and Michael, and grandson Hyder. Doug has extensive snowmobile race experience through the years from AMMC events to the Iron Dog.

Sponsors: Mike Vasser, Keith Manternach, Al Palma, Daniel Ryznar, Wayne Wold, Steve Spence, Jeff Schutz, Oliver Unruh, Jimmy, Jim Dixon, Dave Mckay

4

POLARIS

*Team Sponsors: **Alaska Foot & Ankle Specialists**, Klim, Karen & Gary Fields, Eagle River Polaris & Arctic Cat, Webb Chiropractic Wellness Center, H&K Sheetmetal Fabricators, Inc., Walker Evans Racing, BDO USA, Alaska Spine Institute, Stud Boy Traction Products, Ice Age Performance, Coffman Engineers, Polaris Industries, Alask-Co, D-Man Construction, AK LED Industries, Local Girls AK, Alaska Functional Fitness, IUOE Local 302, RSA Engineering, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, Brown Jug, Big Lake Powersports, Jay and Dalynn Kidwell.*



RACHEL KIDWELL

AGE: 27 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris

BIO: Born and raised in Bullhead City, Ariz., Rachel came to Alaska in 2007. She is an alumni of the University of Alaska Anchorage School of Engineering and varsity volleyball team. She currently works as a corrosion engineer for Coffman Engineers. She has an adventurous spirit and an intense passion for the sport of snowmobiling. When she isn't playing in the snow she is fishing, camping, hunting, hiking, biking – pretty much anything active and outdoors. This will be her first time racing in the Pro Class.



ASHLEY WOOD

AGE: 26 / **FROM:** Soldotna
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris

BIO: Born and raised in Alaska, Ashley works as an operating engineer out of the Local 302. With multiple cross-country wins, she is excited for the adventure and challenge of making it to Fairbanks. In her spare time she enjoys hunting, mountain biking, hiking, powder riding, shooting, and loves to laugh.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2013 Mayors Cup cross-country Men's Semi-Pro 7th place; 2013 K-150 cross-country Women's Pro 1st place; 2011 Alyeska cross-country Women's Pro 1st place; 2011 Mayors Cup cross- country Women's Pro 1st place; 2011 K-150 cross-country Women's Pro 1st place; 2010 Arctic Man Hill cross Men's Semi-Pro 2nd place; 2010 Arctic Man Hill cross Women's Pro 1st place; 2008 Anchorage Sno-cross Women's Pro 2nd place; 2006 Valdez Sno-cross Women's Pro 2nd place; 2005 Alyeska Sno-cross Women's Semi-Pro 2nd Place.

Sponsors: Special thank-you to friends, family and supporters of the race community.



You climb. We invent.
You carve. We transform.
You boondock. We tweak.
You sidehill. We reinvent.
You never stop. We never stop.

We share something: a push to make mountain riding better. You feel it holding a sidehill forever, reaching a spot you thought you couldn't. We feel it coming up with ideas like the responsive tMotion™ rear suspension, FlexEdge™ track, Rotax® engines and REV-XM™ platform. When you push and we push, we break through. Then we start pushing all over again.

NEVER STOP PUSHING™

ski-doo BRP

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While you're here...

A FEW WAYS YOU CAN ENJOY THE BIG, WILD, LIFE OF ANCHORAGE

With the coming events like Fur Rendezvous and Iditarod, not only does Iron Dog kick off three full weekends of fun, it bolsters Anchorage's claims that visitors can experience the city's "Big, Wild, Life." And on behalf of the rest of Anchorage and southcentral Alaska, Visit Anchorage wants both out-of-state visitors and residents to know there's a long list of ways to explore and enjoy the area.

"We do appreciate all our visitors and we hope that as they come in, especially for special events, that they take the time to discover our ongoing activities in the city as well," says Julie Saupe, Visit Anchorage executive director and CEO. "There's quite a bit to see and do so we always encourage people to enjoy their events, but we also hope they look at the greater Southcentral and Anchorage area for everything that they can be doing."

This might include something as simple as visiting the Anchorage Museum or Native Heritage Center, or perhaps taking a flightseeing excursion or going for a ski at a nearby resort. There's fine dining, trails to explore, coastal views, sports events and so much more.

Visitors should pick up one of the many community travel guides and tour maps at the downtown Visitor Information Center at Fourth Avenue and F Street, and utilize the Visit Anchorage website, www.anchorage.net. Alaska.org is another site with useful trip-planning information, and below you'll find some brief advice on enjoying the area.

One of the best ways to see the city is by foot. The heart of downtown Anchorage is just a few blocks up the hill from its tent city roots on Ship Creek in 1915. Between A and L streets and Second to Eighth avenues, find historic buildings dating back to as early as 1915.



COFFEE

With the chilly weather you might want grab an espresso or top off your thermos with a hot chocolate. Numerous coffee shops are located along the walking route, providing several opportunities to rest weary feet.

Kaladi Café is conveniently situation on the corner of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at Sixth Avenue and C Street; 907-344-6510.

Dark Horse Coffee, 646 F St., provides Internet access along with Alaska roasted coffees; 907-279-0647.

Cafe 817 & Muffin Man Bakery, 817 W. Sixth Ave., is the perfect place for breakfast, lunch or to enjoy homemade baked goods; 907-279-6836.

Caffe D'arte at the Fur Rondy Shop, 400 D St., Suite 110, 907-274-1177. Fine coffee and fine art (and artifacts!) fill the room and help tell the story of Fur Rondy.

COASTAL TRAIL

If you're in the mood for a brisk walk, ski or bike ride with coastal views, head west on Fifth Avenue to access the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail. Although more suited for walking and skiing this time of year, consider renting a fat bike from Downtown Bicycle Rental, 333 W. Fourth Ave. Suite 206; 907-279-5293, which is close to the Tony Knowles Coastal Trail.

SHOPPING

Who can resist the shopping bug? There are a number of locally owned shops featuring everything from Alaska arts, crafts and curio items to other fun gifts. **Kobuk Coffee & Tea** Co., located in the historic Kimball Building, 504 W. Fifth Ave., will delight all five senses upon entering the door; the sweet aromas of the teas and coffees, the tasty sweets and gift items are reminiscent of days long past.

The **Museum Gift Shop,** located in the Anchorage Museum of History and Art, 121 W. Seventh Ave., at C Street; 907-343-4326, is filled with Alaska treasures created by artisans across the state. Follow browsing with lunch or a sweet treat at the Marx Bros. cafe at the museum.

Looking for clothing to explore Alaska's rugged backcountry? **Sixth Avenue Outfitters**, 524 W. Sixth Ave.; 907-276-0233, has everything an Alaskan explorer might need from underwear to outerwear, headgear to hiking boots and shoes.

Located in a little house at Sixth Avenue and 604 H St.; 907-272-9225, **Oomingmak Musk Ox Producers Co-op** offers qiviut hats, scarves and smoke rings in traditional patterns hand-knitted by Alaska Native women. Qiviut is the warm, soft under-fur of the musk ox — the warmest, softest wool known.

ARTS

As the sun sets in The Last Frontier, the fun begins in Anchorage. **First Fridays Art Walk** takes the walking tour to a new level. On the first Friday of every month, local art galleries and many shops stay open late, featuring a new artist solo or group show. It's a great way to see Anchorage, socialize and enjoy food and beverages.

Catch an independent film while sipping a beer and devouring a specialty pizza at **Bear Tooth Theatrepub**, 1230 W. 27th Ave. Visit www.beartooththeatre.com or call 907-276-4200 for other shows and times information.

Anchorage Concert Association presents a collection of live performances to include opera, symphony and ballet, intimate discussions with acclaimed media personalities, plays and much more. www.anchorageconcerts.org.

The **Anchorage Museum of History and Art** provides a continued schedule of locally inspired and international exhibitions as well as traditional displays of art, local history and educational fun for kids. www.anchoragemuseum.org.





Fairbanks finish line with the Kendall Toyota Tundra raffle truck. Iron Dog will draw for the prizes at the awards banquet that evening.

Then finally, when the last active race team has crossed the finish and everyone has had a chance to catch their breath (if we know Fairbanks you'll be able to see it), the Iron Dog Awards Reception happens in the evening. Recognition for team accomplishments will be presented at the Westmark Hotel at 813 Noble St., in Fairbanks. ■

SATURDAY, FEB. 28
EVENTS SCHEDULE

9:30 A.M. Fairbanks Tired Iron with vintage racing, kids' activities and fun for all ages.

10 A.M. Vintage racing on the Chena River with Tired Iron.

11:30 A.M. Announcements and preparing for the first-place team to arrive.

NOON Waiting for the first team to arrive.

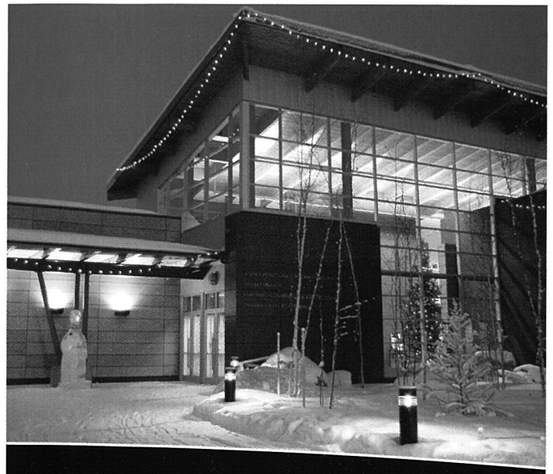
3 P.M. Iron Dog merchandise tent closes so act fast earlier to get your gear.

5 P.M. Last teams to arrive on the Chena River.

7 P.M. Awards Ceremonies begin

10 P.M. After-party at the Westmark

TIME TO GET HITCHED
SIX ROBBLEES' INC.
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ANCHORAGE • 344-7497
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Ladies, Rev Your Engines!



11th Annual WOW Ride

It is time to register for the **2015 Way Out Women** snow machine ride benefiting cancer patients right here on the Kenai Peninsula. Riders can sign up individually or as a team.

$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 28th 9:00 am at Freddie's Roadhouse Mile 16 Caribou Hills

7th Annual Wild & Wooly Contest

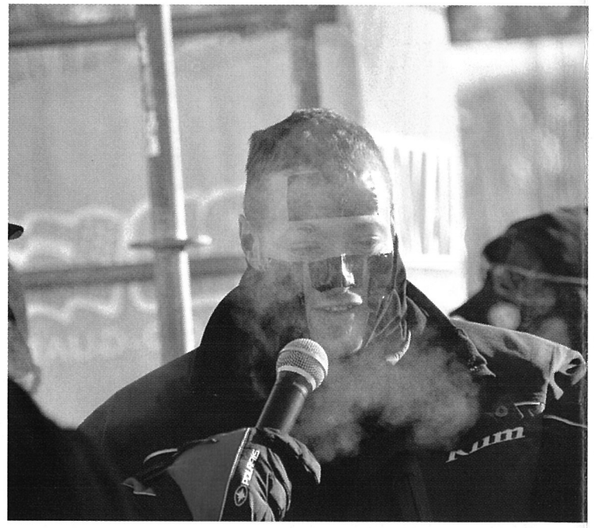
For more information, contact Kathy Lopeman at 283-7602/398-4853 or the Central Peninsula Health Foundation at 714-4626.
You can also print a registration packet from www.givingheals.org.

POLARIS The Way Out. · central peninsula hospital · CENTRAL PENINSULA HEALTH FOUNDATION

100% of the funds raised support Kenai Peninsula cancer patients

250 Hospital Place, Soldotna, AK 99669 • www.givingheals.org





"It's still new, but should add some interest to the finish-line activity."

And as teams come across the finish at intervals, spread throughout the day, there are always other activities to enjoy and fill the time.

