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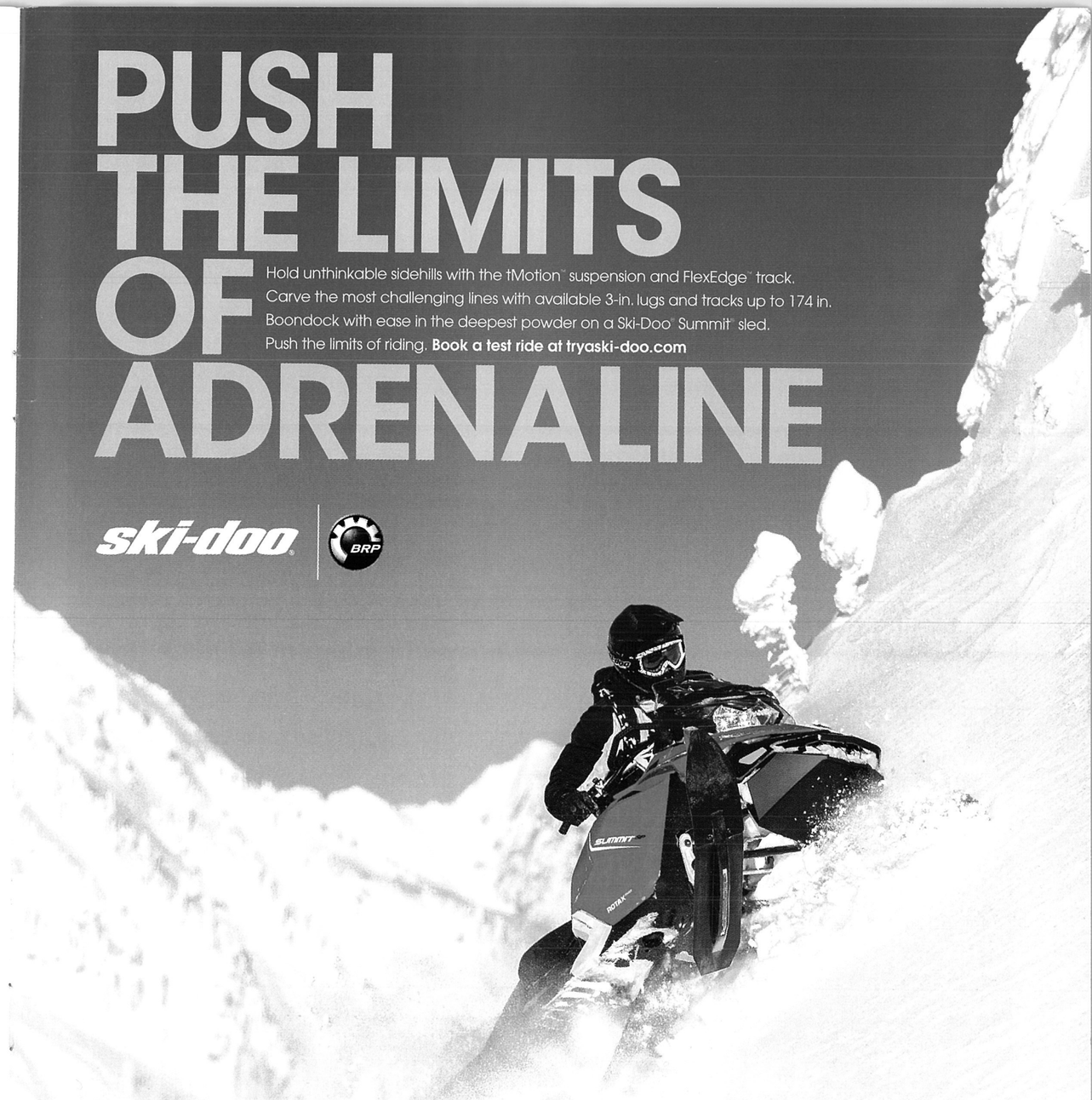
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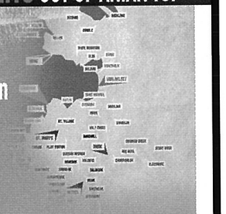
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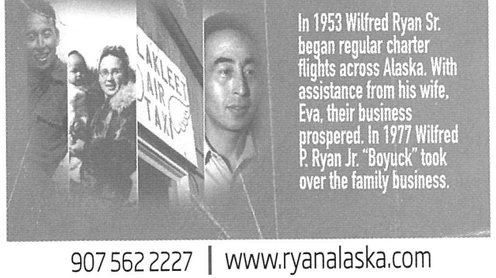
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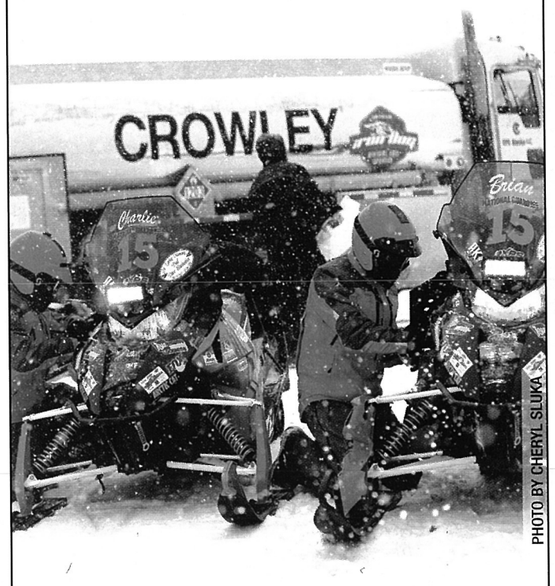


PHOTO BY CHERYL SLUKA

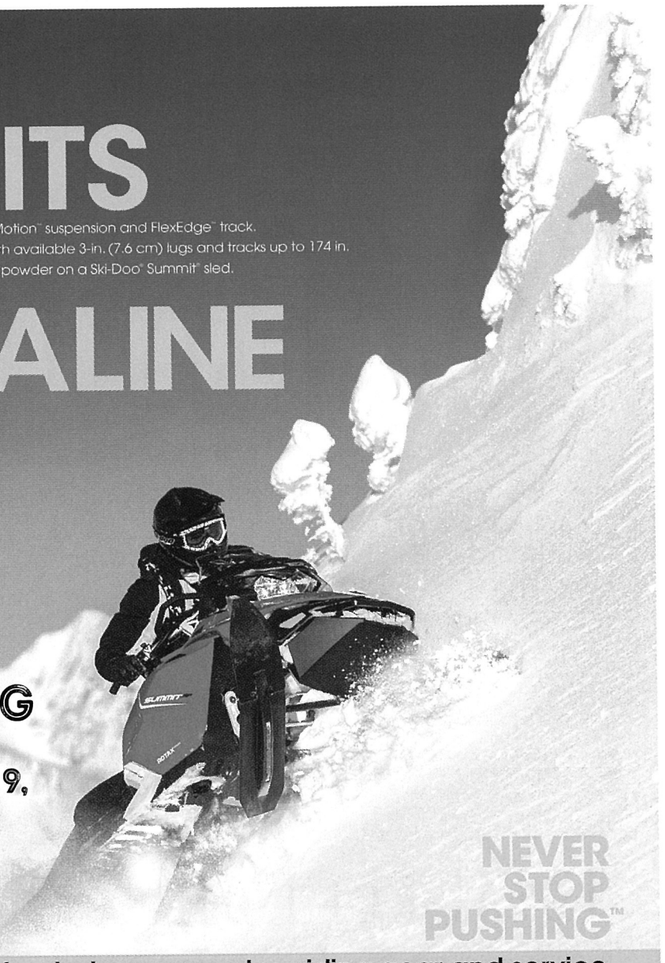
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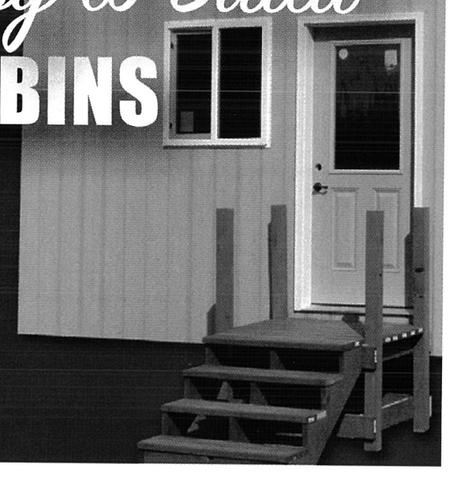
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SVEN GUSTAFSON

AGE: 45 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan, having been born and raised in Dillingham. I have been the principal of Romig Middle School in Anchorage for the past nine years. I am married to Kathy and have two kids, Steven and Julie. I love the outdoors and am excited to see the state on the back of my Polaris.

Personal Sponsors: Wife Kathy and Family



WESLEY JONES

AGE: 44 / **FROM:** Unalakleet

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

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan, and most of my life has been spent living in western Alaska. My wife, Jolene, and I have four children (Jalen, Lauryn, Sarah and Wassaq). I am a fisheries biologist with Norton Sound Economic Development Corporation. I enjoy spending time outdoors subsistence and commercial fishing and hunting.

Personal Sponsors: Wife Jolene and family



JALEN KATCHATAG

AGE: 21 / **FROM:** Unalakleet

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

BIO: I am a lifelong resident of Unalakleet. In the summer, I am a commercial salmon and crab fisherman in Norton Sound. I have been training to be a welder. I grew up riding snowmachines to hunt and ice fish. I have watched the Iron Dog come through Unalakleet since I was a young boy.

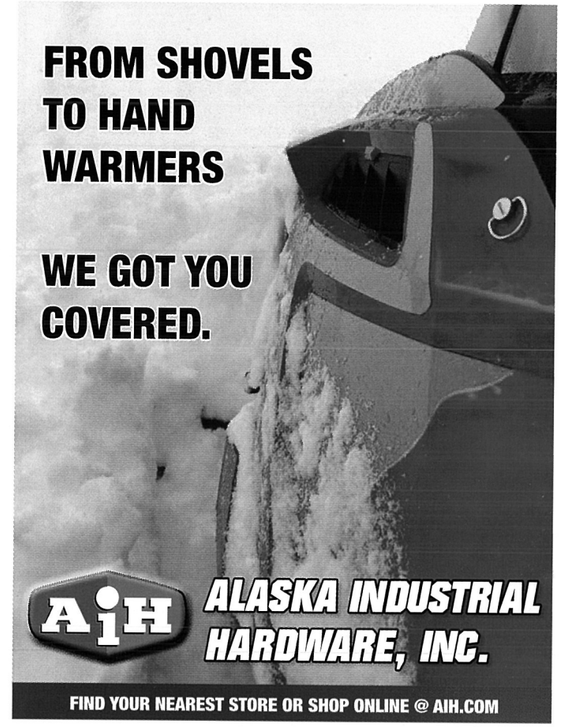
Personal Sponsors: My family

IRON DOG FACTS

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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ERIC CAMPBELL

AGE: 48 / **FROM:** Anchorage

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

RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished

Personal Sponsors: BDO USA, LLP



MATT HEILALA

AGE: 45 / **FROM:** Soldotna

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

RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished

BIO: Matt Heilala was born at Providence Alaska in Anchorage in 1969. He grew up on the Kenai Peninsula and graduated from Soldotna High School in 1988. Initially a commercial fisherman in Cook Inlet and Bristol Bay, Matt completed his undergraduate studies at the University of Oregon and UAA and went on to Podiatric Medical School to become a foot and ankle surgeon. He is an owner member of the Alaska Foot and Ankle Specialists in Anchorage and Wasilla. Dr. Heilala loves the outdoors and calls Alaska his permanent home for all the great things Alaska has to offer not the least of which the Iron Dog Adventure.

Personal Sponsors: Alaska Foot and Ankle Specialists



RYAN HEILALA

AGE: 17 / **FROM:** Anchorage

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

BIO: I don't necessarily like the cold weather, but I like the sports it brings with it. Skiing and snowmachining are right up there with soccer for me. I'm a senior in high school.

Personal Sponsors: Alaska Foot and Ankle Specialists



STAN JAMES

AGE: 39 / **FROM:** Palmer

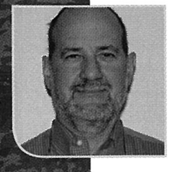
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS

RACE HISTORY: 2014: Finished

BIO: I love my family, Alaska and running the Iron Dog. Can you think of something better to do in the middle of February? RIP Brett Carr; this run's for you, buddy.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2003 WSA TerrainX, high points champion

Personal Sponsors: Fly, Klim, Stud Boy, CC Ski Doo



JOHN McCORMICK

RIDING: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS

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POLARIS

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REBECCA CHARLES

AGE: 35 / **FROM:** Wasilla / **STATUS:** Veteran

RIDING: Polaris Switchback Adventure

RACE HISTORY: 2014 and 2015 Iron Dog Recreational Class Finisher

BIO: I am a complete Iron Dog Recreational Class addict, having run and finished in both 2014 and 2015. Enjoying and photographing the incredibly challenging trail and amazing scenery is what I live for.

RACING EXPERIENCE:

Personal Sponsors: Falldorf's Snowmobile Adventures, boyfriend and right-hand shop man Vince Salzbrun, Electrical Guru Vaughn Salzbrun, friends and family



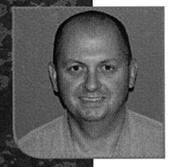
DENNIS FALLDORF

AGE: 60 / **FROM:** Ketchikan

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Sno Traveler

BIO: Being a lifelong Alaskan, Dennis always looks forward to reacquainting himself with the fine country and folks of the Iron Dog trail. Sharing this Alaska sojourn with teammates Rebecca and Mark will be most excellent.

Personal Sponsors: Falldorf's Snowmobile Adventures, Curt's Pit Stop



MARK MEUSER

AGE: 49 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback Adventure

RACE HISTORY: 2012: Finished, 2013: Finished, 2015: Finished

BIO: Mark is an 10-year resident of Alaska and is a flight nurse with LifeMed Alaska. Mark and his wife, Deborah Lerner, enjoy travel, riding snowmachines and SCUBA diving.

Personal Sponsors: Anchorage Sheet Metal

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POLARIS

Sponsors: PMSI



DANIEL JONES

AGE: 56 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

BIO: I have lived in Alaska for 35 years loving the outdoors, snowmachining in the winter and camping in the summer. I have four children and four grandchildren. This is my first Iron Dog, and I am very proud to run with my son Larry.

RACING EXPERIENCE: I have raced sno-cross, ovals, drags and cross country, taking some first-, second- and third-place finishes. I love the competitive sport of snowmachine racing.



LARRY JONES

AGE: 29 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

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 snowmachining in the winter and being on the lake with family and friends in the summer. Larry is excited to join with his father on a bucket list ride this year.

Personal Sponsors: Christina Jones, Lori Jones, Emaline Janes



As I reflect upon the many years I've been involved with the world's longest toughest snowmobile race, several themes come to mind.

Race teams change. Racers frequently switch partners and brands of snowmobiles. Getting along personally and technically during training and during the race plays heavily into team dynamics. Roles covered are mechanic, strategist, tactician, banker, negotiator, publicist and more. Naturally, more than one role per racer. Roles change, before, during and after the race. Two racers make one team.

Volunteers are key. The Iron Dog Maiden, Harriett Fenerty, recruited me when she made up the entire staff. I worked the night shift in Fairbanks and she worked the day shift. Thankfully, a loyal and tireless cadre of volunteer checkers dotted the trail all the way to Fairbanks. Volunteers came to our Atco trailer, next to Pike's on the Chena River. They plowed the parking lot and the river, erected banners, placed stakes, answered the phones, faxed press releases, calculated split-times, and provided food. I remember one sweet fellow who worked at the airport and brought me breakfast pastries and hot coffee at 5 a.m. each morning. As the race is growing in popularity and complexity, the number of volunteers must also grow. Volunteers are the life blood of the Iron Dog.