One of the most popular periphery events to team up with Iron Dog the past few years will be at it again. Tired Iron races will be held in the middle of the action. It's always a fun sight to see vintage machines whirl around the course, often at a runner's pace, and often with some truly "classic" riders at the helm.

Crowley Fuels, a consistent Iron Dog sponsor, will be hosting a free hotdog grill at their official Crowley North Pole checkpoint, and Rockstar Energy Drinks will be at the

SPORTS

Ten days of parading, community games, carnival and an abundance of festive fun kicks off on Feb. 27 with **Fur Rondy**, www.furrondy.net. The **Iditarod** sled dogs and mushers depart Anchorage on March 7 for their 1,000-mile journey and continue racing through the 14th. Visit www.Iditarod.com for trailside updates. The **Tour of Anchorage**, Alaska's premier ski marathon, runs Sunday, March 8. For details visit www.tourofanchorage.com.

In the evenings, hockey fans won't want to miss Alaska's professional sports franchise — the **Alaska Aces** — take on the Utah Grizzlies Feb. 20-22 and the Colorado Eagles March 11, 12 and 14 in the Sullivan Arena.

For boxing enthusiasts, T**hursday Night at the Fights** at the Egan Center is a must-see.

Additional event guide information is also available at: www.anchorage.net, including a comprehensive monthly events calendar.

CITY SAMPLER

RESTAURANTS, BARS AND ADVENTURE MEALS

Adventure Appetites (adventureappetites.com) provides ready-to-cook meals to pack on your outdoor excursions. Order meals for a single day or a 10-day kit with breakfast and dinner options available. 300 E. 76th Ave., Unit B; 907-868-1749.

Glacier BrewHouse features Alaska seafood and crafted ales. Voted Anchorage's best pub two years running. 737 W. Fifth Ave.; 907-792-3729.

Humpy's Great Alaskan Alehouse serves more than 40 beers, a house-style fettuccini, live music and football all day Sunday. 610 W. Sixth Ave.; 907-276-2337.

Orso Ristorante is an upscale restaurant that is good for celebrations. The downtown location works for busy game days. 737 W. Fifth Ave.; 907-222-3232.

Snow Goose Restaurant and Sleeping Lady Brewing features live music, several private rooms and an in-house brewery. 717 W. Third Ave.; 907-0277-7727.

New Sagaya Markets is an organic grocery with an eat-in or take-out deli. Good for a healthy grab and go. Three locations: 900 W. 13th Ave.; 907-274-6173 or 3700 Old Seward Hwy.; 907-561-5173 or 1101 Whitney Road; 907-272-5173.

Little New Orleans Restaurant serves Cajun food from an open kitchen, homemade pralines and live music. 8201 Old Seward Hwy.; 907-646-2226.

Hard Rock Café is new to Anchorage but a famous rock-themed chain restaurant in the Lower 48. Enjoy a lunch and dinner menu of American dishes with salads, sandwiches and burgers. 415 E St.; 907-274-7625.

Moose's Tooth Pub & Pizzeria is always crowded with locals, and with good reason. The pizza is fantastic and beer goes down smooth. 3300 Old Seward Hwy.; 907-258-2537.

Suite 100 is located near Dimond Center so you can do a little mall shopping and then get a bit to eat, a mixed drink or delicious dessert. It's perfect for an evening out. 1000 E. Dimond Blvd., Suite 100; 907-341-1000.

SPORTS AND RECREATION

The Alaska Zoo has polar bears, birds and many more animals for visitors to observe. 4731 O'Malley Road; 907-346-2133.

Tony Knowles Coastal Trail runs alongside the Cook Inlet in Anchorage for 11 miles. Biking and skiing permitted on sections of the trail. Starts on Second Avenue and ends in Kincaid Park.

The Anchorage Light Speed Planet Walk is an education about the solar system. Based on the speed of light in correlation with the speed of walking. Kiosk at Fifth Avenue and G Street.

Chugach State Park borders the eastern edges of Anchorage. Hiking, skiing, climbing and snowmachining are all possible in specific areas of the park.www.dnr.state.ak.us/parks.

Eagle River Nature Center offers natural history displays, hiking trails and interpretive walks. 32750 Eagle River Road; 907-694-2108.

Rust's Flying Service provides backcountry, low-altitude flightseeing and air taxi service for a truly unforgettable experience. 4525 Enstrom Circle; 907-243-1595.

Alaska Railroad provides passenger service as far from Anchorage as Fairbanks or south to Seward. Ride the rails within a stone's throw of glaciers, along the coast, across deep gulches and even past Mt. McKinley. Purchase tickets online, www.alaskarailroad.com, or walk straight to the Railroad office not far from the Iron Dog start, 411 W. First Ave.; 907-265-2494.

MORE MUSEUMS AND THEATRES

Russian Orthodox Museum carries a history of Russian-Alaska, a gift shop and church chapel. 605 A St.; 907-276-7257.

Artique LTD., is a shop with eccentric gifts, pottery, glass and more. Works are by Alaska artists. 314 G St.; 907-272-2024.

Imaginarium: Science Discovery Center offers hands on exploration for all ages.

Anchorage Museum of History has a permanent collection with thousands of years of Alaska's history. Open on Wednesdays through Sundays. 121 W. Seventh Ave.; 907-343-6163.

Aurora Fine Art Gallery features more than 400 artists and original works. Offers international and national shipping. 737 W. Fifth Ave.; 907-274-0234.

Fourth Avenue Theatre was built in 1947 and has the original floor-to-ceiling bronze statues. 630 W. Fourth Ave.; 907-276-5603.

Artic Rose Galleries offers Native and Russian art, glass, pottery and more. 420 L St. Suite. 200; 907-279-3911.

Historic City Hall holds a free exhibit of early Anchorage in the Lobby. A good stop for visitors pressed for time. 524 W. Fourth Ave.; 907-274-3531.

Alaska Center for the Performing Arts is home to three theatres and a variety of performances, Native art and more. 621 W. Sixth Ave.; 907-263-2787.

Meet teams, win prizes!

DONLIN GOLD SAFETY EXPO CELEBRATES IRON DOG





As a free, public event, the Iron Dog Safety Expo, sponsored by Donlin Gold, gives fans another opportunity to be a part of the action. Unlike the ceremonial start, the Safety Expo puts teams on display indoors and up-close. From 4–8 p.m. on Wednesday, Feb. 18, fans are afforded the opportunity to not only talk to teams and wish them luck, but also to inspect their sleds, see the required gear spread out and partake in event highlights. You might even go home with some new swag or a snowmachine.

Held at Cabela's for the first time, the Iron Dog Safety Expo will host event and team sponsors, vendors offering special deals, even door prizes. Enter to win a snowmachine, complements of Holiday fuel stations, Rockstar Engery Drinks and Team CC Ski-Doo. And, use the expo as an opportunity to purchase Iron Dog Raffle tickets (drawings to be held Feb. 28) for a chance to win a Toyota Tundra TRD Off-road 4x4 from Kendall Toyota, CFMOTO Z6 side-by-side from Alaska Power Sports, aluminum tilt trailer from White Spruce Trailer Sales and other great prizes.

Participants at the Safety Expo can even brush up on their winter safety skills with riding and snowmachine rescue training provided free of charge. Enjoy food, drinks and entertainment as well.

Safety is the theme of this annual event, and by the time the public pours through the doors at Cabela's, every Iron Dog racer will have completed a prerace inspection of their safety and survival gear. They'll be given a green light to compete in the world's longest, toughest snowmachine race.

Be there to show your support. ■

WHEN: 4-8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 18
WHERE: Cabela's of Anchorage, 155 W. 104th Ave., Anchorage
WHO: This is a free, public event hosted by Iron Dog and sponsored by Donlin Gold with vendors and race teams included.

VENDORS

Donlin Gold, Alaska National Guard, Kendall Toyota, XPS Lubricants, NAOI (North America Outdoor Institute), KLIM, Allstate, Woody's Traction, Alaska Spine Institute, Defense and Veterans Brain Injury Center and more!

GETTING THERE

Cabela's Retail Store is at 155 W. 104th Ave., in south Anchorage. Follow either Seward Highway or Old Seward Highway to O'Malley Road. Take O'Malley west to C Street, and follow C north for one block. Cabela's is on the right.

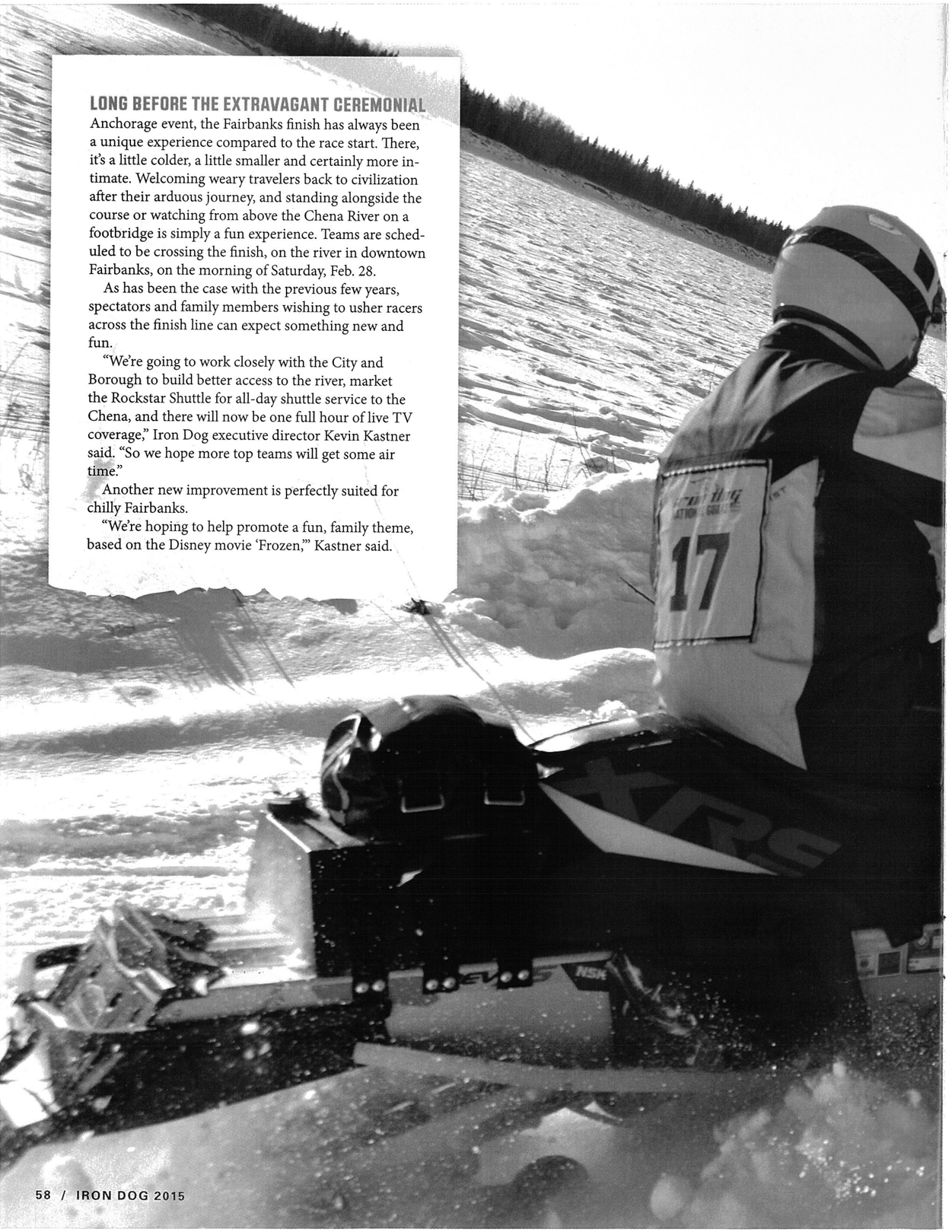
Or, take Old Seward Highway to 104th Avenue, and head west for roughly two blocks. Cabela's will again be on the right. If you prefer to head south on C Street from Downtown or Midtown Anchorage, follow C almost to the very end where C connects with O'Malley Road and Walter J Hickel Parkway. From that direction Cabela's will be on the left.