Money is important. It is grease for the wheels and gas for the tank, TV and radio ads, the race purse, staff salaries, rent, lights and so much more. Entry fees cover only a small piece of the budget. Iron Dog is truly grateful to its many sponsors for providing the operating cash and in-kind donations that ensure the race occurs every year. A thousand "thank-yous" aren't enough, so thanks a million!

Mother Nature is a force to be reckoned with. Whether there is tons of snow, bitter cold, biting winds, or the dreaded dearth of unseasonable warmth and bare ground, every participant faces Her. She plays no favorites, commands respect, and demands homage.

Iron Dog is not a race for cry-babies. Each team that finishes is a winner. Making it to Fairbanks demands focus, discipline, muscle, blood, sweat and tears from each racer. Yes, there are injuries. Yes, there are disappointments. Yes, there are sacrifices made by families, friends, and employers. Yes, they love it. No, it's not a race for the fragile. When a man or woman runs the Iron Dog and makes it to the finish, they have proven their metal. iron!

2016 marks Iron Dog's 33rd event, starting in downtown Anchorage with ceremony, pomp and circumstance. The official restart from Big Lake is powered by excitement, adrenaline, and quest for adventure. Iron Dog finishes in beautiful downtown Fairbanks with fun for the whole family. Racers travel over mountain ranges, cross frozen rivers, traverse rock hard tundra, all the while enduring the harshest conditions an Alaska winter can deliver. Dozens of racers will start, but only the strongest will finish. Join me and thousands of other fans as we chart their progress through it all. After all, the Iron Dog is the longest, toughest snowmobile race in the world.

— Marianne Beckham,
president,
"The Velvet Hammer"



Iron Dog is not a race for cry-babies.

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IRON DOG **PRO CLASS** 2016



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TYLER WHITLEY

AGE: 23 / **FROM:** Holy Cross
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S
BIO: While growing up in Holy Cross, I enjoyed riding dirt bikes all summer and snowmachines in the winter. Dirt bikes and snowmachines have always been a part of my life. Currently I live in Wasilla and work for Parker Drilling as a derrickhand. When I'm not working or riding, I love spending time with my family and friends.
Personal Sponsors: Samantha Aloysius, Sharon and Dean, Deana and Dakota, Alex Wright,

IRON DOG **REC CLASS** 2016

52

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RICK CARVER

AGE: 53 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished
BIO: I've been riding snowmachines all my life. I have run the Iron Dog recreational class twice before and had such a great time, I decided to do it one more time.



ROBERT FITZGERALD

AGE: 52
STATUS: Rookie
BIO: I am retired military.
Personal Sponsors: Ski-Doo Renegade Backcountry

54

POLARIS



DAN PARIS

AGE: 55 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-R
RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished
BIO: Looking forward to riding to Nome.



PATTI PARIS

AGE: 51 / **FROM:** Anchorage
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-R
BIO: 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, the reason we stay is all the snow in the wintertime and Prince William Sound in the summertime.

IRON DOG **REC CLASS** 2016

75

SKI-DOO
Sponsors: Team CC, Eagle Radio, Projekt 907, Gueco Racing



KENT SMITH

AGE: 50 / **FROM:** Marquette, Mich.
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
BIO: I have been snowmobiling for over 20 years in all kinds of cool places. I'm excited to run the Iron Dog and add it to the list. I am married to Rosemary, and I have four great kids who grew up snowmobiling.
Special thanks to my family and the staff at Team CC.
RACING EXPERIENCE: Ran the Grand Marais 500-miler
Personal Sponsors: None listed



KOLIN SMITH

AGE: 25 / **FROM:** Chugiak
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
BIO: I have been riding since I was 6 years old. Originally from Ohio, my family spent our weekends traveling to Northern Michigan and Ontario, Canada, to ride sleds. We traveled north so often that we eventually decided to relocate to Gaylord, Mich. After college, I pursued a career in the power sports industry and have worked at multiple dealerships throughout Ohio, Wyoming and most recently Alaska. It has been my lifelong dream to make it to Alaska and I would not have accomplished this feat nor in anyway would be able to participate in this event without the help from my truly better half, Alissa Davidson.
RACING EXPERIENCE: I entered my first snowmachine race at the age of 13. I have since participated in events such as the Jackson Hole World Championship Hill Climbs, AMMC Aleyska Motor Madness, Paradise Mich., Mardi Gras De Snow, and the Valdez Mountain Man Hill Climb. This will be my first (hopefully not last) adventure in the Iron Dog.
Personal Sponsors: Special thanks to Korey Cronquist, Danny Gueco, Tony Webster and Luc Karpik.

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, accept 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, in 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. Nearly every "unique" rule is attempting to address two key factors: No. 1 Safety, and No. 2 Leveling the field for competition.

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POLARIS

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BARNEY ANSELMENT

AGE: 40 / **FROM:** Takotna

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

BIO: I am Alaska born and raised and live in Takotna with my wife, Misty, and our three kids, Alana, Kaden and Kainoa. I am owner and pilot of Magnuson Airways.

Personal Sponsors: Misty Anselment, Dick Newton, Dan and Helen Drake, Richard Anselment, Jeff Hodder, Dave Ryan



DIETRICH NIKOLAI

AGE: 31 / **FROM:** McGrath

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan raised in Nikolai and McGrath and now residing in Eagle River. I work for Doyon Drilling, Inc. as a casing technician. I have two beautiful children, Kierra Lynn, 9; and Jacob Matthew, 5. I enjoy hunting fishing and trapping. I'd like to thank all of our sponsors and volunteers who make this race happen.

Personal Sponsors: Renae Egrass, Kierra Egrass, Jacob Egrass, the community of Nikolai, McGrath and Takotna.

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SKI-DOO

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MARK JOHNSON

AGE: 54 / **FROM:** Palmer

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

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. Racing in 2016 has been a dream that is becoming reality. I completed the 2015 Trail Class with Team 80, Team Ice Agers. Together we are spanning all of North America. With the support of our families, friends and sponsors we will have a successful race.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Completed the Trail Class 2015 with Team 80

Personal Sponsors: Michael Bowles, John and Valerie Zentz, IdlewildAlaska.com, Jon Curtis, April Coon, Charlie Preston, Greg Johnson, Stacy and Louie George, Eric and Shan Johnson, Tyson Johnson, Trazee DeBritti, Catherine Paya, Brent Johnson, Kevin Berg, Davy Johnson, junior sled mechanic, Merri Belle Dias



TODD MALAMUTE

AGE: 41 / **FROM:** Galena

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

BIO: Moved to Alaska from Oklahoma in 1988, work for Pogo Gold Mine, married to Sarah and have a son Dylan, enjoy the outdoor and spring snowmobile trips to Interior villages. Want to thank Chris Kruse for the opportunity to fill in for him.

RACE HISTORY: 2004: DNF, 2005: DNF, 2006: DNF, 2007: 8th place

Personal Sponsors: Sarah, Dylan, Ricky & Christine, Brian Collins, Doug & Gloria Patsey, Trevor Lund, Perry Burress, Karold's Welding, Leonard Hansen, Randy & Allison, Wilmer & Margret, Laurie Calandri, JFF Alaska, Patti Brown, Chris Kruse, My Family, Kyle Malamute, Randy and Allison, Compeaus

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KLINTON VANWINGERDEN

AGE: 35 / **FROM:** Big Lake

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Yamaha SRVIPER R-TX

RACE HISTORY: 2015: Finished

BIO: My life revolves around my beautiful bride, Calli, my daughter, Reese; my son, Miles; family and friends, my job, but most importantly my savior Jesus Christ. Time management is a constant exercise for me. Fortunately I serve a gracious and merciful God and live and work with patient people. I'm running this great race with my brother Kris. 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 had a rough run last year when we competed in the 2015 Iron Dog as a dual rookie team. We're excited to apply the learnings of 2015 to this year's race as veterans. We have an amazing team supporting us. Thank you to all who've taken an interest in our team and a very special thanks to all that have either supported and/or joined Team Sons of Thunder. Please visit our website at www.facebook.com/klint.kris.sot

Personal Sponsors: My beautiful wife and best friend, Calli, my children Reese and Miles, Mom, Dad, family and friends, co-workers at Alyeska Pipeline.



KRIS VANWINGERDEN

AGE: 32 / **FROM:** Big Lake

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Yamaha SRVIPER R-TX

RACE HISTORY: 2015: Finished

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 process control and automation engineer on the Slope. Racing has been a part of the VanWingerden 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 also brothers. The Sons of Thunder were known for their "impetuosity and zeal" for the Son of God, and more importantly held the gospel of Jesus Christ as The Truth.

Personal Sponsors: Heather VanWingerden, Doug VanWingerden, Connie VanWingerden, HLV Massage, Bettye's Bake Sale, Steve from Rainy Pass Lodge, McGrath Shop, Martin from Galena, Gary from Unalakleet, Shaktoolik Shop, Vern from Ruby, Family, friends, and colleagues for the prayers and support.

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Big Lake Powersports, Security Aviation, Silvertip Design, Klim, Total Truck, Strategic Plumbing and Heating, Holy Cross Enterprise, www.alaskapike.com, Chase Air



JASON CHRIS

AGE: 39 / **FROM:** Wasilla

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

BIO: Jason was born and raised in Bethel, and is married to Denetta. He is the father of four: Alexandra, Jace, Marlee and Jayden. He loves to hunt, fish, ride, boat, camp, and everything outdoors.

Personal Sponsors: My wife, Denetta Chris; my kids, Alexandra, Jace, Marlee and Jayden; my parents, Wassillie and Donna Chris; Dennis and B.J. William; and Alex Werba; Bruce and Connie Werba

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 17
ANCHORAGE

9 a.m.- 8 p.m. Donlin Gold Safety Expo, Cabela's

FRIDAY, FEB. 19
ANCHORAGE

7 p.m.	Flying Iron freestyle show
9 p.m.	After party at Williwaw

SATURDAY, FEB. 20
ANCHORAGE START

9:30 a.m.	Vintage snowmobile "Shine & Show" and Iron Pup kids
10 a.m.	Meet and greet the Pro Class racers
10:30 a.m.	Mat-Su Vintage Racing Club's vintage snowmobile parade
11:30 a.m.	Closing of the pit area
11:45 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.	Second Flying Iron freestyle show

SUNDAY, FEB. 21
BIG LAKE RESTART

8 a.m.	Teams start unloading
9 a.m.	Race teams positioned at the start in the pit
10:45 a.m.	Color Guard, National Anthem and announcements
11 a.m.	First Green Flag drops; continues in two-minute intervals
12:30 p.m.	End of the restart. (Time to pack up for Nome and Fairbanks)

SATURDAY, FEB. 27
FAIRBANKS FINISH

10 a.m.	Sponsors, vendors and activities in downtown Fairbanks
11:30 a.m.	Preparing for the first-place team to arrive
3 p.m.	Iron Dog merchandise tent closes
5 p.m.	Last teams to arrive
6 p.m.	Meet and greet at the Westmark Gold Room Ballroom.
7-9 p.m.	Awards Ceremonies
10 p.m.	After-party at the Westmark

IRON DOG SCHEDULE OF EVENTS





PHOTO BY ROGER CLIFFORD



ORZELPHOTO.COM





For times and other up-to-date information, visit irondog.org.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 17
Donlin Gold Safety Expo: Cabela's, Anchorage

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 18
Racer Drawing and Hall of Fame Banquet: Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19
Start of Recreational Class Ride: Big Lake

First Flying Iron Freestyle Show: Downtown Anchorage

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 20
Start of 2015 Iron Dog Race: Fourth Avenue, Anchorage

Second Flying Iron Freestyle Show: Downtown Anchorage

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 21
Pro Class Restart: Big Lake

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 24
Halfway ceremonies: Nome

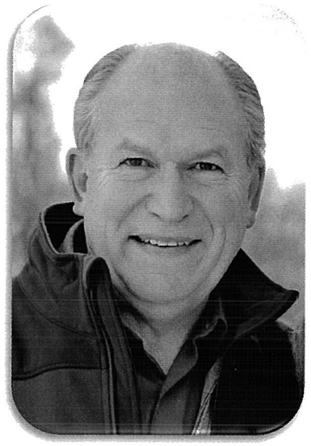
Recreational Riders Class Finish: Nome

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 27
Pro Class Finish: Fairbanks

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907-465-3500
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Governor Bill Walker
STATE OF ALASKA

550 West Seventh Avenue Suite 1700
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907- 269-7450
fax: 907- 269-7463
www.Gov.Alaska.Gov
Governor@Alaska.Gov



February 18, 2016

Dear Iron Dog Racers, fans, and community members,

Welcome to the 33rd annual Iron Dog Race, the world's longest and toughest snowmobile race, sponsored by the Alaska National Guard. Thanks to the sponsors, event organizers and volunteers, members of 23 communities on the race route, and the racing teams themselves, Iron Dog provides a world-class event every year.

The Iron Dog Race 2016 has drawn the largest level of race entrants since 2008. Through promoting snowmobile sports, community snowmobile safety, outdoor education, trade shows, seminars and community events, Iron Dog Race is a proud leader in the snowmobile sports community and a tribute to our great state.

I offer my best wishes to all participants for a safe and successful race!

Sincerely,

Bill Walker
Governor



STEFFEN STRICK, JR.

AGE: 28 / **FROM:** McGrath
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-R
RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished, 2015: 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 fiancé, Hope.
RACING EXPERIENCE: 2015: ninth place, 2013: 12th place
Personal Sponsors: Hope Collins, Grace Strick, Rally Jo Strick, Mom & Dad, Grandma Strick, Maria Strick, Berta Strick, Brett & Holly Gibbens, Camille Magnuson, Alice Dale, Robert & Noel Strick, Benny & Betty Magnuson

41 — ARCTIC CAT

Sponsors: Team Arctic Racing, GCI Communications, Christian Brothers Racing, HC Racing, Fox Racing Shocks, B&D Simons Trucking , Davis Block & Concrete, Alaska LED Industries, Stud Boy Traction Products



CORY DAVIS

AGE: 27 / **FROM:** Soldotna
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC
RACE HISTORY: 2011: Finished, 2014: Finished
BIO: Cory is a lifelong Alaskan who enjoys all aspects of Alaska life, works as vice president of operations for Davis Block in the summer, and competes in many disciplines of snowmachining all winter. He's a six-time X-Games medalist.
RACING EXPERIENCE: Six-time X-Games medalist, two national semi-pro championships, third 2011 Iron Dog, multiple USCC race wins
Personal Sponsors: Motorfist, 509, Lithia Ram, HMK USA, The Pioneer, Total Truck, Scott Davis, Corey Berberich, Hector Olson, Mike Kloety, Brian Dick, Alyssa Giles



RYAN SIMONS

AGE: 33 / **FROM:** Camrose, British Columbia
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC
RACE HISTORY: 2014: Finished
BIO: I am born and raised in Alberta Canada. I'm 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
Personal Sponsors: FXR Racing, B&D Simons Trucking, Davis Block, Anchorage Auto Glass, Alaska LED, Kreative, The Pioneer, Winter Friends

42 — SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Johnson River Enterprises, LLC, Professional General Contractors



RURIK LINDNER

AGE: 38 / **FROM:** Fairbanks
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo MXZ XR-S
RACE HISTORY: 2015: DNF
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 had a good run last year with my dad and am looking forward to this year.

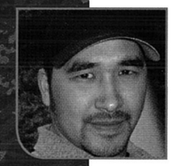


RICHARD SWENSON

AGE: 32 / **FROM:** Two Rivers
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
BIO: I was born and raised in Interior Alaska, and I have always enjoyed outdoor activities such as snowmachines, dirt bikes, wheelers, hunting, fishing, construction and all other aspects of living in the Last Frontier. I'm a proud husband to my beautiful wife, Christina, and father of two boys, Brendan, 20 months; and Rylan, 4 years old.
Personal Sponsors: Johnson River Enterprises, my wife, Christina Swenson; my always supportive mom (Kathy), friends and family, Tim Jauhola, Kyle Malemute, Sonny Lindner, Rick Swenson (dad) and Kelly Williams (stepmom).

43 — POLARIS

Sponsors: Drews Foundation, Donlin Gold, Knik Construction, Bering Marine Corporation, Klim, Lynden Air Cargo, Extreme Auto Accessories, Yukon Equipment, Specialty Truck & Auto, Alaska Power Sports, Shorty's Shop, Greer Tank, Declan W. Siedenburg, Yahoo Station, Jim Noe, Salzbrun Services and Drilling, Full Power Performance, Osprey Air, Jack Crow, Williams Family, Buddy Kutch, Frank Bithos/ Dredge Bucket B&B, VFW Post 10041 Robert V Lindsey, Woody's Traction Products, Alaska Technologies, Fine Line Interiors, Polaris Industries, Redline Fabrication & Repair, M/V Elsie-M, Ryznar Industries, Island Engraving



GUX LARAUX

AGE: 33 / **FROM:** Bethel
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S
RACE HISTORY: 2012: Finished, 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished
BIO: Gux is a lifelong Alaska born and raised in Bethel. He is also a U.S. Coast Guard veteran and now works for Alaska Hovercraft. In his downtime, Gux enjoys outdoor subsistence activities, spending time with his newborn twins, and traveling along the Kuskokwim River systems. This will be Gux's fourth time running the Iron Dog race.
RACING EXPERIENCE: Irondog 2012, 2013, 2014; Nome-Golovin 2015
Personal Sponsors: Laraux family and friends



VINCENT SALZBRUN

AGE: 33 / **FROM:** Bethel
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S
RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished
BIO: Vince was born and raised in Bethel and grew up welding for his dad, Shorty, then joined the Army National Guard in 2001 to be a UH-60 Black Hawk Helicopter mechanic and crew chief. He now works as a Quality Control Technical Inspector, has been on four deployments to Kosovo (twice), Kuwait and Haiti. He finished the Iron Dog race in 2013 as part of the National Guard team. When he's not working, he likes to visit with family and friends, travel, and be outdoors enjoying all that Alaska has to offer.
RACING EXPERIENCE: Vintage ice racing 2010-2012, snow cross 2012, cross country 2014
Personal Sponsors: Mom, Sophie; Dad, Shorty; brother Vaughn, and girlfriend Becca

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Subway, Western State Inspection, T&D Racing, FXR Racing, Genes Chrysler, Delta Powersports, Alaska LED Industries, Darby's Performance, Rayznar Industries, Nanook Dental, Stud Boy Traction Products, Arctic FX Graphics, Ice Age Performance



TONY GREENE

AGE: 40 / **FROM:** Fairbanks

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2015: Finished

BIO: I have lived in Fairbanks for a little over 35 years now. 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 Mayor's 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 and, of course, 2015 Iron Dog

Personal Sponsors: Garret Howard, John Riddle, Connie Riddle, Danny Riddle, Pete Eickermann, Wes Rice, Lancer Green, Adam Martinson, Ray Richards, Bob Musgrove, Bryan Norris, Ed Coronado, Jason Hanson, John Kelly, Wade Williams, Dan Simmons, Mike Hays, Rich Barfield, Paul Morgan



JON TOLLEY

AGE: 40 / **FROM:** Fairbanks

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

BIO: I've lived in Alaska for almost 25 years now, and enjoy hunting, fishing, Moto-X, four-wheeling and anything to do with snowmachines. 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. My teammate for Iron Dog is one of my longtime friends, Tony Greene, who I've grown up riding with since high school and am excited to compete with him this year.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Mayor's Cup: 2011 Vet Pro, first place; 2012 Vet Pro first; 2013 Vet Pro first; Eureka XC 2013 Vet Pro first place; Alyeska Motor Madness 2012: Vet Pro XC race 1: first place; Vet Pro XC race 2: first place; finished first to Nome in Iron Dog Trail Class in 2015 with partner Dave Tillet and fellow Trail Classer Mike Telkamp.

Personal Sponsors: Chad Szych & family, Laura Tyler, Jason & Jennifer Pyecha, Dave Tillet & family, Jeff Ross, Ethan Currier, William & Doris Tolley, Luke Ingram, Mike Found & family, Morgan Renney, Shawn Robinson, Bittner Brooks, Kerey Cheap, Keenan Slyter, Chris Found, Dana Luce, Mitch Hollenbeck, Stephanie Tolley-Lewis, Ken Doyle, Kacey Groves, Daniel Duce, Bo Lunde & Family. I especially want to thank my wife, Monica Tolley, for all her help and patience. As well as Tony Greene (my race partner), Dave Tillet , Bo Lunde and my other riding friends.

IRON DOG FACTS

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

In the 2015 Iron Dog, Yamaha was the only manufacturer with all teams entered to finish the race.

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Team Industries, FXR Racing, Delta Powersports, Fox General Store, Inc., Auto Trim Design, HTR Designs, Monster Performance, Darby's Performance Machine, Stud Boy Traction Products, Speedcell, Polaris Industries, High Performance Engineering, Ice Age Performance, Terri Wolters Allstate Insurance, North Star Performance, AK LED Industries, Sled Supply ,Inc., OTP Performance, Raptor Performane Shocks, Central Environmental, Inc., Motion Industries, Inc., Last Frontier Barber Shop, Northland Wood Products, Inc., Gene's Chrysler, Dodge, Jeep, Ram, SRT, Tom Kobza Industries TKI, Apocalypse Design, Inc., Hutch's Mobile Service, Pagoda Restaurant, Zugger Shocks, SMM Pogo LLC.



TROY CONLON

AGE: 25 / **FROM:** Fairbanks

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

BIO: I was born and raised in Fairbanks, where I work as a welder/machinist for Fort Knox Gold Mine. I grew up playing hockey, hunting, fishing and riding power sports. I have a relentless passion for building things, which my wife, Chloe, may never fully understand but always supports. The majority of my time snowmachining has been in the backcountry until three years ago when I started cross-country racing and I've been hooked ever since. I am thankful for my friends and family who have helped and supported me along the way.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2015 Mayor's Cup first semi-pro; Arctic X second semi-pro; Big Lake Ice X sixth & sixth semi-pro; 2013 Mayor's Cup third semi-pro; Motor Madness sixth semi-pro; Big Lake Islander DNF

Personal Sponsors: Chloe Conlon, Jerry Conlon & Shannon Winner, Ron Johnson, Scotty Cuchna, Kendra Folsom, The Simmons Crew, Uncle Davey, the Edgerley Family, Candy & Hunter Johnson, Ivar Carlson



RYAN FOLSOM

AGE: 34 / **FROM:** Fairbanks

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2014: Finished, 2015: Finished

BIO: I was born and raised in Fairbanks. I love being outdoors on any type of machine. I am a mill operations general foreman for SMM Pogo LLC., and have been mining for 15 years. When I'm not working or snowmachining, I love camping and traveling with my wife, Kendra, and our two dogs, Lucy and Betty.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Mayor's Cup 2013 seventh place; Eureka K100XC 2012 first place; Mayor's Cup 2012 second place; Alyeska K60 2012 third place

Personal Sponsors: Kendra Folsom, Dennis & Birdie Folsom, Jeanne Folsom, Tim & Sandy Olson, Jerry Conlon, Brian Lee, Missy Conlon, Pilot Daniel Hayden, Tim McKay, Scotty Cuchna, Simmons Crue, Ivar Carlson

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POLARIS 33

Sponsors: Community of McGrath, Klim, Pay Dirt Excavation, AK LED Industries, Iditarod Trail Cafe, McGrath A.C., Big Dipper Clothing , Donlin Gold, FineLine Interiors



THERRON MAGNUSON

AGE: 39 / **FROM:** McGrath

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-R

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan raised in McGrath and a longtime volunteer of Iron Dog at McGrath and Rohn. I'm just going for a ride Thanks to friends and family who made this possible.

Personal Sponsors: McGrath community, Ben and Betty Magnuson, Steffen and Mel Strick, Neal Scott and Iditarod Trail Café, Alice Magnuson and surrounding communities

2016 SPONSORS

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

Mayor of Anchorage's message



Dear Iron Dog Racers and fans,

Welcome to Anchorage! It is a pleasure to once again host the start of the Pro Class race.

Thank you to the volunteers across the state, but especially here in Anchorage, who make this event possible. The Iron Dog tests racers strength, skill and determination, as well as promotes snowmachine safety and outdoor education.

Good luck to all racers on the trail and for another great Iron Dog Race!

Best,

Ethan Berkowitz

Mayor of the Municipality of Anchorage

Mayor of Nome's message



Iron Dog racers, families, fans and visitors,

The 33rd annual Iron Dog promises to be even more exciting and full of energy than ever before.

Nome has been a fundamental part of the Iron Dog since the very first Iron Dog Gold Rush Classic in 1984. Whether racers ran to Nome, to Nome and back to Big Lake, or to Nome and on to Fairbanks, every Iron Dog racer has stopped in Nome. As a community, we look forward to the racers and family coming through. And we wish them well as they travel on to Fairbanks.

We are proud to host the halfway ceremonies again this year. From racers wrenching in the garage, to resting up before completing the second half of the race, Nome is key as halfway point.

If you are able join us in Nome, welcome to our city! We look forward to seeing you and welcoming all the racers as they come into Nome.

Richard Beneville





RANDY MOSS

AGE: 73 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 1995 Trophy Class, third place; 1996 Pro Class; 1997 Pro Class; 1998 Trail Class; 2014 Hall of Fame

BIO: Randy Moss has proudly been involved with the Iron Dog for the past 21 years. In his earlier years, he was a race contestant and continued on as a volunteer official at the Ruby Checkpoint. After being inducted into the Iron Dog Hall of Fame in 2014, Randy decided to give it another go and will be racing at the age of 74! Why, you may ask? He is a firm believer that challenges are what make life interesting and overcoming them is what makes life meaningful. He also believes that you should concentrate on your physical age and not your chronological age. You are only as old as you think you are. Owner of Randall Moss Insurance, Randy has helped friends and community members get the appropriate insurance coverage to protect their assets, most importantly, protect their snow-machines and toys! Randy recently celebrated his 50th wedding anniversary with his wonderful wife Sharon. He raised five kids in Alaska: Kelly, Eric, Blake, Brad and Aimee and now has 12 grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

Personal Sponsors: Randall Moss Insurance, Dave Hausbeck Trucking, Woody's Traction Products, Alaska Power Sports, Eagle River Polaris, Northern Solutions, Mike Morgan, Tim Kanady, Stan English, and Ray Debenham.

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Dr. Michelle Ireland with Ireland Clinic of Chiropractic, LLC, Cruz Construction, Alaska Picker, Eaglequest Cabins & Lodge, Health Quest Therapy, Inc., Uncle Bob's Home Made Ice Cream , Klim, The Alaska Life, Stud Boy Traction Products, Color Art Printing Co., Information Design, Beth Libbey Country Financial



KYLE CONNER

AGE: 25 / **FROM:** Willow

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2014: Finished, 2015: 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 both the 2014 and 2015 IronDdog with 13th-place finishes. 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 precious baby girl, Sage. Kyle has been employed as an operator for BP for the last five years.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2014 Iron Dog 13th place; 2014 Arctic Man fourth place snowboard; 2015 Iron Dog, 13th place.

Personal Sponsors: Molly Conner, the Lamborn Family, the Conner Family, Frankie Harris, Savannah House, Tom Whitstine. Tyler Brown, Kevin Okinello



DONALD KOONTZ

AGE: 26 / **FROM:** Wasilla

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2015: Finished

BIO: Donald Koontz was born and raised in Alaska. He now works as a sheet metal foreman for Alaska Sheet Metal. Donald and his wife, Stephanie, enjoy living in Wasilla and taking advantage of all this great state has to offer.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Finished 13th in the 2015 Iron Dog

Personal Sponsors: Stephanie Koontz, Shelli & Darrell Koontz, Kevin Okinello, Tyler Brown

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SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Wilderness Ski-Doo



JOHN BAHNKE

AGE: 43 / **FROM:** Nome

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

RACE HISTORY: 2002: Finished, 2008: Finished, 2013: Finished

BIO: John was born and raised in Nome, and he owns and operates Wilderness Ski-doo. He and his wife, Nancy, have been married for the past 14 years, and they have four kids: Brayden, 13; Reese, 11; and Audrey and Sarah, 8.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Nome-Golovin: Racing cross-country in Nome and Kotzebue since 1994 with mixed finishes (some good/some DNF).

Personal Sponsors: Vern & Tami Monet, wife, Nancy; kids, Brayden, Reese, Audrey and Sarah; Mom & Dad



CHRISTOPHER COLLINS

AGE: 34 / **FROM:** Kotzebue

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

RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished

BIO: I was raised in Kotzebue, and I love to hunt, fish, ride snowmachines and tinker around in my little shop. I have raced the Iron Dog in 2013 placing seventh and in 2014, but DNF just past Ruby.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2006 Nome-Golovin fan class first, 2006 AF/WG open class third; 2007 Nome-Golovin fan class fifth, 2007 AF/WG fan class fifth; 2008 Nome-Golovin fan class fifth, 2008 AF/WG 600 class seventh; 2009 Nome-Golovin fan class first, 2009 AF/WG fan class fifth; 2010 Nome-Golovin open class first, 2010 AF/WG open class third; 2011 Nome-Golovin open class fifth; 2012 Nome-Golovin 600 class second; 2013 AF/WG 600 class third

Personal Sponsors: Jana Demoski, Vern & Tami, Lawrence Jones, Bruce Nelson, Bahnke family, Howard & Freda Beasley, DeeDee Carlo, Pongy Carlo, Yogi Snyder, LJ's store in Ambler, Susan Collins, Sarah Crumbley

IRON DOG FACTS

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 added weight only adds to the abuse on the suspension. Second to suspension is the need for additional 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."

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Alaska Spine Institute, GCI Communications, Klim, Northern Solutions, Ace Fuels, LLC, White Spruce Trailers, Complete Concepts Automotive, Ficklin Construction



JERRY ALWARD

AGE: 50 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2015: DNF

BIO: I was born and raised in Alaska. I raced the 2015 Iron Dog and made it as far as Nome ,learning a ton. I'm looking forward to a great race in 2016.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog 1992 Trail Class, finisher

Personal Sponsors: Alaska Spine Institute (ASI), Pinacle Project Management (PPM), Alward Construction Services (ACS) and Kanady Chiropractic



LARRY LEVINE

AGE: 52 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

BIO: I was born and raised in Anchorage. I've been practicing medicine in Alaska, following training beginning in 1995. I started riding snowmachines to keep up with my friends and daughter. I want to thank all my family, friends and supporters.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2013 Arctic Man

Personal Sponsors: Karen Levine

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ARCTIC CAT

Sponsors: Team Arctic Racing, Anchorage Suzuki Arctic Cat, Superman Moving and Delivery Service, Fly Racing, Triple 9 Optics, Norcoast Mechanical, Inc., Alaska Mechanical Contractors Association/ SMACNA, Adventures in Eye Care, Broadway Signs, Anchorage Sheet Metal, GMW Fire Protection, Carlos Mexican Restaurant, Re-Bath of Alaska, AlasKad, Proctor Sales, Team 50 Cowbell Nation, Jack Links Beef Jerky, Color Art Printing Co., Vision X, Harrington Industrial Plastics



GEOFF CROUSE

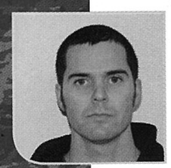
AGE: 32 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished

BIO: Geoff was born and raised in Alaska. He has been riding snowmachines for over 20 years. When Geoff is not riding, he enjoys spending time with his family, four-wheeling, fishing and riding mountain bikes. He is employed by Norcoast Mechanical. Geoff has been married for eight years to his wife, Jenna, and they have two sons, Blake and Eli.