FAIRBANKS FINISH

An intimate event with fun and 'Frozen' cheer

By Justin Matley





LONG BEFORE THE EXTRAVAGANT CEREMONIAL Anchorage event, the Fairbanks finish has always been a unique experience compared to the race start. There, it's a little colder, a little smaller and certainly more intimate. Welcoming weary travelers back to civilization after their arduous journey, and standing alongside the course or watching from above the Chena River on a footbridge is simply a fun experience. Teams are scheduled to be crossing the finish, on the river in downtown Fairbanks, on the morning of Saturday, Feb. 28.

As has been the case with the previous few years, spectators and family members wishing to usher racers across the finish line can expect something new and fun.

"We're going to work closely with the City and Borough to build better access to the river, market the Rockstar Shuttle for all-day shuttle service to the Chena, and there will now be one full hour of live TV coverage," Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner said. "So we hope more top teams will get some air time."

Another new improvement is perfectly suited for chilly Fairbanks.

"We're hoping to help promote a fun, family theme, based on the Disney movie 'Frozen,'" Kastner said.

HATCHER PASS POLARIS

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2015 POLARIS 800 PRO RMK



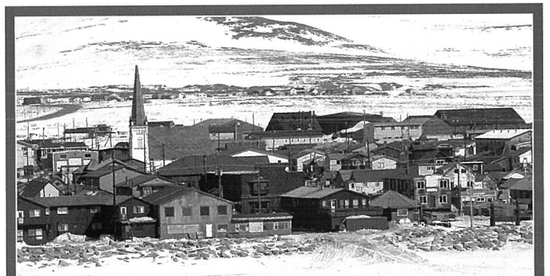
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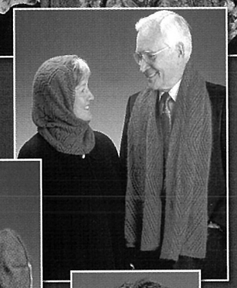
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"Tough Luck Award" for the first team to scratch. $500 certificate in services.	All Pro Class	Quality Tune Auto Repair*	**$500**
Fastest All-Rookie Team into Galena Southbound. Cash.	Rookies	Ray Debenham	**$500**
Midpoint Leader Prize (2 x $250 Coca-Cola Alaska Gift Certificates). Product certificate.	All Pro Class	Rockstar Energy - Distributed by Coca Cola*	**$500**
All-Rookie Team that has never run the Iron Dog before, with the Fastest time to Skwentna. Cash.	Rookies	Skwentna Roadhouse	**$500**
The Perseverance Award to any Pro Class team that Finishes in Fairbanks and overcame the most adversity. Voted by ballot at the Finish Awards by 2015 Pro Class racers. Cash.	All Pro Class	Skwentna Roadhouse	**$500**
"SBS Handyman Award" Fastest All-Rookie Team into Poorman. Two Milwaukee Reciprocating saws. Product.	Rookies	Spenard Builders Supply*	**$500**
Two $200 Woody's Product Certificates and two Woody's Hats to the 2nd Fastest All-Rookie Team into Fairbanks. Product.	Rookies	Woody's Traction Products*	**$430**
Two $200 Woody's Product Certificates to the 2nd Fastest All-Rookie Team into Nome. Product.	Rookies	Woody's Traction Products*	**$400**
Fastest All-Rookie Team into Koyuk Northbound. Product certificate.	Rookies	Lake Otis Medical Supply*	**$250**
First team into Nome with both rider's LEAD-DOG Helmet Lights on, AND they left the Start line with LEAD-DOG Helmet Lights on. Cash.	All Pro Class	LEAD-DOG Helmet Lights	**$250**
First Pro Team into Fairbanks with both rider's LEAD-DOG Helmet Lights on, AND the left the Start line AND left Nome with LEAD-DOG Helmet Lights on. Cash.	All Pro Class	LEAD-DOG Helmet Lights	**$250**
Two Woody's Gear Bags and two Woody's Hats to the 3rd Fastest All-Rookie Team into Fairbanks. Product.	Rookies	Woody's Traction Products*	**$132**
Two Woody's Gear Bags to the 3rd Fastest All-Rookie Team into Nome. Product.	Rookies	Woody's Traction Products*	**$102**
		Total Contingency Prizes for 2015	**$122,880**

*denotes product or service value/ not cash. Award Details will be received by Race Participants prior to the Race Event Start.

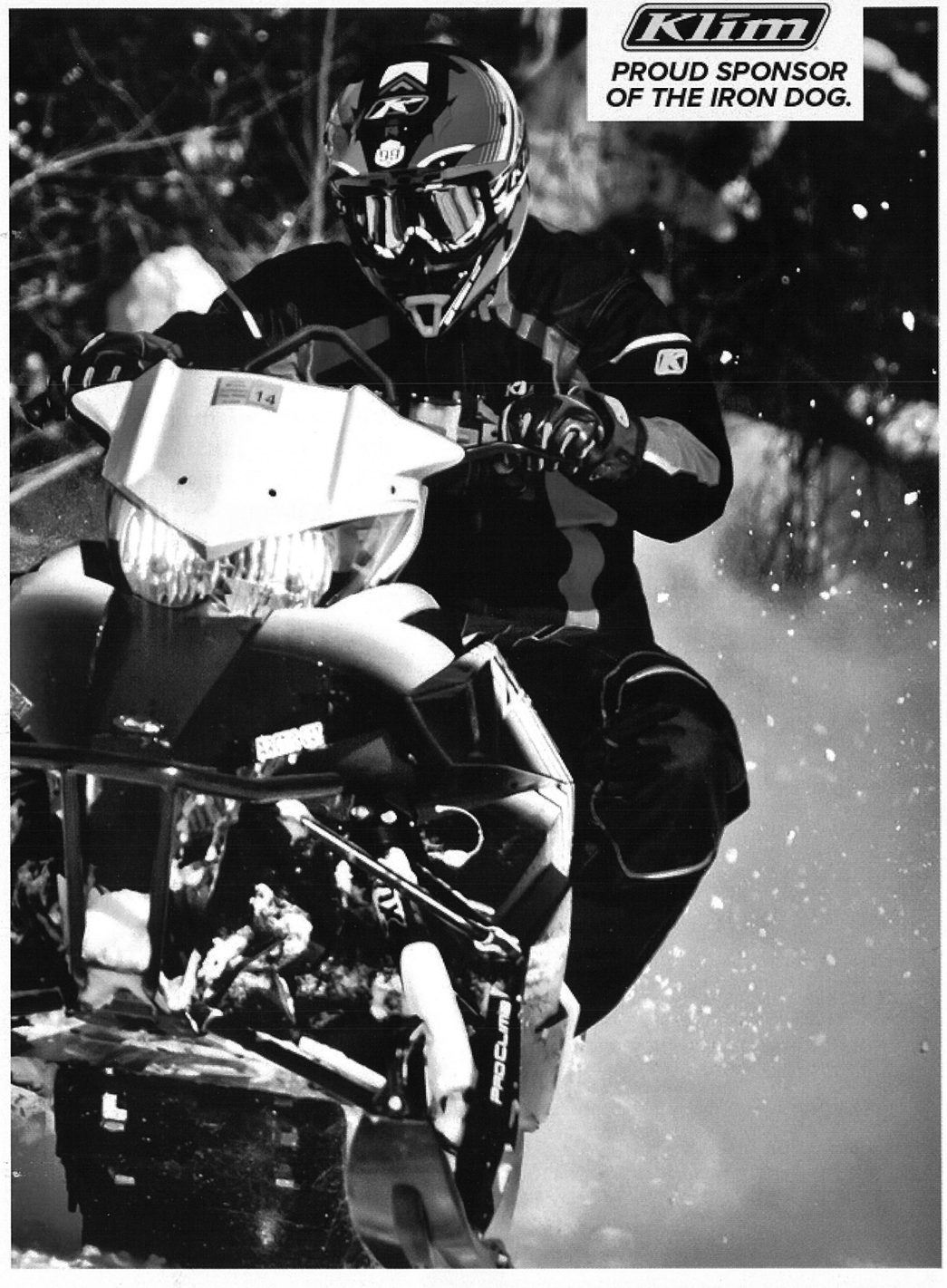
**certificate is based on the individual, is non-transferable and only valid for the 2015 event. All other entry requirements and deadlines still apply.

Not all dollar amounts represent a cash prize. Visit www.irondog.org/prizes for details on these contingency awards.

Note: Cancellation from Sponsor does not bind Iron Dog, Inc. for award payout. Iron Dog reserves the right to cancel or alter program at anytime.

Iron Dog 2015 Contingency Prizes

The "Brush Cutter Award" presented by Alaska Specialty Equipment for the Fastest team between McGrath and Ruby (Northbound). Product and certificate.	All Pro Class	Bailey's Rent-All*	**$2,600**
Two $550 Woody's Product Certificates and two Woody's Pit Coats to the Fastest All-Rookie Team into Fairbanks. Product certificate.	Rookies	Woody's Traction Products*	**$1,850**
First place $1,000, Second place $500, Third place $250 winners in Fairbanks. To be eligible, teams must be using Rigid Industries lights. Product certificate.	All Pro Class	Alaska LED and Rigid Industries*	**$1,750**
Fastest All-Rookie Team from Nome to Ruby (Southbound). Product certificate.	Rookies	ABC Motorhome*	**$1,500**
$1,500 in store credit to 1st Place Finish in Fairbanks on Polaris snowmobiles. Product certificate.	All Pro Class	Big Lake Power Sports*	**$1,500**
GCI's "Supporter of all things fast" Award to the first All-Rookie Team to Finish in Fairbanks. Choice of new phone or tablet for each racer.	Rookies	GCI*	**$1,500**
Two $550 Woody's Product Certificates and two Woody's Gear Bags to the Fastest All-Rookie Team into Nome. Product certificate.	Rookies	Woody's Traction Products*	**$1,202**
"Eighth is Great Award", for the 8th Place team to Finish in Fairbanks. Gift cards for each racer valued at $500 each. Product certificate.	All Pro Class	Alaska Industrial Hardware*	**$1,000**
First Place Finish in Fairbanks on Polaris snowmobiles by an All-Rookie Team. Cash.	Rookies	Big Lake Power Sports	**$1,000**
"Red Lantern Award" to the last team that makes it into Fairbanks - $1,000 worth of Iron Dog specific goods ($500 from each sponsor). Product certificate.	All Pro Class	Fine Line Interiors* and Anchorage Sheetmetal and Custom Fabricators*	**$1,000**
Fastest All-Rookie Team into "Checkpoint KLIM" in McGrath. $500 Product Certificate for each racer. Product certificate.	Rookies	Klim USA*	**$1,000**
Repsol - Félix Rodríguez de la Fuente Award. For the fastest All-Rookie team to Shaktoolik Southbound. Two Repsol logo fleece jackets and two $250 cash prizes.	Rookies	Repsol	**$664**
Gift certificates. $250 each. For the Fastest Arctic Cat team to McGrath.	All Pro Class	Alaska Snowmobile Salvage*	**$500**
First Place All-Rookie Team on Arctic Cat to Finish in Fairbanks. Cash.	Rookies	Anchorage Suzuki/ Arctic Cat	**$500**
EMC "Just Missed Award". Awarded to the 7th Place Team to Finish in Fairbanks. Cash.	All Pro Class	EMC Engineering, LLC	**$500**
Guardian Flight "Safe and Steady Award" to the Last Place All-Rookie Team to arrive into Unalakleet (Northbound). Cash.	Rookies	Guardian Flight	**$500**
"Substop Award" for the last All-Rookie Team to arrive at the Nome Subway finishline in Nome. Subway certificate for each rider for the value of $250 each. Product certificate.	Rookies	Midnight Sun Subway*	**$500**



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Iron Dog Facts

THE MOST IMPORTANT and often misunderstood rule Iron Dog teams must abide by is that racers are not allowed to accept parts or assistance from bystanders outside of checkpoints. Racers are not allowed to have anyone touch their snowmachines, except when in Nome, where under the watchful eye of race marshals, they are allowed to have two others assist during work time in the Nome City garage. The reason for this rule and many rules like it is to level the competitive field for teams that cannot afford to have their own chase aircraft or similar advantages dictated by a larger budget. In fact, for 2015 the Board of Directors clarified a fueling rule that makes it explicitly clear that racers must use fuel provided by Iron Dog, dispensed directly into their race snowmachine. Some teams were interpreting express checkpoints and other locations as places they could setup their own fueling stations to avoid having to stop in the official checkpoints in an effort to shave time off their stops. Nearly every "unique" rule is attempting to address two key factors: No. 1, safety; and No. 2, leveling the field for competition.

THE MOST COMMON SLED MODIFICATION is focused on suspension. Iron Dog is a long race and conditions can be brutal. Add to the fact that racers are required to take certain gear, the additional weight only adds to the abuse on the suspension. Second to suspension, is the need for extra fuel, so nearly every Pro Class snowmachine will have some kind of auxiliary fuel tank system to compensate for speed, distance and conditions that impact fuel consumption. As Chris Olds is known for saying, "a slow ride beats a fast walk every time."

IRON DOG HAS NOT EXPERIENCED A FATALITY directly related to the Iron Dog race. There have been several close calls and traumatic injuries over the years, but so far everyone has survived and recovered. Most recently, in 2013 Tyler Huntington was on a training run and hit some driftwood along the coast while doing more than 75 mph. He fractured his pelvis. In the last couple of years, there've been a few wrecks with lacerated spleens, punctured livers, broken wrists and ankles… and the most common injury of severe frostbite. It's a tough race, and the competition is fierce, so bumps and bruises come with the 2,050-mile territory.

PLEASE SEE PAGES 62-76
FOR MORE IRON DOG FACTS!

A Legacy of Iron Dog Champions

YEAR	CHAMPIONS	MACHINE	TIME
2014	Todd Minnick & Nick Olstad	Polaris	36:58:37
2013	Marc McKenna & Dusty VanMeter	Ski-Doo	36:58:54
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

IRON DOG VICTORIES BY BRAND

14 Wins on Polaris
10 Wins on Arctic Cat
3 Wins on Yamaha
3 Wins on Ski-Doo

Iron Dog 2015 Contingency Prizes



Top finishers of the 2014 Iron Dog display their trophies on the podium in Fairbanks. There are many more ways for riders throughout the pack to get their hands on some great prizes.

PRIZE DETAILS	CATEGORY	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
Team CC Ski-Doo A-Team Challenge. A complete sponsorship package for the top placing Ski-Doo team that finishes in the Top 3 (podium finish). Package includes the use of two snowmachines for each racer and $5,000 credit for each racer toward specialty parts and supplies. Certificate. Requires a race agreement with Team CC.	All Pro Class	Team CC*	**$30,000**
All-Rookie Team winners. First Place Finish $10,000 Second Place Finish $6,000, Third Place Finish $4,000, both riders must be Rookies to Qualify, must be in top three Pro finishes. Cash.	Rookies	Rookies Finish Line Challenge	**$20,000**
Donlin Gold's, Gold Rush Prize awarded to the 1st Fastest team to arrive in Nome. Cash.	All Pro Class	Donlin Gold	**$10,000**
First Place $5,000 overall, Second Place $3,000 overall, Third Place $1,500 overall on an Arctic Cat snowmobile. Cash.	All Pro Class	Arctic Cat	**$9,500**
First place $4,000 overall, Second place $3,000 overall, Third place $2,000 overall, Fourth place $1,000 overall, Fifth place $500 overall - on a Yamaha snowmobile. Cash.	All Pro Class	Yamaha Motor Corporation	**$7,000**
Entry for both racers into the 2016 Iron Dog race. Awarded to the riders of the Team Finishing 6th Place overall in Fairbanks. Certificate/credit.	All Pro Class	Iron Dog, Inc.**	**$6,000**
$3,000 for 2nd Fastest team and $2,000 for 3rd Fastest team to Nome. Cash.	All Pro Class	City of Nome	**$5,000**
First Place overall $5,000 ($2,500 each racer) on Ski-Doo snowmobiles.	All Pro Class	Ski-Doo	**$5,000**
Fastest team from White Mountain to Nome (Northbound). Cash.	All Pro Class	Bering Sea Lions Club in Nome	**$3,000**
First Place overall Finish on a Polaris snowmobile.	All Pro Class	Polaris Industries	**$3,000**

CONTINUED ON PAGE 56

Iron Dog communities and checkpoints

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

UNALAKLEET, population 752, 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, is on a point jutting into Norton Sound, 882 miles from the start and 1,334 miles from the start on the return route to Fairbanks.

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

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

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

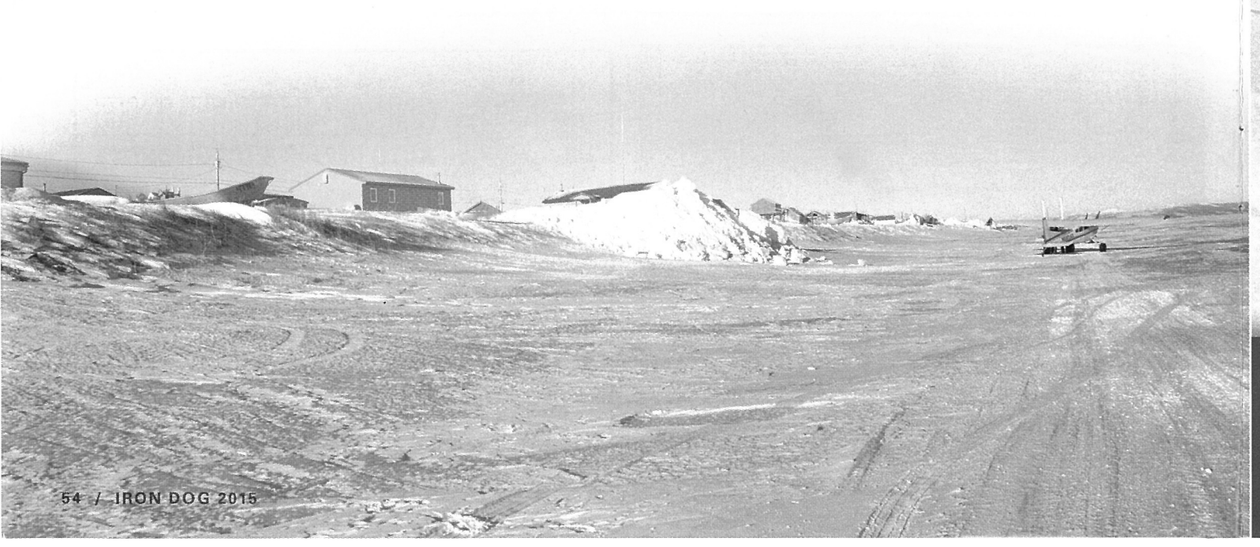
MANLEY HOT SPRINGS, population 72, is 1,812 miles from the start.



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

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

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



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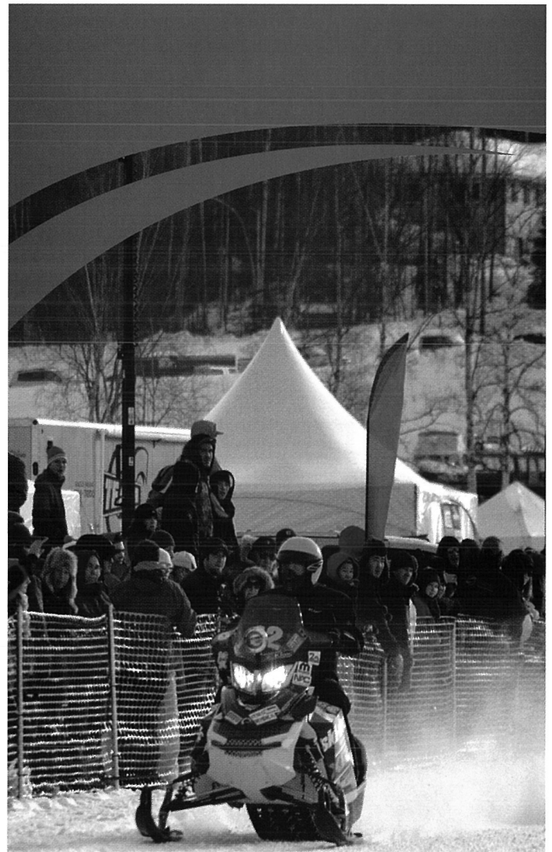
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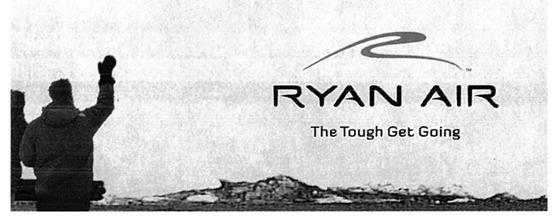
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Iron Dog communities and checkpoints

FAIRBANKS

Since 1998 Fairbanks has been the official finish of the race. Fairbanks facilitates the final rallying of Pro Class racers who completed the entire 2,050-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 than 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.

SMALLER COMMUNITIES AND CHECKPOINTS

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 2, is located on Puntilla Lake near a breathtaking mountain pass. Puntilla is 161 miles from the start.

ROHN, population 0, is located at a small roadhouse where two rivers join, and is 236 miles from the start.

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

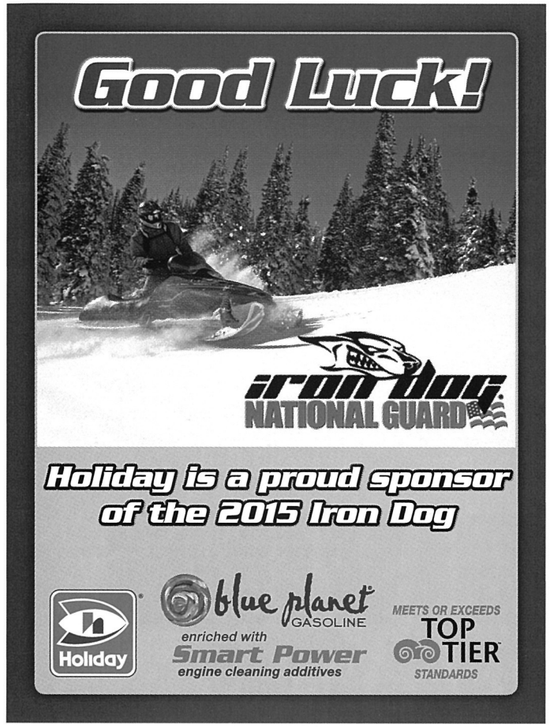
MCGRATH, population 379, located on the Innoko River, is 362 miles from the start.

OPHIR, population 0, is 425 miles from the start located on the Innoko River.

POORMAN, population 0, located in a flat-land region and the last checkpoint before Ruby, 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.