Personal Sponsors: Jenna Crouse, Doc and Laurie Crouse, Lori Lindquist, John and Mitzi Crouse, Brad and Trevor Helwig



JERROD VAUGHN

AGE: 32 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished

BIO: I have lived in Alaska for over 20 years and have been racing different venues of snowmachines since 2001. I have completed the Iron Dog in 2013, 2014 and 2015. My wife, Jennifer, and I have three great kids, Makenna, Austin and Rylee. I'm looking forward to teaching the kids how to ride their 120 this winter in between training runs. When not racing we enjoy camping, softball and family time at the cabins. www.outcoldracing.com

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog: 2013, third-place rookie team

Personal Sponsors: Jennifer, Makenna, Austin and Rylee Vaughn, Mark & Lynne Vaughn, Joan & Pops Laury, Jim & Sandy Potvin, Rick Teel, Simon Muller, Jadee & Stacey Moncur, and our pilot Jeremy Rogers

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SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Alaska Mining & Diving, Koots, Pita Pit, Roger Hickel Construction, Lybergers Car & Truck sales, Auto Armor of Alaska, Mudd-Ox, Inc., Laborers Local 341, Alaska Mudd-Ox, Stephl Engineering, Fine Line Interiors, Alaska Fabshop/ Race Green, Porter Construction, Java Hut Espresso



BEN BAILEY

AGE: 32 / **FROM:** Anchorage

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

BIO: Ben was born and raised in Anchorage. As a lifelong Alaskan, he takes great pride in our amazing state and takes full advantage of all Alaska has to offer. Ben is an avid outdoorsman, who enjoys hunting, fishing, and snowmachining. He is the consummate family man with a beautiful wife and three healthy girls. Ben has been in the construction field for 10 years. He has spent eight summers working for Alaska X Inc., and seven winters sub-contracting with Huettl Co. Snowmachining was introduced to Ben as a fun family activity over 20 years ago. His best friend Russell Miller would join his family in their weekend snowmachine adventures. In March of 2015, Russell perished in an avalanche while snowmachining. This devastating loss has inspired Ben and his partner Seth Wells to honor Russell's dream of competing in the great Iron Dog snowmachine race. Ben and Seth will be racing in full avalanche safety gear. Their goal is to help promote avalanche awareness and convey the importance of always having the correct safety gear and knowing how to use it, no matter what the condition.

Personal Sponsors: Mike Lavin, Tracy Wells, Kelsey Jensen & Jerry Nemeth, Sean Jefferys, Sarah & Wes Canfield, Rene Gonzalez, Morgan Hickel, Ben Davis, Hayden Porter, Travis Bailey, Mark & Karen Williams, Davis Harris, Chad Aurentz, Susan Crocker, John Pulis, Christy & Doyale Miller, Katherine Stevens, Deela Roe, Lacy Saugstad-Barkel, Denean Buno, Lito Talbert, Leon & Nancy Wells, Richard & Bennie Ames, Richard & Anne Bailey, Eric Quam, Alaska X Inc



SETH WELLS

AGE: 35 / **FROM:** Anchorage

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

BIO: Seth Wells is a lifelong Alaskan and works for the Anchorage School District. Winter sports have been Seth's passion since he was a child and he started snowmachining when he was 15. Seth was seen in Turnagain Hardcore DVDs since they first started. Interest in running the Iron Dog started with a friendship with Russell Miller. Russell and Seth were planning to sign up for the 2016 Iron Dog but unfortunately Russell's life was cut short by an avalanche in spring of 2015. Seth is running the Iron Dog to honor the memory of his friend and to bring awareness to avalanche safety.

Personal Sponsors: Mike Lavin, Tracy Wells, Kelsey Jensen & and Jerry Nemeth, Sean Jefferys, Sarah and Wes Canfield, Rene Gonzalez, Morgan Hickel, Ben Davis, Hayden Porter, Travis Bailey, Mark and Karen Williams, Davis Harris, Chad Aurentz, Susan Crocker, John Pulis, Christy and Doyale Miller, Katherine Stevens, Deela Roe, Lacy Saugstad-Barkel, Denean Buno, Lito Talbert, Leon and Nancy Wells, Richard and Bennie Ames, Richard and Anne Bailey, Eric Quam

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Randall Moss Insurance & Dave Hausbeck Trucking, Woody's Traction Products, Alaska Power Sports, Kanady Chiropractic



DAVE HAUSBECK

AGE: 53 / **FROM:** Reese, Mich.

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

BIO: I've lived in Michigan my whole life and enjoyed snowmobiling in the Upper Peninsula and Ontario, logging in 3,000 to 4,000 miles per year. I love adventures, challenges, outdoor activities and all different forms of racing. The prestigeous Iron Dog race seemed like a perfect fit.

Personal Sponsors: Woody's Traction Products, KLIM, Weiss Equipment, Big Lake Powersports, Northern Solutions, DHT, & Stan English

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CREATING A LEGACY

With generational participation, Iron Dog 2016 cements

Last year, Scott Faeo became the first "second-generation" winner of the Iron Dog, following in the footsteps of his father, John Faeo, who won the first-ever Iron Dog back in 1984 (the elder Faeo remains to this day one of the winningest Iron Doggers in history with victories also in 1986, 1987, 1988, 1990, 1991 and 1996).

And so, like the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race with names such as the Mackeys and Seaveys, a tradition is born in Iron Dog, with its Faeos and Davises.

"Having our first 'second-generation' champion ushers in a new era of an Iron Dog that begins to resemble other world-class events with a rich history such as NASCAR," said Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner. "I believe it illustrates that Iron Dog has staying power, a rich culture of competitors and a bright future that is learning to celebrate its past."

'Iron Dog has a bright future that is learning to celebrate its past.'

With such a rich past this year promises to be one of the more nail-biting races ever, as the quest for race dominance continues. Scott Faeo will be pursuing yet another win, pairing up this year with four-time champion Marc McKenna. Cory Davis, son of Scott Davis, who shares the distinction of being a seven-time champion alongside John Faeo, will be champing at the bit as well.

"It is a little pressure," Faeo acknowledged of this year's race. "But last year was as tough as it gets, because there was a lot of pressure with Scott (Davis, who was trying for win No. 8). It's hard, but it's also a good thing. I kind of take that stuff and feed off of it."

The action all begins in downtown Anchorage, Saturday, Feb. 20 – although there are plenty of chances to meet the racers beforehand, such as at the Safety Expo on Wednesday, Feb. 17. This year's field includes 41 teams, including 45 veterans and 37 rookies. They are representing the manufacturing field, with the largest percentage racing Polaris, followed by Ski-Doo, Arctic Cat and Yamaha. They come from the city streets of Anchorage to the far-flung Bush communities in Alaska to the northern reaches of the Lower 48 states.

Anchorage will surely be bustling. After the influx of spectators and fans last year, businesses are gearing up for an exciting day.

"We're planning to work with a few key partners to help get the word out to the Anchorage businesses who could benefit from our events," Kastner said. "The most notable who helped us previously are Visit Anchorage, Anchorage Downtown Partnership, EasyPark, Alaska Mint and our amazing volunteers who will be canvassing the area to get local businesses up to speed on the events for 2016."

Those who want to glimpse the racers as they gear up can wander the downtown streets, snap selfies, look at gear and



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SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Discovery Drilling LLC, Team CC, Fish Creek Sales, Motorfist, Winterglen Labradors, A2D Sledworks, OT Enterprises LLC, Cindy Felegy, Scott Goggles, OGIO, Atlas Brace Technologies, Virus , AMDS, Rigid Industries, Brandon Burmeister, Brothers & Sisters of UTU 1626, David Bogert, friends and family, Tip Top Transport, Dave Bang, Design Graphics LLC



TYLER BOGERT

AGE: 22 / **FROM:** Big Lake

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

RACE HISTORY:

BIO: I was born and raised in Big Lake, and I'm a train conductor for the Alaska Railroad. I grew up riding anything and everything with a motor. Racing snowmachines has always been a passion of mine. My hobbies include hunting, fishing and driving my side-by-side. I also enjoy camping and hiking. I couldn't do this race without the support of my parents, brothers and my girlfriend, Kayla. I am riding for my best friend, Shane Felegy, who passed away in March 2014. He always wanted to come to Alaska and race the Iron Dog.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Soo I-500: 2014, 11th place

Personal Sponsors: Mom and Dad, my girlfriend, Kayla, Atlas Brace Technologies, Motorfist, Ogio International, Scott Sports, Virus, Discovery Drilling LLC, Fish Creek Sales, Team CC, Cindy Felegy



DANIEL KEIM

AGE: 37 / **FROM:** Wasilla

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

BIO: Daniel is a lifelong Alaskan. He is married to his wife, Gretchen, and works as an engineer/conductor for the Alaska Railroad. He enjoys pretty much everything motorized, the Alaska outdoors, traveling and enjoying time with family.

Personal Sponsors: Fish Creek Sales, Winterglen Labradors, Gretchen Keim

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ARCTIC CAT

Sponsors: Team Arctic Racing, Big Lake Superstore, Zugger Shocks, Elka Suspension, EjJ Bartels, Jana's Jumping Java, Arctic Refrigeration, Alaska Spine Institute, USW local 4959, Motorfist, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Bushwhacker Unlimited, Baja Designs, Woody's Traction Products, Solo Creek Guide Services Alaska's Premier Big Game Hunting, Alumineyman Welding & Fab LLC, Rod Frank, Mocha Motion



RYAN ARMSTRONG

AGE: 32 / **FROM:** Wasilla

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

BIO: I was born and raised in Alaska. I love spending time with my wife, Krista, and our two kids, Rylynn and Zane. I enjoy fishing in Seward, camping, riding snowmachines and four-wheelers.

Personal Sponsors: My wife and kids, Frank Armstrong, Rod and Kathy Frank, the Beech family, and Greg Turner. Thanks for all the help and support.



JOE BEECH

AGE: 41 / **FROM:** Palmer

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

BIO: I was born in Alaska where I spend most of my time camping, hunting and riding with my wife, Aimee and kids Mallory, Carly and Joseph.

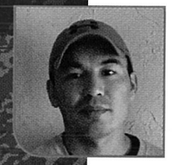
Personal Sponsors: Joe And Debbie Beech, Ron Zugg, Jana Peterson, Kevin Okinello, Jim Darling, Frank Armstrong and Connie Able. Special thanks to Aimee Beech and Krista Armstrong.

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Frankson Services LLC., Northern Inn, AJ Store, Remote Site Services, Inc., Sweetsir Construction, Woody's Racing, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Rip-n-Grip Racing, The Coffee Shop, Big Lake Power Sports



JOE CLEAVER

AGE: 35 / **FROM:** Galena

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

Personal Sponsors: Frankson Services LLC, AJ's Store, Northern Inn, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Chris Maynard, Woody's Traction, Shannon Jenkins & family, Earl Sommers & family, David Attla & family, Jeremy Esmailka & family, Paytyn, Danica, Zenae and JoBoy



BOBBY FRANKSON

AGE: 34 / **FROM:** Point Hope/Galena

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

BIO: Bobby enjoys fishing, camping, bow hunting and teaching his kids to ride. He enjoys spring camping trips up North. He is married to Erica and they have two daughters, Destiny Willow and Bunnick.

Personal Sponsors: Frankson Services LLC, AJ's Store, Sweetsir's Construction, Northern Inn, Remote Site Services, Inc,. Hatcher Pass Polaris, Chris Maynard, Woody's Traction, Joe Demoski, Dudio Burgett, Shannon Jenkins, Matt Spernak, T-Cat, Paytyn, Danica, Zenae, & Josiah. Thanks to my wife, Erica, and my girls Destiny and Bunnick for all their support.

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SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Sourdough Express, Gundersen Painting, Compeau's



JASON GUNDERSEN

AGE: 28 / **FROM:** Fairbanks

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

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 snowmachining and enjoying all this with friends and family.

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

Personal Sponsors: Debbie and Gary Gundersen, Jon Binkley "Air Support," Kourtney Roy



JOSH NORUM

AGE: 28 / **FROM:** Fairbanks

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

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.

Personal Sponsors: Jayme and Owen Norum, Dave and Debbie Norum, Jim and Lisa Currie, Bryce Benson, John Binkley

IRON DOG FACTS

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

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

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SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Alaska Directional LLC, Tracy Vrem's Blue Mountain Lodge, EMC Engineering, Rulien & Associates, Rodney P Kinney Associates, Team CC, Craig Taylor Equipment, Pioneer Door, Inc., Western Construction, Compeau's, Residential Mortgage, Alaska Safety, Inc. , Alaska Sewing Industries, Hamilton Construction, Jana's Jumping Java, Legacy Dental Arts, Emulsion Products, Yukon Equipment, Bob's Services, Carlos Tree Service, Ancor, Great Northwest, Inc., Usibelli Coal Mine, Mantech Mechanical, Chepos, Totem Equipment, Arctic Com, Specialized Pavement Markings, Northwest Barriers, Con Tech, Stud Boy Traction Products, Klim, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, Zugger Shocks, Al Palma Technologies, Home Inspections Plus, Accupoint, Ryznar Industries, Al Bowler State Farm Insurance, Camso, QAP, Shields Paving, Jalapeno's Mexican Restaurant, Avalanche Frozen Yogurt, MAPPA, Clear Sky Lodge, International Aviation Services, Cato Motorsports, Smartwool, Valley Dental Clinic



STAN BROWN

AGE: 30 / **FROM:** Eagle River

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

RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished

BIO: Born and raised here in Alaska. When I'm not working, I like spending time with my wife, Madisyn, and daughter, Harper.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog rookie 2012 DNF, 2013 10th, 2014 eighth

Personal Sponsors: Madisyn and Harper Brown



JOHN DEAN

AGE: 31 / **FROM:** Eagle River

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

RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished, 2015: Finished

BIO: I'm a lifelong Alaskan. I enjoy snowmachining, four-wheeling, hunting and hanging out with friends and especially my wife, Kristie, and son, Blake.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Arctic Man 2011, 2013

Personal Sponsors: Al Palma, Korey Cronquist, Ron Zugg, Dan Ryznar, Jack Cato, Brad Enters, Sterling Shearer.

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ARCTIC CAT

Sponsors: Team Arctic Racing, Sukup Manufacturing Co., DHS Grain LTD, Telkamp Farms, Winning Edge Graphics, Owen Peterson Farms, Johnson Jetline, The Winter Spectacular, Country Cat, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Spud's Small Engine Service and Repair, Vipond Farms, BLUME Electric, Anderson Oil & LP, Kris Telkamp, Counselor Realty Inc. of Alexandria, Minn., Bright Seeds, Inc., Runestone Insurance Agency, Amy Winter Photography, Crossfit Repo, Hoffman Co-op Grain, RL Machine, Kensington Bank, Midwest Machinery, Angelina's Restaurant & Bar, Aflac/Terry Anderson, Amundson Peterson, West-con, Midwest Doors, Planet Powersportz



DIETER STROBEL

AGE: 35 / **FROM:** Barrett, Minn.

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

RACE HISTORY: 2015: DNF

BIO: Married with two children Brooklyn, 8; and Bennett, 5. I own and operate a grain handling sales and installation business for the last six years. I enjoy working outside and riding snowmobiles in the mountains and now Alaska.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2015: DNF, 2014: recreational rider finisher with a team of seven.