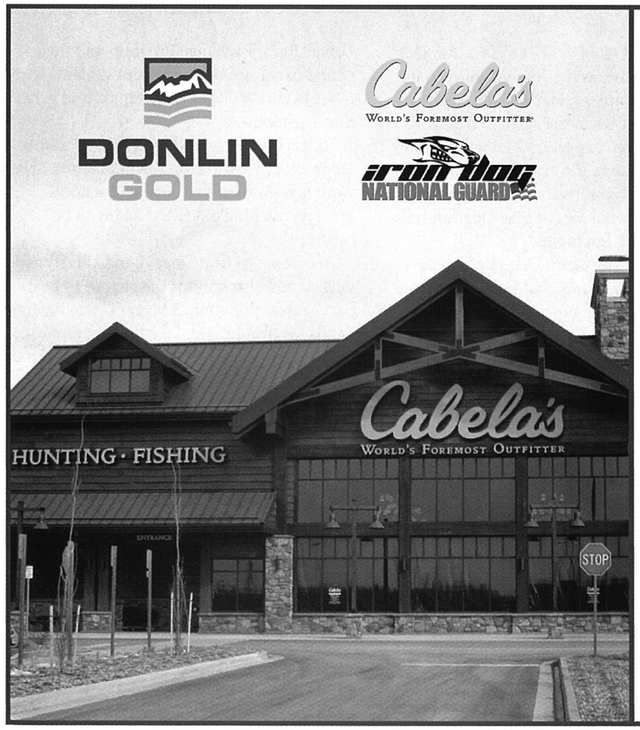
GALENA, population 641, is an Athabascan village in the Interior, 648 miles from the start on the way to Nome and 1,568 miles from the start on the return route to Fairbanks.



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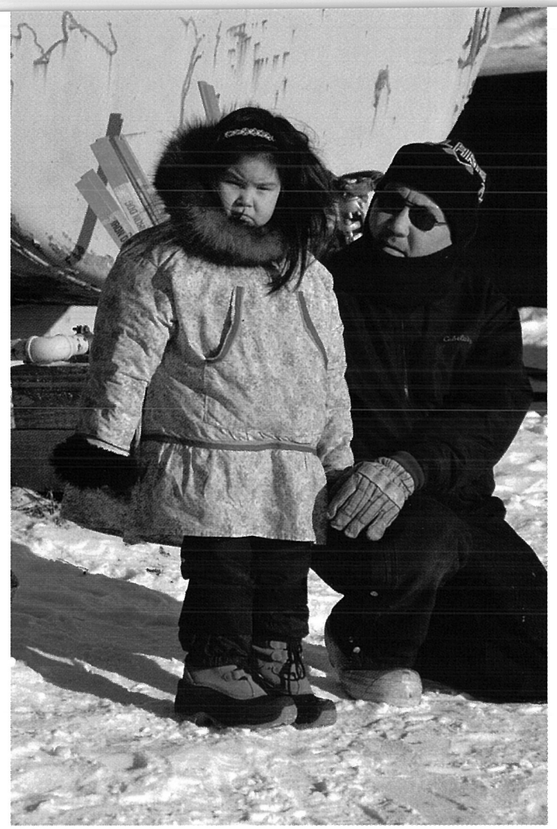
WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 18
4:00PM - 8:00PM

New for 2015, The Donlin Gold Safety Expo will be held inside Cabela's Anchorage.

Every Pro Class Iron Dog team will have already completed a pre-race inspection of their safety and survival gear. This is your chance to come meet the Pro Class racers, see their race sleds, check out special vendors, sponsors, deals, door prizes and refresh your winter safety training.

See you at Cabela's!

FOR MORE INFORMATION:
IRONDOG.ORG/2015-EXPO-AT-CABELAS



GIVING BACK

Iron Dog spreads its influence throughout race trail communities

By Justin Matley

AS A STATEWIDE, HIGH-PROFILE EVENT, Iron Dog continues to address its responsibility to improve communities and give back. Sponsors, too, know that when they give to Iron Dog, their monetary support trickles not only into the local economy through the services Iron Dog pays for, but directly to charitable organizations, beneficiaries of Iron Dog fundraising efforts and donations.

One might think Iron Dog's raffle tickets strictly benefit the race, but truth be told, up to 50 percent of the proceeds in 2015 will be donated to Armed Services YMCA of Alaska (ASYMCA). Raffle tickets are sold to win prizes such as a Toyota Tundra pickup compliments of Kendall Toyota, a GFMOTO Z6 side-by-side from Alaska Powersports, and an Aluma Tilt trailer from White Spruce Trailer Sales & Super Clamps, among many other prizes.

ASYMCA of Alaska was chosen as the 2015 beneficiary via an online voting process by which the Iron Dog community and fans were able to dictate who should get the funds.

IRON DOG CONTINUES TO IMPROVE THE LIVES AND EDUCATION OF CHILDREN

Since 2001 Iron Dog, along with community and school leadership, has managed the Urban-Rural Exchange Program and their efforts to connect urban school students with those in rural villages is paying off and getting attention.

"It has been very well received," says Iron Dog's executive director, Kevin Kastner. "The word is beginning to spread and schools are now reaching out to us, asking to be included."

According to Iron Dog, giving kids from villages and checkpoints the chance to be a part of something much bigger is paying dividends for Iron Dog and for the communities.

"I see it as a long-term investment in building rapport with the communities along the trail and the rest of Alaska who may not be able to engage in Iron Dog otherwise," Kastner says. "In a way, it's another mechanism of giving back to those who support us."

The program, now in its fifth year, is seeing success. Iron Dog reports stories of students making lasting friendships, including two girls who met during the exchange, one from Anchorage, the other from Galena, who are now roommates at UAA. News has filtered in of rural students who were struggling with rough situations at home who found hope and new direction for their own lives, turning away from depression and believing there is a

Iron Dog communities and checkpoints

a thriving tourism industry and events such as Fur Rendezvous and Iditarod. Thus an enormous turnout is expected to send race teams off from the Fourth Avenue starting line. Teams will travel 19 miles to Big Lake for a race restart the following day.

BIG LAKE

For years, Big Lake has hosted the start of the race with direct access to the Iditarod Trail and is the perfect setting for spectators to watch race teams speed off to 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 there.

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.







future for them. And for the urban students, the eye-opening experience of rural costs of living, subsistence living and cultural differences makes a lasting impression for future Alaskan adults.

Throughout the process students are engaged in various Iron Dog activities, and this year's choice to cooperate with Barrow coincides with Alaska National Guard and subsistence life.

'The perspective it gives city kids cannot be overstated.'

KEVIN KASTNER
Iron Dog
Executive Director

"The perspective it gives city kids cannot be overstated," Kastner says.

Students are required to record their experiences and share what they learned in the process. Sponsors also receive a complete package of thank-you letters, presentations and journals of the students participating in the program. Along with the annual cooperation with King Career Center with students from Eagle River and Anchorage, Barrow students will partake in Iron Dog race activities, being flown in to spend time working with urban students for three days. They return home and the Anchorage students will then fly out a few days later to Barrow to spend time learning about rural projects and missions to connect with that community as well.

Schools and students wishing to be included in the Urban-Rural Exchange Program can learn more and contact Iron Dog headquarters directly on the website, irondograce.org.

SOUTH ANCHORAGE HIGH MEDIA TEAM LIVE COVERAGE

In addition to greater start and finish coverage provided by Channel 2 News, and enhanced coverage for media drops likely to be provided by GCI, Iron Dog worked with the South Anchorage High media team to provide coverage as well.

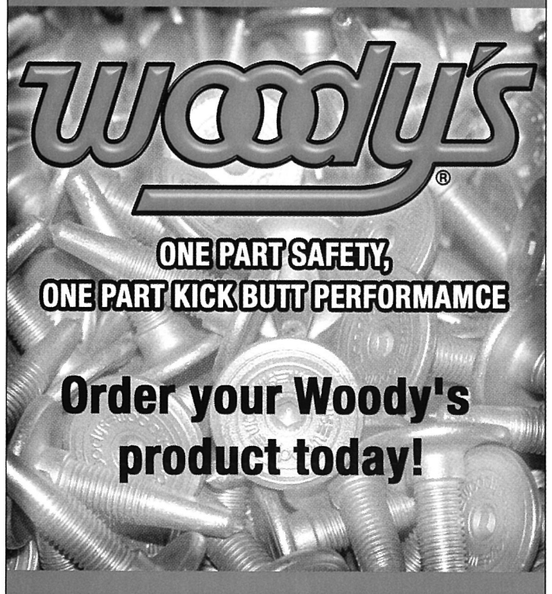
"We're working on beefing up the infrastructure and believe GCI will be stepping up for that, and in addition, along with our Student Exchange Program we're working with the South Anchorage High media team — they held a live stream event of our Rookie Workshop which has never happened before — and again working with GCI and Ravn Alaska airlines, we're trying to have that sort of augmented experience at every event," says Kastner.

Iron Dog fans can expect Iron Dog's January media event to be live on the Internet. Live streaming would then be focused on the Donlin Gold's Safety Expo, and every other venue during Iron Dog events. Included are plans to have a live feed of the Nome City Garage at the halfway point of the race, the finish and the final awards banquet.

"Those students will also go to Barrow this year with our Student Exchange Program and shadow the students so that at the end they'll have this whole documented piece put together of the experience of the Iron Dog from a student perspective," Kastner says. ▪



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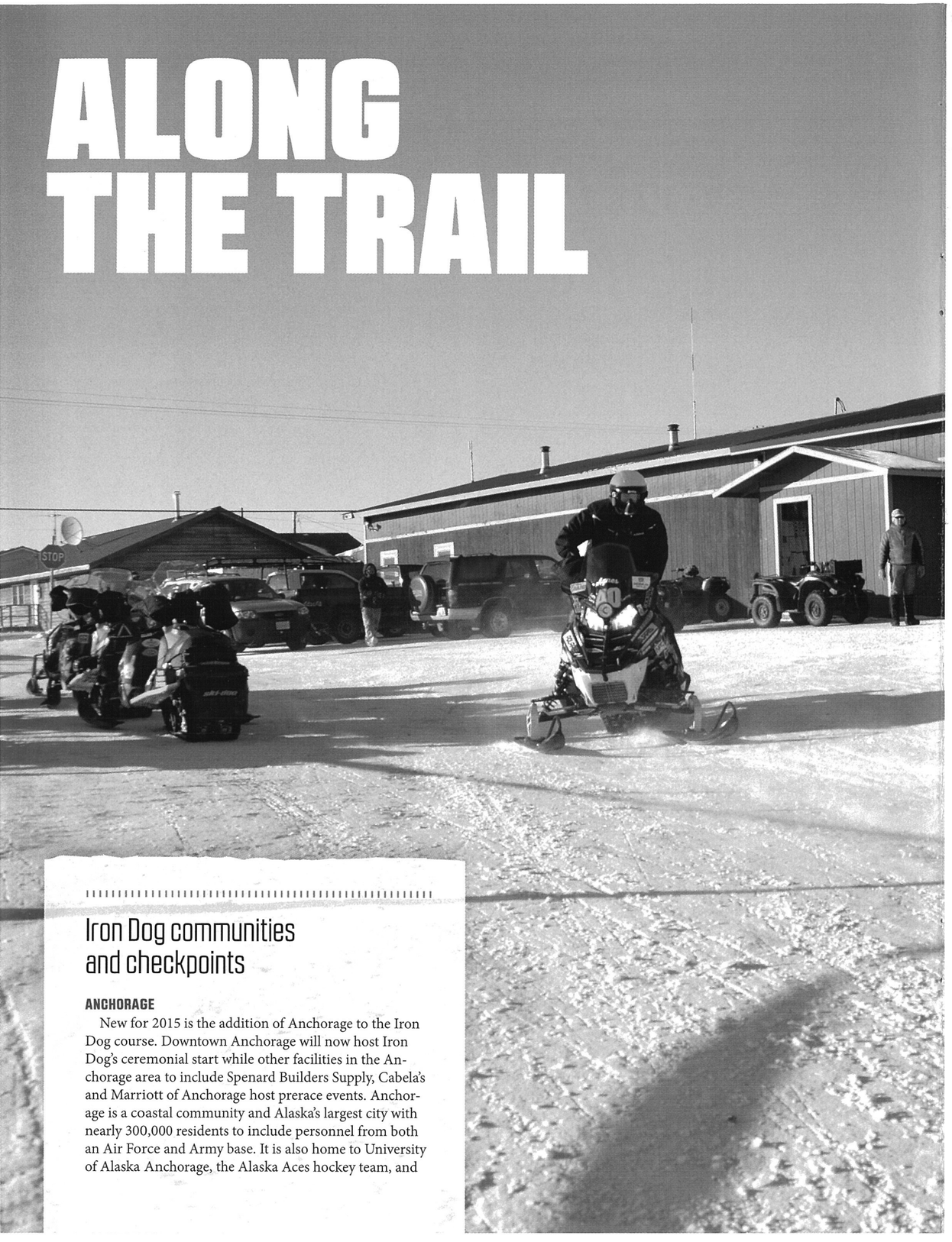


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ALONG THE TRAIL



Iron Dog communities and checkpoints

ANCHORAGE

New for 2015 is the addition of Anchorage to the Iron Dog course. Downtown Anchorage will now host Iron Dog's ceremonial start while other facilities in the Anchorage area to include Spenard Builders Supply, Cabela's and Marriott of Anchorage host prerace events. Anchorage is a coastal community and Alaska's largest city with nearly 300,000 residents to include personnel from both an Air Force and Army base. It is also home to University of Alaska Anchorage, the Alaska Aces hockey team, and

PARTNERS

Iron Dog made possible by a group of dedicated sponsors

By Justin Matley

THE IRON DOG IS MADE POSSIBLE by sponsors. Whether private, corporate or governmental agencies, sponsors ensure Iron Dog can foot the bill to present such an enormous race, tackle logistical concerns and provide racers with a big enough race purse to make all their hard work and risks worthwhile.

Iron Dog's primary sponsor, Alaska National Guard, has been helping Iron Dog to grow and improve, and they, too, have benefitted and adapted to Iron Dog's involvement in Alaska's communities.

"It's our most expensive venture and we've morphed it into a school entry vehicle over the past two years," says Sgt. 1st Class Bart Williams, marketing director for Alaska National Guard. "The Iron Dog gives us the opportunity to have a full media blanket over the entire state."

Alaska National Guard is no stranger to Anchorage events, but that media blanket now includes Alaska's largest city during the ceremonial start.

"We'll have some tactical vehicles to show Alaska National Guard's capabilities to the community, a video trailer setup, lots of promotional items and that kind of stuff," Williams said.

"The Guard provides the largest cash sponsorship," said Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner. "Over the years they have provided some media, promotional and field help, but we really try hard to do all the lifting for them so they can focus on recruitment while participating at our events."

The Guard's cash support strongly compliments Iron Dog's ability to promote the events while the vast number of in-kind supporters makes the race logistically possible. Without them, it would have been very difficult for Iron Dog to consider adding events to Anchorage. And, there's more.

"What most don't know about are the number of 'extra' events we conduct with the Guard around the actual Iron Dog events," Kastner said. "This year alone we will have partnered events with Iron Dog, Alaska National Guard and Donlin



'The Iron Dog gives us the opportunity to have a full media blanket over the entire state.'

SGT. 1ST CLASS BART WILLIAMS
marketing director,
Alaska National Guard

Gold at school assemblies in Anchorage, Barrow, Bethel and Nome in December, January and February. We also partner to bring in Iron Dog champions to talk with students at other events throughout the year."

Sponsors generate potential employees and recruits by leveraging the excitement of Iron Dog and demonstrating how perseverance, hard work and dedication can pay off, both in racing and in life. And Iron Dog looks to a continued, mutually beneficial relationship.

"For the future, our goal is to give the Guard increasing return on their investment and help build positive awareness about what the Guard does for Alaska and the opportunities they provide to students looking for a great step up in life," Kastner said.

The consistency of the Guard partnership continues to strengthen and improve the chance of success for both organizations.

Additional sponsors and longtime partners continue to support Iron Dog as well.

"There are too many to mention," Kastner said, adding that without the 30-plus years of support by Northern Air Cargo, Iron Dog probably could not carry on the race logistically. This also applies to Everts Air Cargo, Ryan Air, Ravn Alaska, Carlile, Lynden and many others. Logistics are expensive and these partners do most of the heavy lifting that make the race possible.

Other big partners that help in-kind and with much needed cash is Donlin Gold, XPS Oil, Odom Corp., Kendall Toyota and Iron Dog expects that GCI will join in this year, also.

Raffle partners make a big impact as well. Some of those include Kendall Toyota, Alaska Powersports and, new for 2015, White Spruce Trailers. That alone can generate more than $100,000 annually and it benefits local charities, too.

"We've already donated $84,000 since 2011," Kastner said. ■



WATCH DOG

Your best viewing opportunities: on-location, couch potato, desktop and mobile race viewing *By Justin Matley*

IRON DOG KNOWS THERE ARE THOUSANDS of new fans out there, if only the race was a little easier to connect with and follow. What makes Iron Dog so great, the "longest, toughest" side of it, is also what has made it historically challenging with regard to spectator viewing. But 2015 promises to tip the scale in favor of greater spectator participation.

TO SEE THE ACTION LIVE

If you're new to participating in the Iron Dog action, keep in mind there are multiple opportunities, leading up to and after the race, to meet teams, ask questions and determine if you have what it takes to become a future Iron Dog competitor. Drop in on the **DONLIN GOLD SAFETY EXPO** held for the first time at **CABELA'S** from 4–8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 18. This is where teams and their gear are inspected before given approval to race. Fans can talk to racers, check out the snowmachines, and enjoy some extra family fun, excitement, food and Iron Dog gear.

Two days later, on Feb. 20, **DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE** begins hosting evening events that lead up to the **CEREMONIAL START** of Iron Dog, and on Feb. 21 teams will be parading and greeting fans before heading off. Ask them the tough questions about racing across Alaska in winter, inspect their sled modifications, and above all cheer for them as they speed out of town headed for the local countryside. Watch teams cruise by headed East on Fourth Ave between E and G streets, then north on E Street, and finally along Second Avenue heading down to and across Ship Creek before vanishing. Military

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Professional rider on a closed course. Polaris recommends that all snowmobile riders take a training course. Do not attempt maneuvers beyond your capability. Always wear a helmet and other safety apparel. Never drink and ride. ©2015 Polaris Industries Inc.

Good Luck to Alaska Spine Institute sponsored racers

Iron Dog 2015

Team 4
Rachel Kidwell
Ashley Wood

Team 8
Tyler Aklestad
Tyson Johnson

Team 10
Mike Morgan
Chris Olds

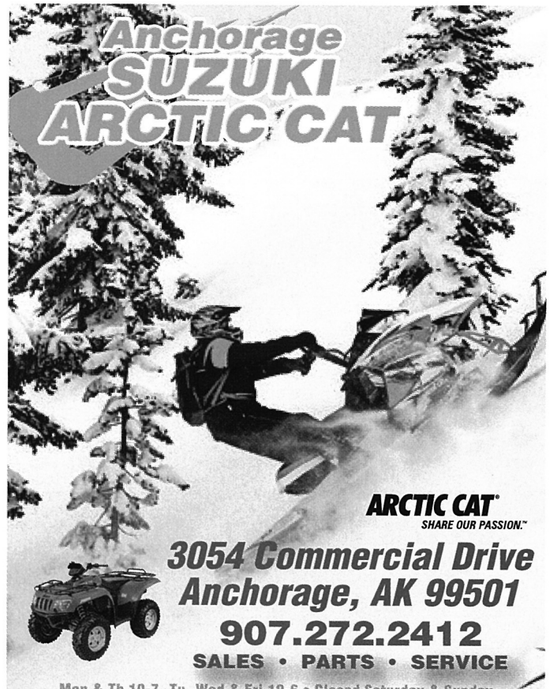
Team 29
Stan English
Larry Levine

Team 32
Jerry Alward
Tim Kanady

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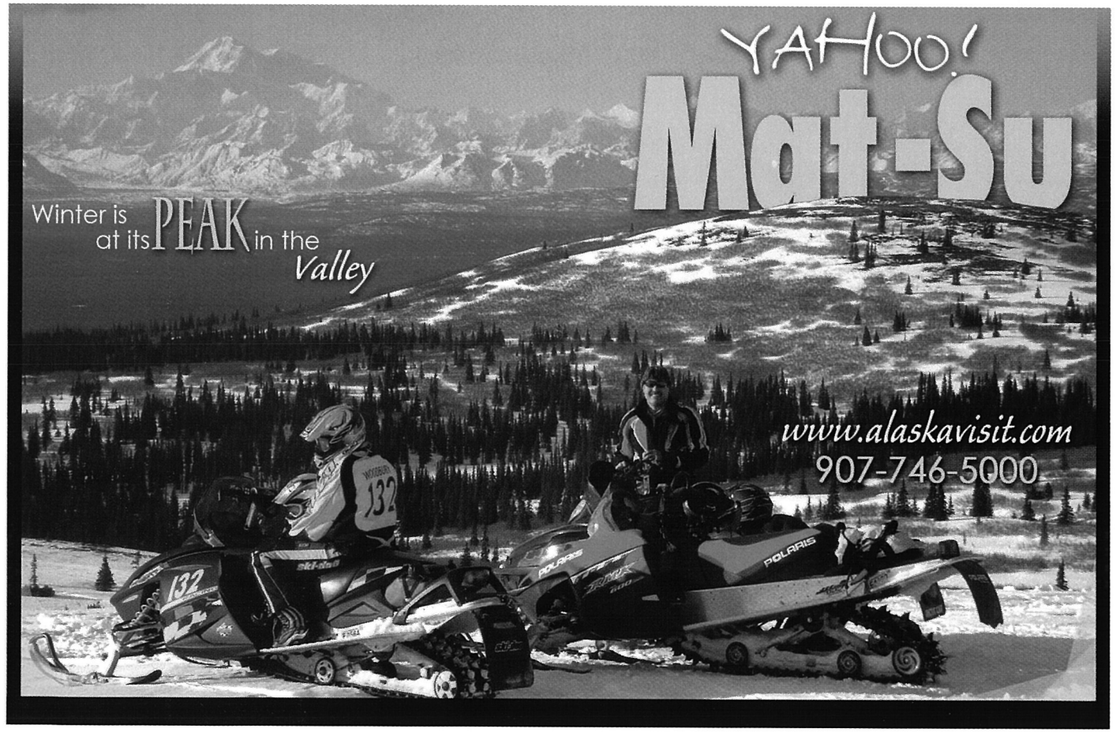
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personnel will have opportunities to see racers cross through Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, and expect a little viewing as teams get closer to Community Covenant Church in Eagle River, where they'll load and truck machines to Big Lake for a restart the next day.

On Sunday, Feb. 22, Iron Dog will host the **RACE RESTART,** which kicks off the official start of the race, on **BIG LAKE** near Big Lake Power Sports & Marina off South Big Lake Road. See the serious side of Iron Dog, as teams get focused and nerves tense in anticipation to get under way. Teams are released in two-minute intervals and can be seen speeding off across the lake. Expect fewer festivities than in Anchorage, but enjoy some real race action.

If you splurge on a ticket to **NOME,** or live there already, you'll get a unique perspective on how hard teams are racing, the toll it takes on them and their machines, the halfway awards banquet and the release for the second leg of the course to Fairbanks.

And in **FAIRBANKS** another festive, downtown experience can be had as the crowd gathers on the frozen Chena River near First Avenue, Lacey Street and Wendell Avenue. Racers can be seen cruising up the river, making way for the finish. Cheer them on from the sidelines or watch from the bank overhead or the nearby footbridge. If you get cold, duck into a downtown restaurant or café for something hot to eat, or check with Iron Dog sponsors for their offerings.