Personal Sponsors: Thank you to family and friends for all the support. And everyone else who has made this possible.



MIKE TELKAMP

AGE: 46 / **FROM:** Hoffman, Minn.

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

BIO: I was born and raised in Hoffman, Minn. I have owned and operated a farm for 27 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 (now referred to as Recreational Class) and was excited to see Alaska for the first

time. Our Team 45 of seven finished with a lot of fun and a few challenges along the way. In 2015, I participated again as Team 52. Although my partner had to scratch I made some great friends and arrived in Nome with David and John, from Team 74. My wife, Kris, and I have two sons, Trevor and Trenton. They also enjoy snowmobiling, skiing and hunting right along side of me.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog Trail Class: 2014 & 2015

Personal Sponsors: Thank you to my wife, Kris, as well as my family and friends for all the support. Thank you to everyone else for the encouragement and support that helps make this possible.

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SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Academy Mortgage, Wilderness Ski-Doo, Big Kid Racing, Frontier Service Automotive, Steelfab, Alaska LED Industries, Rigid Industries, SCS Unlimited, MTNTK Performance



KRISTOFER SINDORF

AGE: 23 / **FROM:** Palmer

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

BIO: Born and raised in Alaska, Kristofer is an oilfield slope worker living in the Mat-Su.

Personal Sponsors: David Harris, Paul Sindorf, Leon McKean



PAUL SINDORF

AGE: 53 / **FROM:** Palmer

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

RACE HISTORY: 1998: Finished, 2000: Finished, 2001: Finished, 2002: Finished, 2004: Finished, 2006: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2015: Finished

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan who enjoys living and playing in the outdoors. I enjoy hiking, mountain bike riding, skiing and motorsports of all types. This will my 12th Iron Dog race but the first with my eldest son.

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

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Eagle River Polaris & Arctic Cat, Alaska Spine Institute, Klim, Woody's Traction Products, Makar Eyecare Center, Kanady Chiropractic, Rays Vietnamese Restaurant , Alaska Frontier Services , Peak Health Dentistry, All Seasons Clothing Company , Grip n Rip Racing, Alaska LED Industries, Great Originals, Inc., FineLine Interiors



JIMMY GEE

AGE: 45 / **FROM:** Wasilla

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished

BIO: I have lived and worked in Alaska for over 20 years. I live in Wasilla with my 14-year-old daughter, Aurora, where I work as a surveyor and part-time registered hunting guide. Thanks to all of our great sponsors for their support.

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



BRIAN WEBB

AGE: 42 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished

BIO: I enjoy hunting, fishing, woodworking and spending time with my family at our cabin snowmachining and four-wheeling. I have been married to my beautiful wife, Michelle, for 13 years and we have two boys, Bryce, 9; and Blake, 6.

Personal Sponsors: Michelle Webb, John Faeo, Sr. Joe Berg, Mark Mueser, Bob Bloom, Ray Chvastasz, Chad Dow, Tim Lessard

itself as a premier motorsport race

Second-generation Iron Dog competitors Cory Davis, left, and defending champion Scott Faeo.







Scott Davis on the trail after leaving Big Lake. Davis is one of the winningest racers in Iron Dog history. He is not racing this year, but his son, Cory, is. PHOTO BY JENNY DANIELS



Team 34, Chris Collins and John Bahnke III, prepare to leave the Anchorage start line during Iron Dog 2015.
ORZELPHOTO.COM

learn more about what it really takes to race from Anchorage to Nome to Fairbanks in one piece. It's the perfect place to pick racers' brains and wish them luck, too – because in any given year, anything can happen. The race changes constantly – the weather, the sleds, even the team pairings.

This year's racing lineup is indeed a shakeup from last year's race roster. Champions Faeo and Eric Quam, who busted out a 41 hour, 46 minute, 52 second win last year, won't have a chance to repeat the effort together. Faeo will be riding with McKenna; Quam is not racing.

"Eric (Quam) was wanting to retire and we were having the big banquet and Marc and Eric are good friends," Faeo said of last year's awards reception. "Eric was totally committing to not going, and him and his wife were saying I should go with Marc."

In the end, Faeo said, everything just worked out. With Quam retiring and McKenna's last partner, Allen Hill, planning to sit the 2016 race out, they agreed to combine their winning ways for a bid at 2016.

"It was kind of a good chance for both of us to try it out," Faeo said.

Other changes include longtime frontrunner Todd Palin, who is racing with Shane Barber (who paired with Ryan Sottosanti last year) instead of Tyler Huntington, who also is not racing this year.

Some teams, however, decided to stick with what works. As Rookies of the Year in 2015, Cody Barber and Brett Lapham (racing as Team 14 in 2016) decided if it wasn't broke, they wouldn't try to fix it. The Team No. 39 duo placed fifth among the 20 finishing teams in a time of 46 hours, 13 minutes, 12 seconds in 2015 and were one of only two rookie teams to complete the race.

This year, the men are a little older, a little wiser.

"We are going to do what we did last year and maybe pick the pace up a little bit in spots," Barber said. "But our plan is to go out, get a lot of training in and see what pace we are confortable riding at because every year is different."

'We are going to do what we did last year and maybe pick the pace up a little bit in spots.'

Other changes have been added to the 2016 race as well. For many years, the less competitive category known as the Trail Class also held its own race. Those teams, sometimes just two people but often being a caravan of up to seven or eight riders, leave a day earlier and finish their race in Nome.

All of that will remain the same, Kastner said, except for the name. Now the event is being called the Recreational Ride to put emphasis on the fact that it is most definitely not a race.

"The Iron Dog Board of Directors takes safety very seriously, as does the entire or-

IRON DOG **PRO CLASS** 2016

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ARCTIC CAT

Sponsors: Team Arctic Racing, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Motorfist, Fox Racing Shocks, Stud Boy Traction Products, Fine Line Interiors, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Alaska LED Industries, Rigid Industries, TrailTank, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, Morgan's Sales & Service, Northern Power Sports, Eagle River Polaris & Arctic Cat, Big Lake Arctic Cat, NorthWest Gold Diggers, Q-Trucking, RJs Auto, Pay Dirt Excavation, McGuiresTavern, Iditarod Cafe, Rex Lamont Butler & Associates, Thunder Products, Camso, RCS



AMOS CRUISE

AGE: 26 / **FROM:** McGrath

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

BIO: Born in Anchorage, Amos grew up in McGrath and works in Nome for NorthWest Gold Diggers. He lives with his beautiful girlfriend Misty and their two sons, Rohn and Hayden, and their dog Homie. "I love everything about Alaska and the outdoors and have been riding my whole life."

RACING EXPERIENCE: Raced Nome-Golovin 200 six times: 2008, DNF; 2009, 13th; 2010, DNF; 2011, fifth; 2014, second, 2015, second.

Personal Sponsors: Jerry Miller, Jarvis Miller, Cody Moan, Trever Miller, Casey Graham, Gary Egrass Jr., Tyler Samuelson, Calvin Gooden, Micha Huss, Evan Booth, Nick Reader, Joseph Horton, Bryce Green, Stacey Green, and in Memory of Richard Strick, Chase Booth, and Seth Fairbanks



SHAWN POMRENKE

AGE: 40 / **FROM:** Nome

STATUS: / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

BIO: Shawn aka LUKA , was born in Minnesota. At the age of 13 he moved to Nome with his dad. Nome felt like home. Growing up mechanically inclined, Shawn loved to build and loved to go fast. He is a plumber by trade, but in 2006 he got gold fever and started diving in the Bering Sea. In 2008 he designed The Christine Rose and went into business with his old man. In the summer of 2011, he started being filmed for the reality show "Bering Sea Gold" on the Discovery Channel. Shawn loves to hunt, fish, camp and spend time with his family and friends in the country. But his favorite thing to do is to ride. His philosophy is never get second because second is the first loser. Shawn is racing for his childhood friends especially Tuk Tuk, Keither, Pat and his big brother Eric.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Nome-Golovin 1999, first place; Kotzebue-Kiana 1999, first place; Kotzebue Lap race 1999, first place; Fort Davis Grand Prix 1996-1997, second place; Teller New Year's Exhibition 1999, first place.

Personal Sponsors: Morgans, Motorfist, Alaska Gold Buyers

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Big Lake Powersports, Eagle River Polaris Arctic Cat, Nana Regional Corp., Alaska Artisan Coffee Co., Alpine General Services, Inc., Carney & Associates, LLC, Birchwood Goldens, Woody's Traction Products, Motorfist, AMMC, IceAge, Klim, A-1 Signs, L&B Color Printing, Alaska House of Yamaha, Lawn Ranger



PAT DANIELS

AGE: 46 / **FROM:** Big Lake

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

BIO: Pat and his wife, Jenny, own and operate Alpine General Services, a home-repair service, snow-plowing and trail-grooming company. Pat loves extreme sports and the winter season, and has spent over 15 years racing cross-country style events on both dirt and snow. He has three championships, numerous wins and placing finishes in the Pro, Amateur & Vet class. Pat enjoys spending quality time with his wife of 16 years, he is an avid NASCAR fan, volunteers his time in the community, loves boating, hunting, fishing, flying, riding ATVs, scuba diving, jet skiing and spending time at the cabin with their golden retrievers.

Personal Sponsors: Jenny Daniels, Frankie Harris, Diane Hale, Don & Doreen Dennehy, Danny Gueco

IRON DOG **PRO CLASS** 2016



FRANK FERREIRA

AGE: 35 / **FROM:** Noorvik

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2012: Finished

BIO: Frank was raised in Kotzebue and moved to Noorvik in his early 20s. He and his family moved to Anchorage in 2007 and moved to Wasilla in 2012.

Personal Sponsors: Gladys Wells, Malaki Ferreira, McKenli Ferreira, Maxwell Ferreira and Pat & Jenny Daniels

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Polaris Industries, Motorfist, Ryznar Industries, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Canyon Lake Lodge, McKenna Brothers Paving, IBEW Local 1547, Big Lake Powersports, Swanson Steel, Body Renew, Yukon Electric Inc., Knik Construction, Imm's Inn, Valley Moving and Storage, Marc and Deanne Hamblen, Bruce Friend, Perfect Start Espresso, Cruz Construction, Sena's Professional Painting, Quality Asphalt Paving, GMC Contracting, Construction Machinery Inc., Cindi Heal Allstate Insurance, Fine Line Interiors, Dean's Automotive, Alaska Directional LLC, Summit Farms, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Weldin Construction, Ice Age Performance, Arctic FX Graphics, International Aviation Services, Lead Dog Helmet Light, Renton Coil Springs, Yukon Equipment, Alaska LED Industries, HMK USA, Stud Boy Traction Products, Castable Ceramics Dental Laboratory, Waylon and Sarah, Eagle River Polaris & Arctic Cat



SCOTT FAEO

AGE: 31 / **FROM:** Wasilla

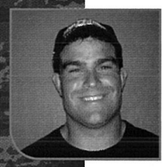
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished, 2015: 1st Place

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan who has been involved with the Iron Dog since the day I was born – within weeks of the first race ever and a victory by my father, John Faeo. I work as an IBEW senior 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: 2015 Iron Dog first place, 2014 Larry Heal 150 second place, 2013 Larry Heal Memorial 150 first place, 2012 Big Lake 150 first place.

Personal Sponsors: Awesome parents John and Vicki, and the best brother John Faeo



MARC MCKENNA

AGE: 41 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback 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: Finished, 2015: Finished

BIO: Marc is a lifelong Alaskan. He is president and co-owner of McKenna Brothers Paving Inc. Marc and Chrissy have two daughters, Asa and Ellie. They enjoy flying and staying at the cabin. This will be Marc's 18th year racing the Iron Dog.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Four-time Iron Dog Champion; 1999 13th place, 2000 sixth place, 2001 eighth place, 2002 second place, 2004 DNF, 2005 first place, 2006 DNF, 2007 DNF, 2008 first place, 2009 third place, 2010 DNF, 2011 sixth place, 2012 first place, 2013 first place, 2014 second place, 2015 third place.

Personal Sponsors: Matthew McKenna, Daniel Ryznar, Korey Klingenmeyer, David McRae, Chris Baxter, Don Jones, Brian Horschel, Paul Miranda, Mark Tope

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Polaris Industries, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Walker Evans Racing, Big Dipper Construction, VFW Post 9365, B Original Signs, Cruz Construction, Alaska Spine Institute, Edge Fitness, A1 Pawn, Yukon Equipment, Mountain Dew, Renton Coil Springs, Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, Inc., Blu Skye Design, Klim, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Quam Tech, Carl's Cycle Sales, Stud Boy Traction Products, Alaska LED Industries, Glacier Autoworks, Construction Machinery Inc., Arctic Force Racing, Perk Up Espresso, Pioneer Peak Asphalt, Skwentna Roadhouse, Shell Lake Lodge



TODD MINNICK

AGE: 36 / **FROM:** Wasilla

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2002: Finished, 2004: Finished, 2005: Finished, 2006: Finished, 2007: Finished, 2008: Finished, 2009: 1st Place, 2010: Finished, 2011: Finished, 2012: Finished, 2013: Finished, 2014: 1st Place, 2015: Finished

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.

Personal Sponsors: Sharilyn Minnick, Emma & Canyon Minnick, Paul & Diane Minnick, Eric Quam, Ken Lee, Tracey Brassard, Rod & Arden Miller, Dick & Jennie Weldin, Korey Day, Mike Dropik, Mike & Jayne Koskovich, Dave and Dana Cruz, Sam and Nita Towarak, Hazel Esmailka



NICK OLSTAD

AGE: 33 / **FROM:** Wasilla

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

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; daughter, Kaia; and son, Jackson. Nick loves to be out riding his ranger in the summer, and snowmachines until the snow is gone. This will be Nick's 12th time racing Iron Dog.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Mayor's Cup 2005 and 2006: first place; 2011: third place, K-150 2005 and 2006: first place

Personal Sponsors: Brianne, Kaia and Jackson Olstad, Sharilyn Minnick, Emma & Canyon Minnick, Paul & Diane Minnick, Eric Quam, Ken Lee, Tracey Brassard, Rod & Arden Miller, Dick & Jennie Weldin, Korey Day, Mike Dropik, Mike & Jayne Koskovich, Dave and Dana Cruz, Sam and Nita Towarak, Hazel Esmailka

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SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Ski-Doo, Team CC, Fox Racing Shocks, Stud Boy Traction Products, Motorfist, XPS, Bill's Distributing, BRP



CHAD GUECO

AGE: 31 / **FROM:** Wasilla

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

RACE HISTORY: 2012: Finished, 2015: Finished

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan who has been racing snowmachines since I was 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, and we have three children – Allie, 8; Ella, 5; and Haiden, 2.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2015 Iron Dog, sixth place; 2013 Alyeska Motor Madness XC, first place; 2013 Valdez Mayor's Cup XC, third place; 2012 Eureka 100 XC, first place; 2012 Iron Dog, sixth place; 2011 Valdez Mayor's Cup, first place; 2011 Eureka 100 XC, second place; 2009 Ada, Minn., 100 XC, sixth place; 2009 Red Lake 500 Minn. XC, sixth place; 2008 Valdez Mayor's Cup, third place; 2008 Big Lake 500 Grand Prix, first place; 2008 Thunder Bay 200 Enduro Mich., first place; 2008 Alpena 300 Enduro Mich., first place; 2004-2010 Soo I-500 Mich., first, second, third, fourth, fifth, sixth and 12th; 2007 Eagle River World Championship, first place.

Personal Sponsors: Caelus Energy LLC. Team, Alaska Spine institute, Bills Distributing, Projekt 907, Motorfist, Fox Shox, 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.