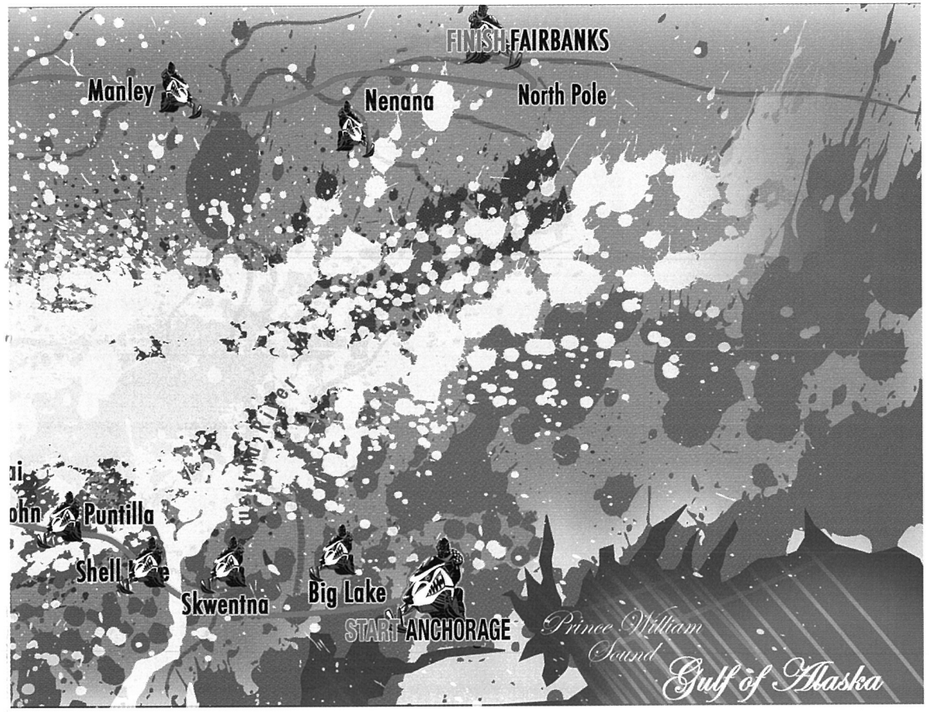
OUT OF SIGHT, BUT ON YOUR DEVICE

While racers are hundreds of miles into the backcountry, you'll need to rely on technology to stay abreast of the action. Watch enhanced coverage on KTUU Channel 2, listen on the radio, or surf the Iron Dog website and Facebook page.

Expect greater television coverage with **KTUU CHANNEL 2** to include the new Anchorage start and improved checkpoint race coverage as compared to previous years. Plans have been made for KTUU to even cover Fairbanks action for a full hour this year to capture more racers crossing the finish. Expect limited live coverage of the race as racers pass through selected checkpoints and portions of the course trail. Sound bites from those broadcasts will also be broadcast on radio station **KFQD AM 750**.

For those who prefer web-based and mobile viewing information and near-real-time GPS tracking, the only place to be is the Iron Dog website, **WWW.IRONDOG.ORG**. Look for the Race Tracking section of the site. There you'll find team information, checkpoints and live, GPS tracking. Literally watch teams progress on a map view of Alaska, from checkpoint to checkpoint. GPS tracking provide custom features so you can follow along exactly the way you want and filter out any unwanted information.

It's important to remember that teams are released in succession, so those in front are not necessarily winning the race. The Iron Dog champions are chosen for the fastest time the course was completed overall. ■



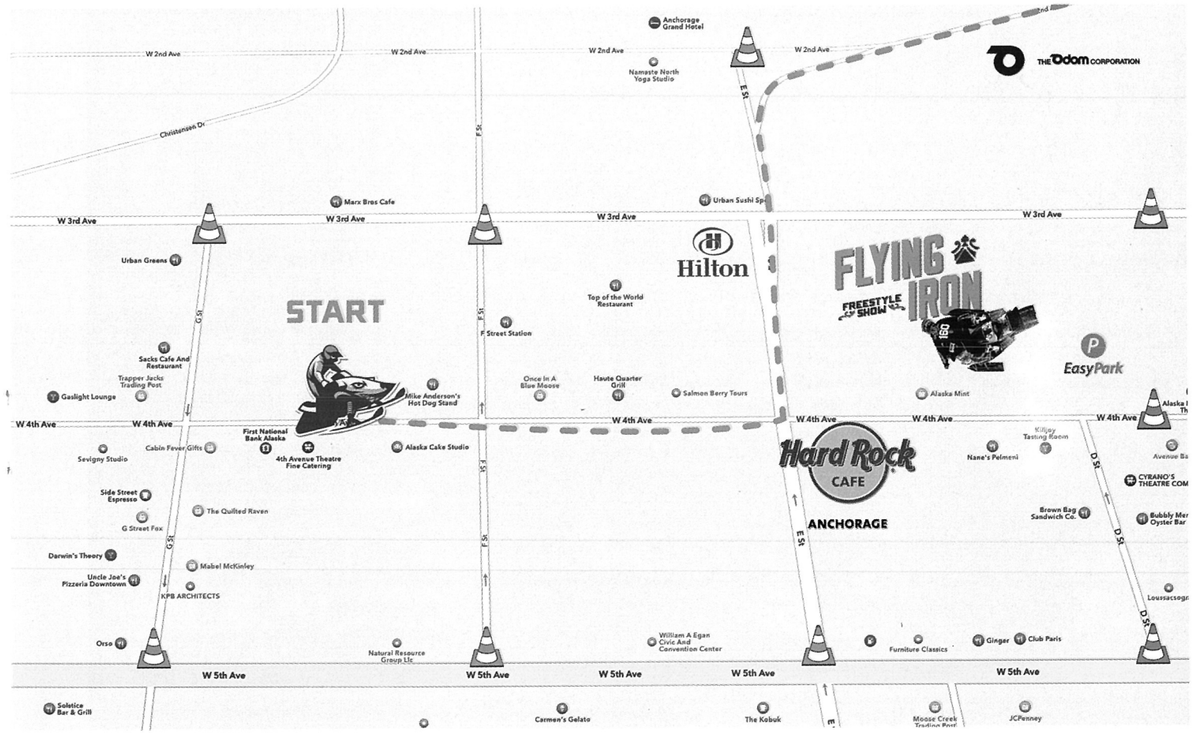
Northbound

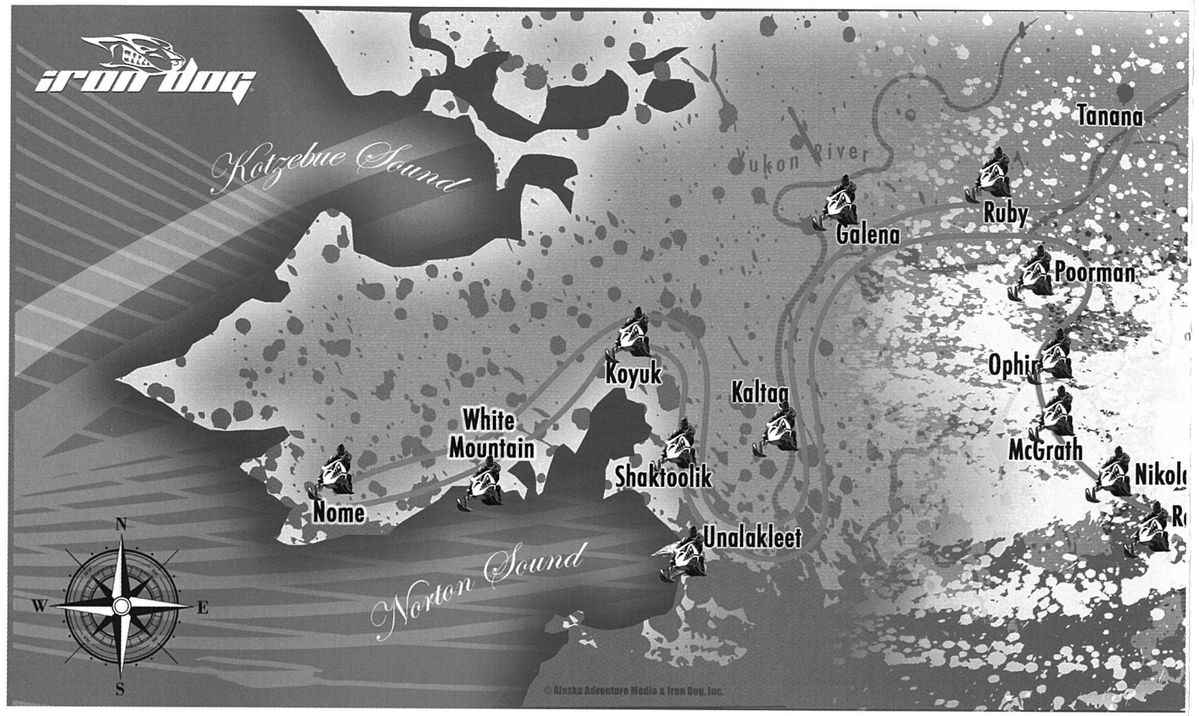
Anchorage to Big Lake	19
Big Lake to Skwentna	79
Skwentna to Shell Lake	17
Shell Lake to Puntilla	55
Puntilla to Rohn	75
Rohn to Nikolai	74
Nikolai to McGrath	52
McGrath to Ophir	63
Ophir to Poorman	99
Poorman to Ruby	72
Ruby to Galena	52
Galena to Kaltag	98
Kaltag to Unalakleet	95
Unalakleet to Shaktoolik	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	2,050*

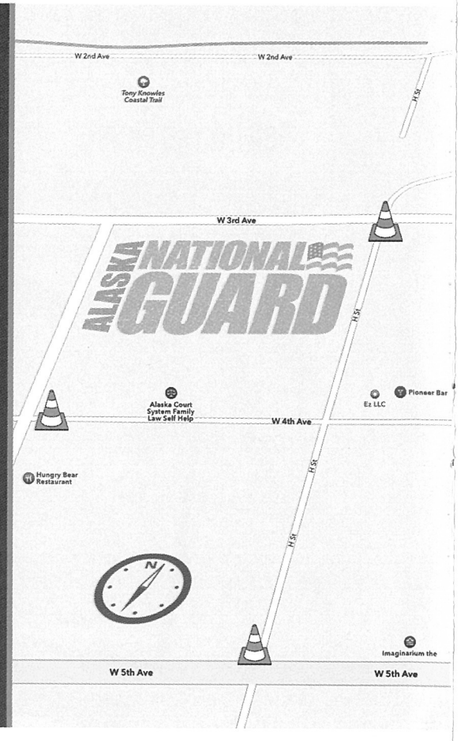
**19 miles of caution flag riding with 2,031 of racing miles.*





2015 IRON DOG DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE MAP

ROAD CLOSURES	4TH AVE. FROM G ST. TO C ST, H ST. TO D ST. BETWEEN 3RD AND 5TH.
IRON DOG START	IN FRONT OF 4TH AVENUE THEATER
VINTAGE 120CC KIDS	4TH AVE IN FRONT OF HARD ROCK CAFE
IRON DOG HQ	ON F ST. NEAR 4TH AVE. LOG CABIN
BEST PARKING	EASYPARK GARAGE ON C ST. BETWEEN 4TH AND 5TH.
FLYING IRON FREESTYLE SHOW	EASYPARK COHO LOT 3RD AVE. BELOW SUNSHINE PLAZA
CEREMONIAL FINISHLINE	COMMUNITY COVENANT CHURCH EAGLE RIVER, AK



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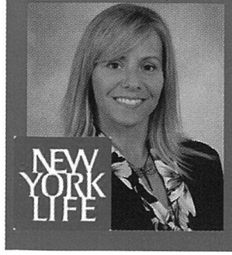
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Whether you're a parent planning for a child's education or a small business owner poised for growth, one thing is certain—there's not much you can do to control the future. The good news is, there's plenty you can do to prepare for it.