DUSTY VANMETER

AGE: 46 / **FROM:** Kasilof

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

RACE HISTORY: 1994: 2nd, 1995: DNF, 1997: DNF, 1998: 2nd, 1999: DNF, 2000: 1st, 2001: 5th, 2002: 1st, 2003: no race, 2004: 1st, 2005: 6th, 2006: DNF, 2007: DNF, 2008: 6th, 2009: 3rd, 2010: DNF, 2011: 6th, 2012: 1st, 2013: 1st, 2014: 2nd

BIO: Dusty is a lifelong Alaskan who enjoys riding, flying, hunting, coaching and enjoying the outdoors with family. He commercial fishes every summer with children Kaiti, Shae and Brayden and wife, Evelyn.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 5 time Iron Dog Champion 2013, 2012, 2004, 2002, 2000 (tied with Scott Davis for the most wins in the 2000 mile race)

Personal Sponsors: BRP, Ski-Doo, Team CC, XPS Lubricants, MotorFist Gear, Stud Boy traction products, Backdoor Sports Bar and Lounge, GLM Machine Shop, Alyeska Tire, Tesoro Alaska Co., Compeau's Ski-Doo, Wilderness Ski-Doo, Scott Goggles, Ice Age Rails, Team Ind, Renton Coil Springs, Grip & Rip Racing, RPM Composites, Fine Line Interiors, MGM, Alaska Equipment Appraisers, Lead Dog Helmet Lights, Alaska Spine Institute, Ryznar Industries, Alwayz Graphyks, Airport Equiptment Rentals, Body Renew, Design Between The Lines, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Bills Distributing, Goodwin Performance, Brian Horschel

IRON DOG FACTS

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

At 2,031 miles, Iron Dog teams will be racing within or through 52,114.5 individual square acres of wilderness.



ganization," Kastner said. "In the past, some participants have stretched the boundaries of what was intended for the recreational rider by racing in an unsafe manner, at odd hours of the night. In an effort to further cement in the minds of would-be Iron Doggers that this event is not a race, we have changed a few things about the recreational ride to Nome along the Iron Dog/Iditarod trail.

"Using the term Recreation vs. Trail is a bit of psychology and being more literal about the intent of this class of events. The recreational rider is just that, a rider, not a racer." ◆

Ceremonial start in Anchorage

Best viewing areas

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 Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson 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. An initial parade of teams will follow the route from the Iron Dog starting line to First Avenue. 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 a lot near Third Avenue and E Street. 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. Find a garage that's connected with the Anchorage 5th Avenue Mall at Fifth Avenue and B Street, another garage connected to the bus station at G Street and Sixth Avenue, a garage at Fifth Avenue and K Street, or seek out one of many paid and free parking lots nearby. Another alternative is to park along the Delaney Park Strip on 10th Avenue. It's a bit farther to walk, but always a sure bet.

ARMED SERVICES YMCA

SUPPORTING ALASKA'S MILITARY COMMUNITY

ARMED SERVICES YMCA OF ALASKA

The ASYMCA of Alaska Makes Military Life Easier for Service Members and military families from all branches of the military who serve in Alaska. This non-profit organization offers more than 20 free or low-cost critical programs and services that are designed to alleviate stress, assist with life challenges, and increase the morale and welfare of our nation's heroes. Our programs and services are customized to meet the specific needs of the military communities in which we operate, including:

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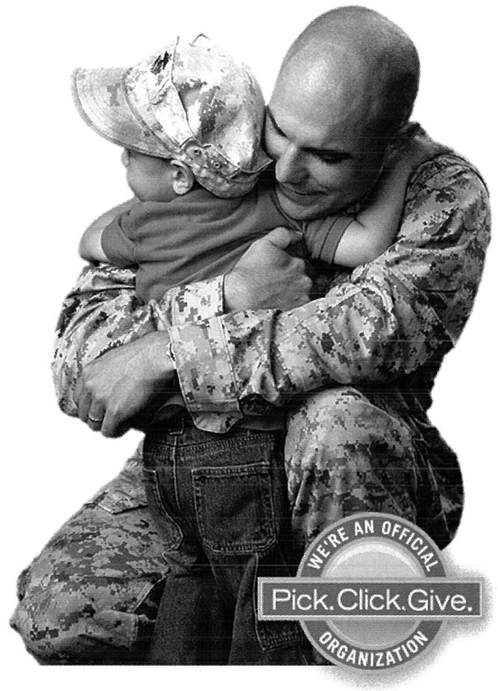
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MAKING MILITARY LIFE EASIER



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ARCTIC CAT

Sponsors: Chinook Printing, Motorfist, Team Arctic Racing, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Zugger Shocks, Pen Air, Alaska Logistics, Community of McGrath, Tanana Air Service, Dr. Trevor Tew, Donlin Gold, Woody's Traction Products, Tony Webster, Alaska Skydive Center, Cabela's, Go Promo, Grandma Strick, Anchorage Remote Start and Sound, Armada Skis, Oakley, Blue and Gold Snowboard Shop, Abe Purugganan, Dr. Kevin Cochran, Valley River Charters, Matt North, Midnight Sun Brewery, Country Cutts, Tailgaters, Evans Coolant, Team Arctic Alaska, Alice's Champagne Palace, Projekt907, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Mr. Lube, Club Paris, Kenai Kryptonite Charters, Marilyn Meiler, Rick Morrison, Valley Auto Body, Brewed Oasis, Anchorage Tattoo Studio, Guys and Gals



JASON MOORE

AGE: 37 / **FROM:** Wasilla

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

BIO: I have been married to Tara for 15 years. We have three children, Lucy, Mikael and Ozzy. Currently I am the assistant principal at Wasilla Middle School. During the summer months I work as a videographer and instructor at Alaska Skydive Center. (www.alaskaskydivecenter.com). When I am not working, I love spending time at the cabin with my family.

Personal Sponsors: Tara, Lucy, Mikael and Ozzy Moore, Kathy and Captain Grrrrr Moore, Strick family, Tony Webster, Jackie and Kevin Cochran, WMS Staff, Shannon and Tammy Jardine, ASC Family, Carl and Mel Swenson, Cameron Harmon, Micah and Judy Huss, Andy and Stephanie George, Brad George, Carl and Mel Swenson, Matt Peterson, Deb Johnson, Mary Gearde, The community of McGrath, Mark Dahl, Roberta Bissell, James Allen, Stan Selma, Logan Imlach, Jason and Kelly Borgstede, Travis Reid, Aaron Ulmer, Stan Guthrie, all the people who have supported us and bought Team 12 attire and have participated in our fundraisers. We could of never done this without you all.



ROBERT STRICK

AGE: 30 / **FROM:** McGrath

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished, 2015: Finished

BIO: I was born in Alaska and have lived here my whole life. I enjoy spending time with my family; wife Noel and children, hunting, snowmobiling and some fishing. Thank you everyone who has helped me race this great race. A huge thank-you to all of the volunteers along the trail – without all of your help this race would not be possible.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog 2013 12th, Iron Dog 2015, ninth

Personal Sponsors: Mom and Dad, Grandma Strick, Craig and Sheri Losby, Brett and Holly Gibbens. All the people who have bought raffle tickets, purchased dinners, and showed up at our fundraisers, you are too many too name but you all are appreciated. Thank you to my beautiful wife and kids.

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Alaska Directional LLC, Polaris Industries , First Choice Physical Therapy, Alaska Air Balancing, Jim Wilke, Webb Chiropractic, Woodys Traction



CODY BARBER

AGE: 21 / **FROM:** Willow

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

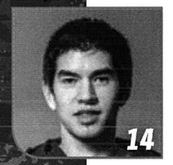
RACE HISTORY: 2015: Finished

BIO: 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 four years now. We just added another little racer to the family in September. I'm now a proud dad of a little boy and couldn't be happier.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2011 X-country semi-pro Alaska state champion

Personal Sponsors: My wife, Brandi, Mom and Dad, Shana and Evan. The rest of my family as well

IRON DOG **PRO CLASS** 2016



BRETT LAPHAM

AGE: 23 / **FROM:** Willow

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2015: Finished

BIO: I was born and raised in Alaska and have been racing sleds for the last four years. I enjoy dirt biking, hunting, fishing and spending time with my wife and family.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Mayor's Cup, 2012, Semi-pro first place; Mayor's Cup, 2014, Pro fourth place; Willow XC2013, Pro first place

Personal Sponsors: My family, my wife, Shana, and everyone else who helps us out.

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ARCTIC CAT

Sponsors: Team Arctic Racing, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Clapp Peterson Tiemessen Thorsness & Johnson LLC, Tank Trail, Motorfist



COREY BERG

AGE: 26 / **FROM:** Wasilla

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

BIO: I was born and raised in Wasilla and currently work for Fairweather on the North Slope as a rig move coordinator. On my off time, racing snowmachines, hunting and fishing are what I live for. This will be my first time running the Iron Dog.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2009 Arctic Man Semi-Pro Hill Cross, first place; 2009 Alyeska Hill Cross, first place; 2010 Snowcross Semi Pro anchorage, first place

Personal Sponsors: Wasilla Arctic Cat, Tattoos by Krystal, Beagle Jarvis, Security Mini Storage, Mike Berg and Dan Berg, Jim Agre and Carrie Agre, Unch Racing, Luke and Jamie Agre, H5 Bucking Bulls, Western Blind AK, CW Tack & Western Wear, Big Dipper Clothing, Brewed Oasis, all friends an family G7046.



CHARLIE POTTER

AGE: 32 / **FROM:** Big Lake

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

RACE HISTORY: 2009: Finished, 2012: Finished, 2014-2015: Finished

BIO: Charlie is a 32-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, 2015 finish

Personal Sponsors: Clapp Peterson Tiemessen Thorsness & Johnson LLC, Process Safety & Management Solutions, Wentz Orthodontic, Black Hawk Works, Able Locksmith & Security, Western Bling AK, CW Tack & Western Wear, Big Lake Arctic Cat, H5 Bucking Bulls, North Star Animal Hospital, Webb Auction, All Seasons Clothing Co., Big Dipper Clothing Company, Team Arctic Alaska, Brewed Oasis, Tony and Cynthia Jacobson, Danielle Gallagher, Curt Ensminger, Beagle Jarvis, Rick Kelly, Jake McGrane, Micah Robertson, C.H. Martelle, Jan Feller, Greg Fischer, Cindy Gallagher, Stephen and Dawn Primera, Rodeo Alaska, friends, familly and all who made It possible for Team 15 to race.

IRON DOG FACTS

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

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SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Coutts Bros., Team CC, Repsol, Chris Manion, Mike McNamara-Alaska Hand Elbow Shoulder, Kurt Mentzer, Carlos Tree Service, Rodney P Kinney Associates, Alaska Spine Institute, Yukon Equipment, Plumbline LLC, ReMax of Eagle River-Team Mason, Motorfist, Fox Racing Shocks, SCS Unlimited, Stud Boy Traction Products, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, Northern Chiropractic, S&P Auto Care, Lithia Chevy of South Anchorage



JOSHUA PLUMB

AGE: 23 / **FROM:** Eagle River

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

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 a heavy-equipment operator. When Josh is not working he enjoys spending time with his family and friends, taking trips to the cabin, snowmobiling and traveling. Josh and his wife, Kateland, have a 3-year-old daughter named Elodie.

Personal Sponsors: A huge thanks to Chris Manion, Dennis Coutts, Korey and Barbara Cronquist, John Fields, Burt & Linda Myers, and all our family and friends who support us. We wouldn't be here without them.



JORDAN STARR

AGE: 24 / **FROM:** Eagle River

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

RACE HISTORY: 2014: Finished

BIO: Jordan moved to Alaska when he was 4. He works as an A&P aircraft mechanic, and has his pilot's license. Jordan enjoys everything that Alaska has to offer – flying, camping, snowmachining, hunting, fishing, and spending time with friends and family.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 14th place, 2014 Iron Dog

Personal Sponsors: Special thanks to my mom and dad, Mike McNamara, our pilot Tim Bloom, Kurt Mentzer, Mitch & Debbie Hale, my girlfriend, Ellicia; and all of our friends, family and relatives for supporting us.

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Polaris Industries, UA Local 367 Plumbers & Pipefitters Union, Klim, Eagle River Polaris & Arctic Cat, Alaska Spine Institute, GCI Communications, Walker Evans Racing, Polaris Engineered Lubricants, Q-Trucking, Northern Powerline Constructors Inc., Northern Air Cargo, Stan Morgan, Alaska Industrial X-Ray, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Projekt907, Bering Air, Fine Line Interiors, Stud Boy Traction Products, Alaska LED Industries, Anchorage Drag Bike, Aurora Health Care Clinic, UIC, Morgan Enterprises, ARC Welding, Alwayz Graphyk, Glacier Autoworks, Northern Solutions LLC, Starting Line Products, Shoreside Petroleum, Renton Coil Springs, Emmons Mechanical, Alaska Functional Fitness, Christy Hedrick, Jeremy Hanson , Ginny Emmons, Micah Straughn, Christine Olds



MIKE MORGAN

AGE: 30 / **FROM:** Nome

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2009: Finished, 2012-2015: Finished

BIO: Mike was born and raised in Nome and currently lives in Anchorage. He enjoys taking advantage of Alaska's outdoors, hunting, fishing, traveling, riding and racing snowmachines 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 seventh Iron Dog race and fifth with current teammate Chris Olds.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2002 Kotz-Kiana race, second; 2006 Nome-Golovin 200, first; 2007 I-150, first; 2008 Nome-Golovin 200, first; 2009 Kotzebue race, first; 2009 Arctic Man, first; 2010 Nome-Golovin 200, first; 2014 Kotzebue race, first; 2015 Nome-Golovin 200, second; Placed in Top-5 in every Iron Dog race finished, except 2015.

Personal Sponsors: Family and friends



CHRIS OLDS

AGE: 44 / **FROM:** Eagle River

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2010: first place, 2011: first place Finished, 2006-2015: Finished.

BIO: I am a 32-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 snowmachines since 1998.

RACING EXPERIENCE: K-400, first place; 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 champion 2010, 2011

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Polaris Racing, Walker Evans Racing, Alaska Air Taxi, Klim, Stud Boy Traction Products, Aurora Drilling and Consulting, Polaris Outpost Alaska, L&M Supplies Dillingham, Al Palma Technologies, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Zugger Shocks, Amsoil, Webb Chiropractic, Ice Age Performance, Anchorage Drag Bike



SHANE BARBER

AGE: 41 / **FROM:** Willow

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2000: Finished, 2004: Finished, 2006-2007: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2014-2015: 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've always been competitive and enjoyed racing of any and all kinds. I'm adventurous and enjoy outdoor activities of most kinds. I strive to meet any and all of life's challenges, whatever they may, be with a smile and an inviting attitude. I thank God everyday for the many blessing I have received. Quote for the year ""Let's Roll," by Todd Beamer.

RACING EXPERIENCE: K-400 champion (largest field). Iron Dog results: 10th, DNF, third, third, third, DNF, seventh, DNF, DNF, seventh, seventh.

Personal Sponsors: A special thank-you to my beautiful bride Tammy for all her support, and my children, Cody, Shana and Evan. My mom, dad, in-laws Mike and Michelle Spain, Evan and Crystal Booth in Nome, Ivanoffs in Unalakleet and the Palin Family.



TODD PALIN

AGE: 51 / **FROM:** Wasilla

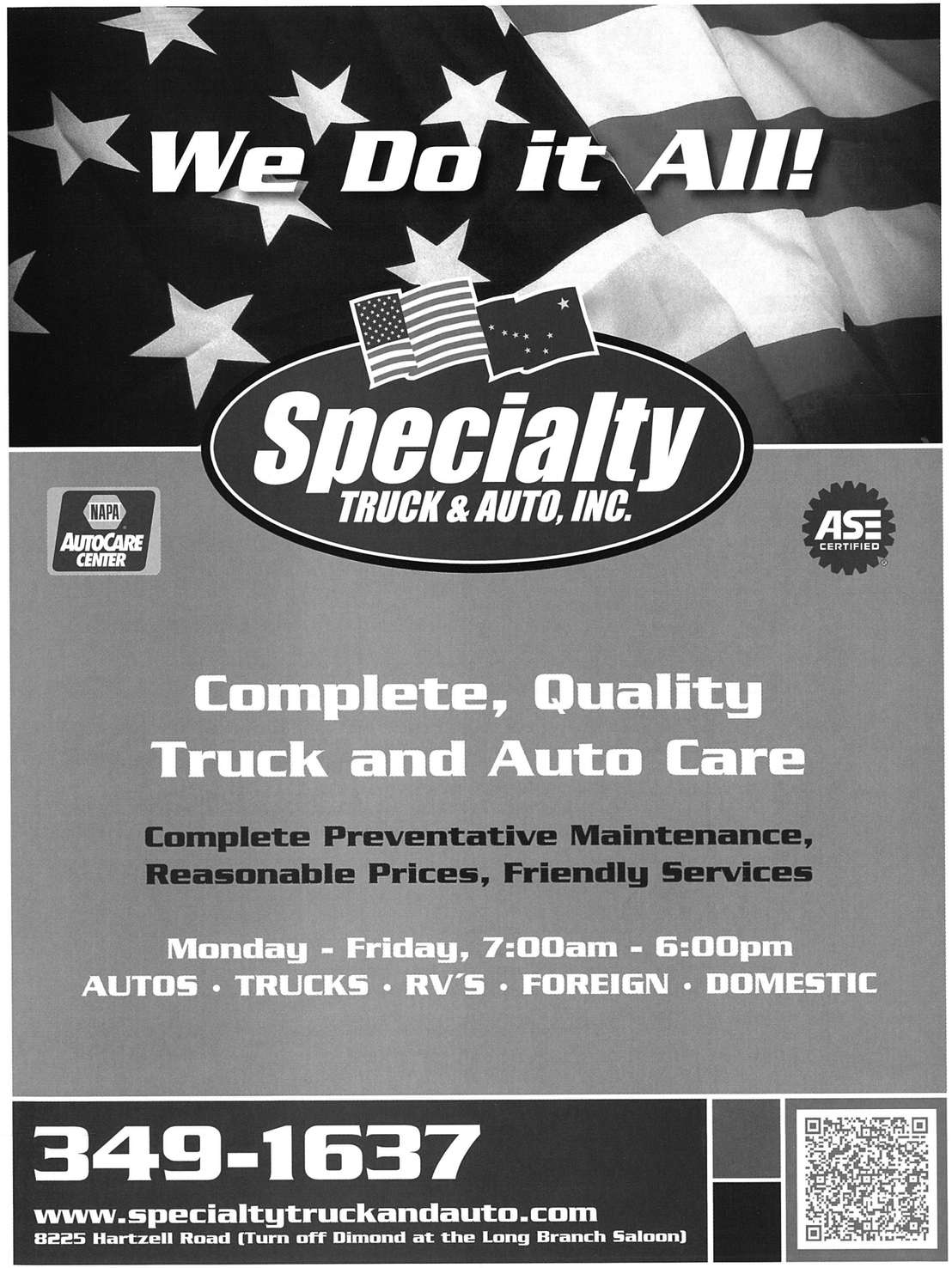
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 1993: Finished, 1995: first place, 1997-1998: Finished, 2000, first place; 2001: Finished, 2002: first place, 2004-2006: Finished, 2007: first place, 2008-2009: Finished, 2011-2013: 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 and Trig, and two grandchildren, Kyla and Tripp. Todd and his family enjoy outdoor time in Alaska fishing, hunting, flying, four-wheeling, riding snowmachines and commercial fishing in Bristol Bay.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog, 2007, 2002, 2000 and 1995, first place; 2011, 2006, 2005 and 2004, second place; 2008, 1997, fourth place; 2013, 2012, fifth place, and 2009, sixth place.

Personal Sponsors: My wife, Sarah, and family.



HISTORIC START

New Anchorage start highlights 2015 Iron Dog, but racers' finishes steal the show

BETWEEN LAST-MINUTE SCRATCHES, uncooperative weather, rookie wonders and a new race start in the state's largest city, Iron Dog 2015 was one of the most exciting in the race's 30-plus year history. The event known as the world's longest, toughest snowmobile race took to Anchorage's city streets for a start that allowed fans to see the race up close. And the racers? Who doesn't love being cheered on by adoring fans?

"The first Anchorage start and events were a great success," said Iron Dog's executive director Kevin Kastner, who spent the past five years working on the move. "Despite the miserable weather, we had decent attendance and a great series of events both Friday night and most of the day Saturday."

Pro-class riders were especially happy with the race start location, Kastner noted. At first skeptical about adding extra mileage to an already grueling, 2,000-plus-mile race, they were rewarded with the platitudes of fans, who cheered them on as they departed Downtown.

"They were very pleased with the community interaction, both in Anchorage and across Joint Base Elmendorf-Richardson, where soldiers and their families greeted them as they passed through," Kastner said. "It's not every day you get to ride your snowmachine down Fourth Avenue."

Kevin Hite, president of the Alaska State Snowmobile Association, echoed the start's success. The Anchorage start was one of the biggest developments Iron Dog has ever known, up there with the 1998 addition of Fairbanks as the race finish. Both moves were made to draw more people to an aspect of Alaska life that is prevalent throughout the state.

"There are over 200,000 (snowmachines) in use in the state," Hite said, although under Alaska Statute 05.30.120 only some 50,000 are registered, he added. "Anchorage far and away has the most registrations in the state."

Combined with Mat-Su, more than 50 percent of registered snowmachines are from Southcentral, making an Anchorage start, where fans are plentiful, a smart move on Iron Dog's part, he said.

Likewise, Hite said, "Ending the event in Fairbanks adds in another 20 percent of the registered snowmobilers in the state. With those numbers, the Anchorage Iron Dog start and Fairbanks finish exposes the race to over 70 percent of snowmobilers in Alaska."

Bolstered by the Downtown pomp and circumstance,

continued on page 20



'It's not every day you get to ride your snowmachine down Fourth Avenue.'



5

RAY CHVASTASZ

AGE: 39 / **FROM:** Wasilla

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2013-2014: DNF, 2015: 16th place

BIO: I work on the slope as a well-testing operator for ASRC Energy Services. I'm married to Debi and have three awesome kids, Jacob, Gavin and Emilie. I love to spend time with my family, playing and coaching hockey, riding sleds, bikes and wheelers. I tried to take the 2016 season off, but just couldn't bring myself to do it. There's just something about this race that keeps pulling you back in, constantly telling yourself that you can do better.

RACING EXPERIENCE: I-500, second place; several 100- to 500-mile ice races; Top-3 finishes, two K-150's, placing fifth and sixth.

Personal Sponsors: Debi Chvastasz, Joe Chvastasz, Karla Jones, Matt and Terri Trask, Bill and Wendy Hollifield, LRS well-testing family

6

SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Team CC, Mr. Lube, Penn Jersey Drilling, Slayden Plumbing and Heating, Prism Design & Construction



BRAD GEORGE

AGE: 22 / **FROM:** Wasilla

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

RACE HISTORY: 2013-2015: Finished

BIO: I've lived in Wasilla my entire life. In the summer, if I'm not on the river, it's because my boat is broken. In the winter, if I'm not on my sled, it's because my bank account is broken. On my time off, I enjoy hanging out with friends, family and doing anything outdoors.

RACING EXPERIENCE: K-150, 2013-2014 first; Larry Heel 2012, second; 2013, second; 2014, first; Nome-Golovin, 2013, first; 2014, fourth; Mayor's Cup, 2015, second; Ice Cross, 2015, second.

Personal Sponsors: Korey Conquist, Hank Swan, Zugger Shocks, Unch Racing, Vision-X, Blue Sky Design, AK Goldstar, Nite Shift Janitorial, Dan Trotter, Hiltop Recycling, B-Original Signs, Alaska Cab Valley, Tommy Kriska, Chris Kuhn, Steve Becker, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Tre West, Board of Trade Saloon, Design Graphics, Skwentna Road House, Alaska Frontier Fabrication, Six Roblees, Kenny Hughes, Weld Air, Big Dipper Construction, American Dream Construction, Alaska DTS/Dave Kane, Yentna Station, Alaskan Auto, Inc., TCI, Inlet Petroleum, Criterion, Roadside Inn, Wasilla Dental Center, Alaska Pacific Rentals, E-Z Rents, Larson Chiropractics, Lucas Chiropractics, Alaska Spine Institute, AK Nails, Oakley, Motorfist, Snap-On, Tom Simpson, Ski-Doo, ACLS, Pacific Plumbing, Spenard Builder's Supply, Kibe Lucas, Dry Out Systems, Black Ice Graphics, Floyd Hernandez, Yukon Equipment, Hard Rock Plumbing and Heating, Alaska Fast Cash



ROBBY SCHACHLE

AGE: 28 / **FROM:** Big Lake

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

BIO: Robby Schachle born and raised in Alaska. My wife, Trina, and my son, Robertian, are my drive for racing. I've been riding since I could walk and racing since I could start my own sled. I enjoy racing, hunting, free riding and building stuff to drive, ride or race. I'm currently an IBEW power linemen working for Alaska Line Builders.

Personal Sponsors: Korey Conquist, Hank Swan, Mr. Lube Andy George, Penn Jersey Drilling, Zugger Shocks Sign Works, Cf and Hope, Andy workmen, Dave with criterion, Prism, Alaska Pacific Rental, Road Side, Prism, Alaska Line Builders, Aaron with Oakley, First Choice Therapy, Spenard Builder's Supply, Wasilla Dental, Easy Rent, Alaska Spine Institute, AK Nails, Steve Foster, Napa, Inlet Petroleum, B. Original Signs, CC Ski-Doo, Hill Top Recycling, ACLS, Alaska Gold Star, Alaska Sales, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Wasilla Yamaha, IBEW Local 1547, A1 Signs

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SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Team CC, Global Fuel, Ski-Doo, IBEW Local 1547, H&K Sheetmetal Fabricators, Inc.; Northern Chiropractic, Northwoods Lodge, Alaska LED Industries, Alaska Lighting & Supply, Soundworks, Cruz Construction, Stud Boy Traction Products, Motorfist, HMK USA, Fineline Interiors, Taco Loco, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, Fifty Six North Designs, Coca-Cola of Alaska, B&B Automatic Transmission



TYLER AKLESTAD

AGE: 30 / **FROM:** Palmer

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

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

BIO: Tyler Aklestad was born and raised in Alaska and loves the outdoors. He enjoys flying, fishing, hunting and dirt biking. "I also enjoy spending time with my amazing wife, Erin, and son, Liam." He works for MTA as an IBEW journeyman cable splicer.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Arctic Man champion 2008, and 2011-2014.

Personal Sponsors: Erin Aklestad, Korey and Barbara Cronquist, Chris McDowell, Eric and Shan Johnson.



TYSON JOHNSON

AGE: 35 / **FROM:** Eagle River

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

RACE HISTORY: 1997: Finished, 1999-2002: Finished, 2007: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2012-2013: Finished

BIO: I have been racing Iron Dog since I was 17 years old with this year's race being my 18th entry. I have many Top-5 finishes, 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, one men's snowboard win; Mayor's Cup, three wins; K150, four wins; and many other wins and Top-3s in all venues of sled racing.

Personal Sponsors: Korey and Barbara Cronquist, Body Renew, Dave Harris, Eric and Shan Johnson, my girlfriend, Alexis; our pilot Johnny "Thunder" Tovsen, Al Palma, and all of our other friends and family who help support us.

IRON DOG FACTS

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 2,031-mile territory.

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ARCTIC CAT

Sponsors: UA Local 367 Plumbers & Pipefitters Union, Metal Innovations, Neeser Construction, Team Arctic Racing, Klim, Vision X Lighting, Fox Racing Shocks, Truckwell of Alaska, Carpenters Local 1281, Building & Construction Trades Council of Alaska, Big Wayne's Roofing and General Contracting, Rex's Wrecker Towing Service, Alaska Integrated Services, Team Arctic Alaska, Interstate Batteries of Alaska, Ryznar Industries, Anchorage Suzuki Arctic Cat, Projekt 907, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Fine Line Interiors, Stud Boy Traction Products, Bill's Distributing, Max Muscle, Independent Lift Truck, Oakley



RYAN SOTTOSANTI

AGE: 38 / **FROM:** Wasilla

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 R XC

RACE HISTORY: 2010-2015: Finished

BIO: I have lived in Alaska for over 20 years. I am employed as a journeyman plumber/fitter in the UA Local 367. I am married to my beautiful wife, Heather, and have a 7-year-old-daughter named Faith. I really enjoy the vast variety of everything Alaska has to offer. Rewards come one-tenth of a second at a time and only when I focus, train and truly strive can they be achieved.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2010 Iron Dog top rookie, sixth place; 2008 Mayor's Cup, third place; 2009 Mayor's Cup, second place; Trapper Creek 200, second place; K150, second, third and fifth place; Alyeska Cross Country, first and fourth place; 2012 Arctic Man, fifth place; 2014 Arctic Man, seventh place. Finished the Iron Dog in the top 10 five years in a row and my best finish was third place.

Personal Sponsors: Heather Sottosanti, Al Sottosanti, Pete Nolfi, Byron Flipin, Micah Huss, Daniel Ryznar, Brad Helwig, and everybody else who helps us throughout the year.



ANDREW ZWINK

AGE: 26 / **FROM:** Wasilla

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Arctic Cat ZR 6000 SNO PRO

RACE HISTORY: 2011-2013: Finished, 2015: Finished

BIO: Andrew is an Eagle Scout, and through Scouting, a love affair with adventure began. In 2008, Andy started on his greatest adventure, the quest for Iron Dog glory. When he's not racing sleds he's a heavy equipment operator. Work and racing has kept Andy too busy to find a girlfriend. Instead Andrew spends his free time playing sports, hiking and adventuring with his close circle of friends and family. He's currently in the running for Alaska's most eligible bachelor. Shoutout to all the homies! Especially my main man Bacher.

Personal Sponsors: Lynnette Carrier, David Zwink, Ian Zwink, Ben Zwink, Sara Zwink, Bacher and my close friends. All the families who help us each year along the trail and everyone else who has helped over the years.

3

YAMAHA

Sponsors: Yamaha Motor Corp., Anchorage Yamaha, Specialty Truck & Auto, Prop Shop Inc., Donlin Gold, Yukon Equipment, Fine Line Interiors, Northern Powerline Constructors, STR Trucking, VFW Post 10041, Robert V Lindsey, Alaska Technologies



STEVEN BONEY

AGE: 35 / **FROM:** Bethel

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Yamaha SRVIPER R-TX LE

RACE HISTORY: 2012-2015: Finished

BIO: Born and Raised in Bethel, Steven has been a Yamaha snowmachine mechanic for 19 years, a 10-year private pilot and husband and father of three. "I have a loving and supportive wife, Dolly, and three awesome girls, Brittney, 17; Payton, 10; and Riley, 6. I enjoy being with my family, jet boating, flying, hunting and snowmobile riding. My father and I own and operate the Prop Shop, a full-line powersports dealer."

Personal Sponsors: Wife, Dolly, and kids Brittney, Payton, Riley; my father, Craig; Oliver Unruh, Blane Elliot, Ozzie, Doug Dixon, Keith Manternach, Steve Spence, Andrew Smith, Rob Powers, John Wallace and all the others that help along the way. I thank you, guys.