Believe it or not, life often follows a fairly predictable path. While there may be occasional detours along the way, we generally know what lies ahead. Marriage, children, homeownership and retirement are events most of us will share. How well we handle these events is often a matter of planning.

Take something as inevitable as death. We all know it's coming—the only real question is when. If it comes too early, it could pose significant financial challenges for your family. That's where term life insurance can help.

Term life insurance offers young families and those on a budget an affordable way to protect their future. Term life insurance provides quality, dependable coverage for a specific period of time. Depending on the amount of coverage you select, these policies can help make sure your family will have the money needed to keep a roof over their heads, pay for college, or simply meet all of their day-to-day responsibilities. And, as your financial circumstances change in the future, a term policy can often be upgraded to permanent life insurance, which can provide a lifetime of protection and peace of mind. While we may not be able to predict every moment the future has in store, it makes sense to prepare for the ones we can. And with term life insurance, it may be more affordable than you realize.



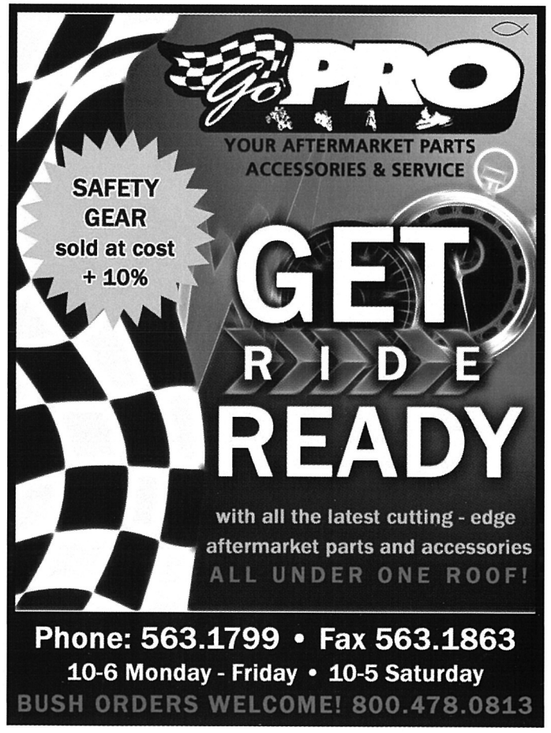
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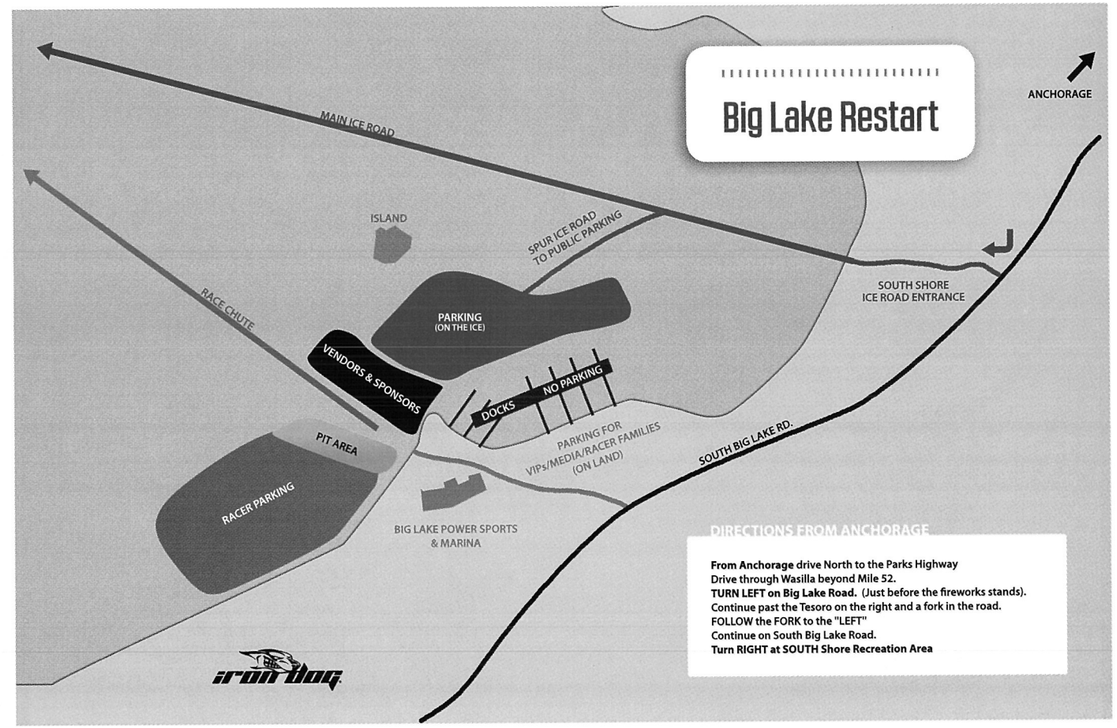
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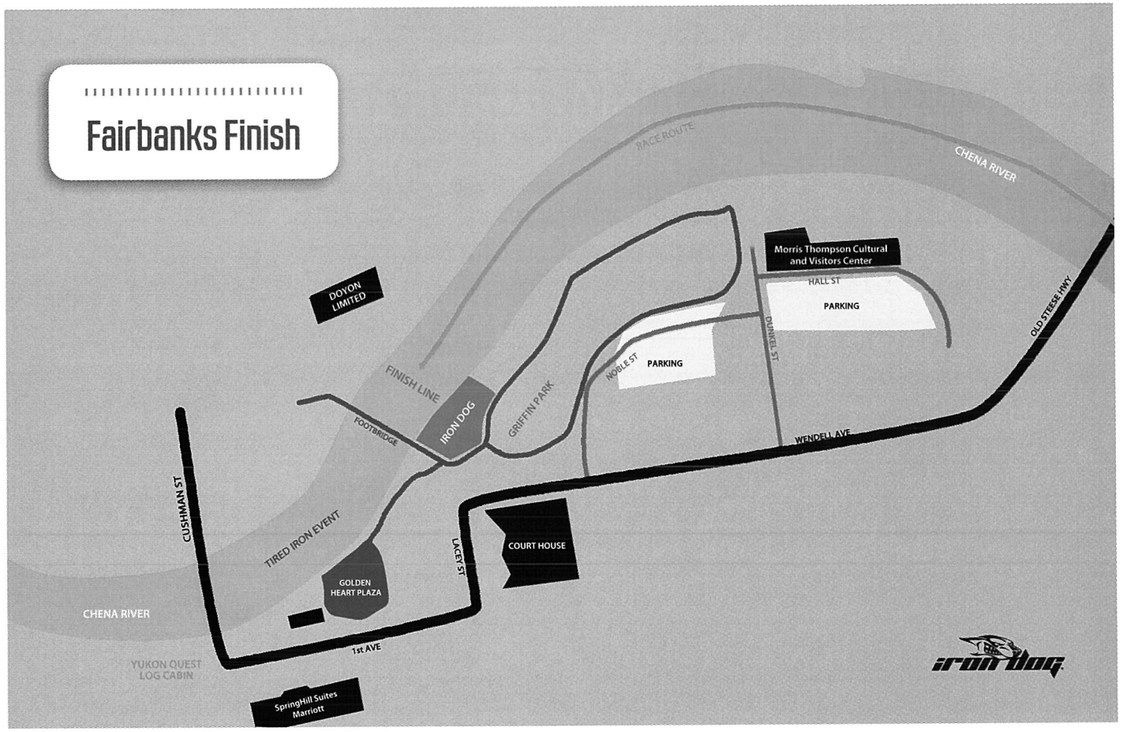
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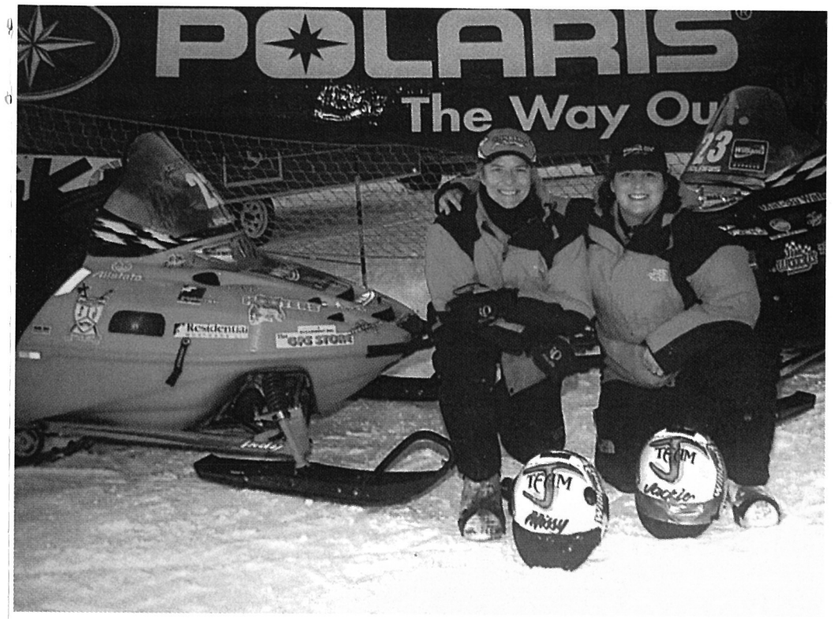
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TRAILBLAZERS

The women of Iron Dog

By Justin Matley



Missy McClurg and Jackie Page placed 15th in Pro Class in 2001.



Rachel Kidwell



Ashley Wood

THIS YEAR AN ALL-FEMALE TEAM will be gunning for the Iron Dog finish line. Experienced riders Rachel Kidwell and Ashley Wood, Team 4, riding Polaris, are bringing added energy to the race and hope to be the second women's team ever to complete the course to Fairbanks.

"Rachel completed trail class last year. Ashley's a notable go-getter; she's won the Mayor's Cup and she's an accomplished racer. She's got a long list of successful races," says Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner. "Rachel's been on the trail and Ashley hasn't, but she's a great racer, so it'll be exciting to watch them in the Iron Dog."

To date, the only Pro, all-female team to make it to the Fairbanks finish was Jackie Page and Missy McClurg in 2001, placing 15th overall. This year's female team will be picking up the torch for women and attempting to carry it across the finish again, but Team 4's overall desire is to simply take on the challenge and enjoy it all the way.

"I got into cross-country snowmachine racing a little bit and had always known about the sport and the race, had watched some of the guys race Iron Dog and thought it was an amazing feat," says Team 4's captain Kidwell. "We decided that the Iron Dog sounded like fun."

Kidwell cites Wood's exceptional background and racing skills in general, combined with high energy and mechanical ability, and involvement in the sledding community, as factors that make her a great teammate. Aside from riding and mechanical skills, Kidwell plans to contribute a lot of heart, a desire to never let the team down, and more than enough determination to make it to the finish.

Team 4 knows they have a lot to learn but feel they have strong suits that will aid them in the Iron Dog.

Kidwell says, "We're both committed to the sport and dedicated to it, and we ride really well. We have the heart for it. Still, we're rookies so there's a whole lot that we still have to learn," she says. "We'll be racing against teams that have raced Iron Dog for 10 or 15 years and they're still probably learning about it."

> **'We have the heart for it.'**
>
> RACHEL KIDWELL

Kidwell and Wood should put some pressure on the other racers. These experienced riders, with a completed Trail Class run — and the knowledge that goes with it — in the gear bag, are tackling the race with an attitude that bodes well with the Iron Dog mantra to never give up. ■

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