OLIVER UNRUH

AGE: 46 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Yamaha SRVIPER R-TX LE

BIO: After helping some friends with this race for a couple of years, I jumped at the opportunity to actually participate. I have raced motorcycles a bit, but relatively new to sled racing.

Personal Sponsors: Big thanks to the guys at Anchorage Yamaha, Doug and the Crew at Fineline, Steve Spence, Bill Buck, Repairs Unlimited LLC, and of course my wife, Shelly.

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POLARIS

Sponsors: Hatcher Pass Polaris, Walker Evans Racing, FineLine Interiors, Klim, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Polaris Race Department



MARCUS JENSEN

AGE: 47 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

BIO: I am a 30-year resident of Alaska. I enjoy spending time at our family cabin with my wife, Kathleen, and our daughter Kaitlyn snowmachining, dirt biking and boating. I am the owner of a Snap-On Tool franchise.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2013 Recreational rider finisher

Personal Sponsors: Curzie Chiropractic, HXR Drilling Services, Big Dipper Construction, AK.LED, Yukon Equipment, Sourdough Express, Soundworks Audio, Stud Boy, Grip-N-rip, Ronny's Auto



DANIEL THIBAULT

AGE: 33 / **FROM:** Anchorage

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2007: Finished

BIO: I've lived in Alaska my whole life, and I'm my wife, Katie, and I have two beautiful kids, Ashlyn, 11; and Ellie, 8. We enjoy our summer riding our Rzr all over our great state and winter time in Petersville.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 150, K200, Mayor's Cup finisher; 2011 Trapper Creek 200 semipro, first place.

Personal Sponsors: Hatcher Pass Polaris, Soundworks, Big Dipper Construction, HXR Drilling Services, Munro Enterprizes, Alaska Spine Institute, Matthew Spernak, Grip N Rip Racing, Dalton Refrigeration, Lead Dog Helmet Light, Sourdough Express Alaska, Arctic FX Graphics, Taylor Leasing, and all my family and friends who have supported me and made this possible, as well as our pilot, James Spikes.

5

POLARIS

Sponsors: ASRC Energy Services, Mechanical Specialists Inc., Bucks Builders, Valley Moving and Storage, AK LED Industries, Fine Line Interiors, Ivar Carlson Industries, Ryznar Industries, Stud Boy Traction Products, All Seasons Clothing Company, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Eagle River Polaris & Arctic Cat, McKinley Polaris, Phillips Recreation, 49th State Coffee Co., Bren Contracting, Ace Air Car, TC-TJ Courier Service



CHRIS CARROLL

AGE: 34 / **FROM:** Fairbanks

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING:** Polaris Switchback PRO-S

RACE HISTORY: 2014: DNF, 2015: Finished, 16th.

BIO: I enjoy hanging out and having fun with my beautiful wife, Trinity, and our two boys, Austin and Kyler. Snowmachining, four-wheeling, hunting and fishing seems to take up all of our time. I have been riding snowmachines since I can remember.

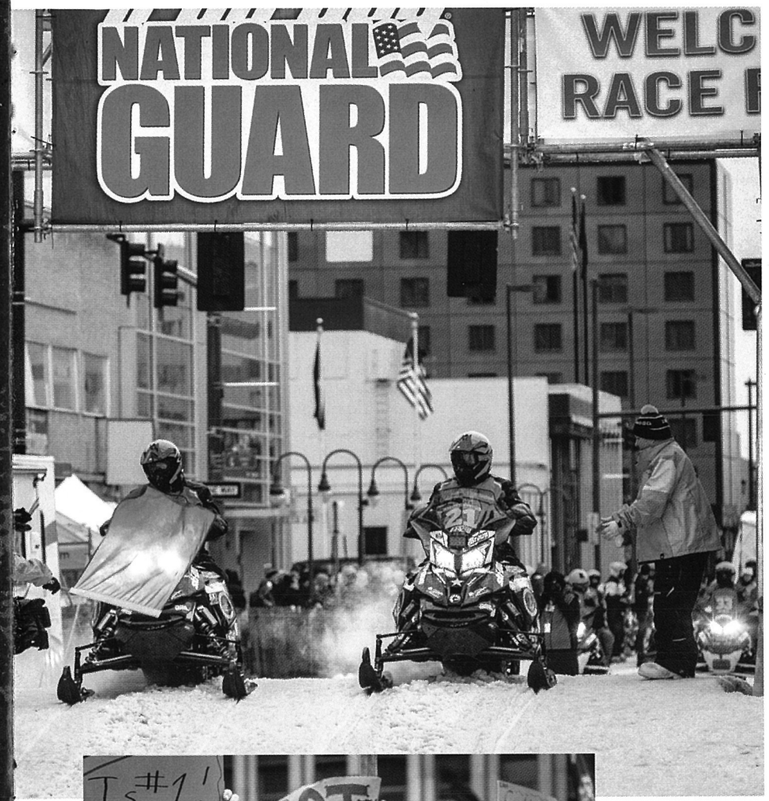
RACING EXPERIENCE: I've been a part of multiple races from Sno X, Cross Country, Hill Cross and Hill Climbs. I raced in a World European Championship race in Finland and raced for multiple years in Moto X. Multiple Top-3 finishes in Sno X, Moto X, Hill Cross, Hill Climb. Arctic Man, World European Championship Sno X (Finland)

Personal Sponsors: Trinity Carroll, Rick Phillips, Greg Eckert, Nick Evens

BELOW: Team 21, John Dean and Stan Brown, leave the Anchorage start line in the 2015 Iron Dog.

BOTTOM: Friends, family and fans cheer as teams leave the Anchorage start line during the 2015 Iron Dog.

ORZELPHOTO.COM





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 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. 19

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.
9 p.m.	After party at Williwaw

SATURDAY, FEB. 20

9:30 a.m.	Vintage snowmobile "Shine & Show" and Iron Pup kids. 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.
11:30 a.m.	Closing of the pit area.
11:45 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.	Second Flying Iron freestyle show at the EasyPark Coho parking lot (Third Avenue & E Street).

Spectators can expect music, vendor hospitality, prizes and gifts, food and fun activities mixed with the scheduled events.



Jason Gundersen, part of Team 28, and Jon Sindorf, of Team 23, leave the Anchorage start line during the first-ever Downtown Anchorage ceremonial start in 2015.
ORZELPHOTO.COM



the 2015 race continued as usual – with the restart in Big Lake and the trail heading north over extremely rugged terrain made infinitely more treacherous by lack of snow cover and ugly weather. Open water and dry tundra were not uncommon, and warm conditions meant obstacles that grabbed sleds, tore parts and beat up bodies.

Still, the racers soldiered on.

"Considering the conditions last year, which were historically the very worst known to our most veteran racers, the attrition was actually very low," Kastner said. Of the 38 teams registered, only 20 completed the race, a scratch rate of just about 47 percent.

"Each year since about 2009, we have seen a steady increase in the percentage of teams who finish the race," he said. "It's difficult to know for sure, but the general consensus is that, one, racers are getting a little smarter about not pushing too hard in the first day; and, two, the research and development gleaned from the Iron Dog is paying off with considerably more capable and durable snowmobiles. Just 10 years ago, it wasn't uncommon to see 70 percent or higher attrition during a 'normal' Iron Dog."

For team No. 39, Cody Barber and Brett Lapham, the race was challenging, but ultimately rewarding. The rookie team proved that the third time was indeed the charm, placing fifth among the 20 finishing teams in a time of 46 hours, 13 minutes, 12 seconds. They were one of only two rookie teams to complete the race. Rookie team No. 49, Klinton and Kris VanWingerden, came in last, still an accomplishment for these so-called beginners. Team 20, Scott Faeo and Eric Quam, took the win on their Polaris-driven sleds, in a time of 41:46:52.

'Research and development gleaned from the Iron Dog is paying off with considerably more capable and durable snowmobiles.'

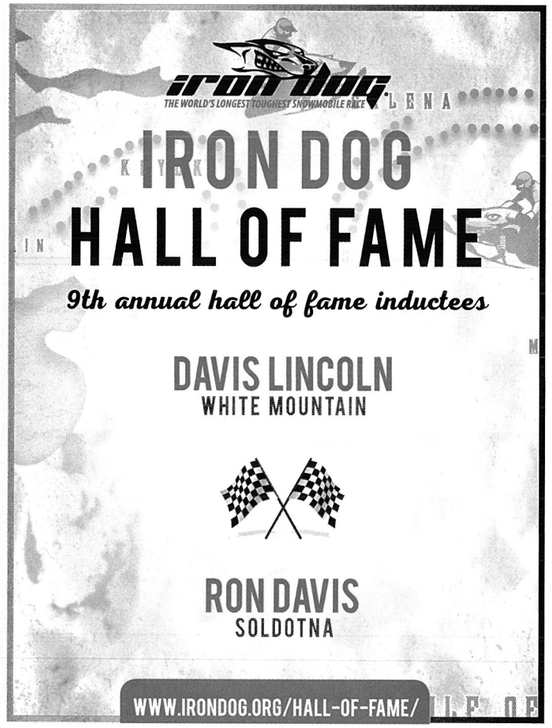
"The slow snow conditions kind of had everybody a little bit nervous about what the turnout was going to be," said Barber, of Willow. Last year was Barber's third attempt at an Iron Dog finish, while teammate Lapham was a true first-timer. The childhood friends proved their pairing a success, clearing water, dirt and other sled-destroyers while focusing on riding smart and not outpacing their abilities.

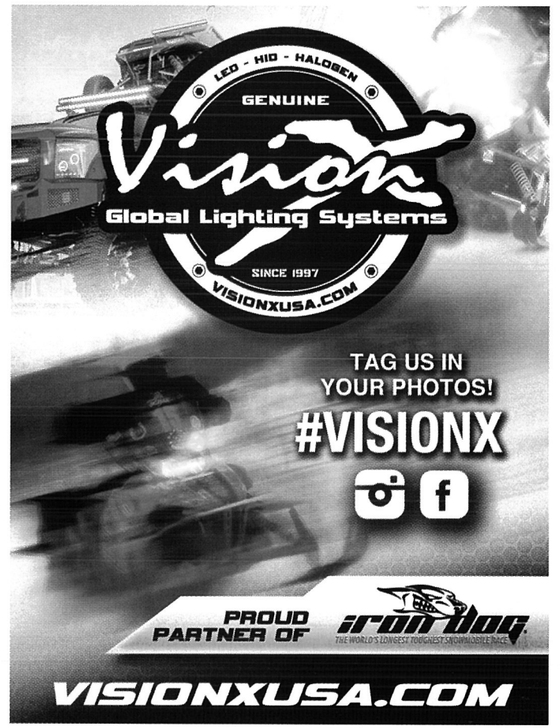
"There was a lot of dirt – there was places where you would have rather had a four-wheeler," Barber said. "There's certain temperatures and everyone will stop when their sleds get there. We would try to find an ice patch, or a creek and stuff like that. If you could get there and spin your track on it, onto the heat exchanger, it would help out. It was slow going, but we weren't the only ones doing it."

Barber said with two late-in-the-game scratches from previous Iron Dog's under his belt, he knew not to celebrate too soon as he and Lapham raced. But the two gelled, and he was impressed with how clean Lapham rode at race pace. They stayed steady and resisted the temptation to chase racers down if they thought it too risky.

As they rode into Fairbanks, cinching a fifth-place finish, Barber said his confidence grew and he finally could celebrate.

"I feel that we may have surprised a few people, including ourselves," Barber said. " Now that we've placed fairly well, it's kind of got our hopes and confidence up but I don't want to become complacent or anything. We still have a lot of training to do." ◆









PRIZE DETAILS	CATEGORY	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
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**
Guardian Flight "Safe and Steady Award" to the Last Place All-Rookie Team to arrive into Unalakleet (Northbound). Cash.	Rookies	Guardian Flight	**$500**
"Wrench Master Award" for the fastest All Rookie work time in the Nome garage. (Must actually work on sleds to qualify) $500 certificate in services.	All Pro Class	Quality Tune Auto Repair*	**$500**
Fastest All-Rookie Team into Galena Southbound. Cash.	Rookies	Ray Debenham	**$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 powertools from SBS. Product.	Rookies	Spenard Builders Supply*	**$500**
Two $200 Woody's Product Certificates and two Woody's Pom Knit Hats to the 2nd Fastest All-Rookie Team into Fairbanks. Product.	Rookies	Woody's Traction Products* (Official Traction Supplier)	**$430**
Two $200 Woody's Product Certificates to the 2nd Fastest All-Rookie Team into Nome. Product.	Rookies	Woody's Traction Products* (Official Traction Supplier)	**$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 Anchorage 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 Anchorage 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 Pom Knit 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 2016	**$114,766**

*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 2017 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.



PAYING IT FORWARD

More than a race, Iron Dog is a generous contributor



Students with the Iron Dog Rural-Urban Student Exchange enjoyed support from Ravn Alaska.
COURTESY RAVN ALASKA

ONE OF THE THINGS of which Kevin Kastner is most proud when it comes to Iron Dog is the impact it has on so many communities throughout the state.

"There is no other event that touches the community like we do," said the executive director of the race. "We go through over 20 communities in 2,000 miles in seven days. There is just nothing else like it."

Kastner is not exaggerating. Not only do the racers come through each of these communities – such as Nikolai, Galena, Shaktoolik and White Mountain, to name just a few – but they also try to engage rural community members before and after the race.

One such program is the Urban-Rural Student Exchange, which with help from Ravn Alaska, helps kids from urban and rural areas experience each other's lives through an exchange.

"The Iron Dog student exchange is a key program we developed to give back to communities across Alaska," said Kevin Kastner, Iron Dog executive director. "Our goal since its inception has been to engage Iron Dog communities while giving high school students an exciting event as a backdrop for a very unique exchange program that connects Alaska's urban and rural communities in a meaningful way. This collaboration is similar to what we do every year with our sponsors, racers, volunteers and communities all along the Iron Dog trail. The positive impact in real student's lives has been meaningful, lasting and measurable."

Last year, students went to Barrow, Anchorage and Fairbanks. While not on the race trail, the Barrow trip

continued on page 24

VALDEZ WINTER EVENTS 2016

Valdez ALASKA

VALDEZ QANIQ CHALLENGE, JAN16TH & 17TH
A two-day cross-country ski race combining both classic & freestyle skiing on two separate courses, with a combined purse of $10,000 divided amount the top three finishers. Visit ***runninggura.com*** for more info.

VALDEZ ICE CLIMBING FESTIVAL, FEB 12-15
Four-day ice climb in Keystone Canyon by day, music, prizes, slideshows and fun by night. Big Ice, big fun! Visit ***www.valdezicefest.com*** for more info.

VEGAS IN VALDEZ ARCHERY TOURNAMENT, FEB 18-21
For more information call Steve Shiell at (907) 834-1622.

3RD ANNUAL WOUNDED WARRIOR POKER RUN, MARCH 6TH
Family-friendly snowmobile event.
Visit ***www.valdezsnowmachineclub.com*** for more info.

INAUGURAL CHUGACH FAT BIKE BASH, MARCH 18 - 20

ANNUAL MAYOR'S CUP SNOWMACHINE RACE, MARCH 19TH
200-mile cross-country race in March. Visit ***www.valdezsnowmachineclub.com*** for more info.

FAT BIKE GRAVITY WORLD CHAMPIONSHIPS, MARCH 20
THOMPSON PASS

SNOWKITE FESTIVAL AT THOMPSON PASS, APRIL 2016
Speed riding and paragliding athletes from around the world demonstrate acrobatic skills & compete for prizes. Visit ***www.alaskakiteadventures.com*** for more info.

THE 26TH ANNUAL MOUNTAIN MAN HILLCLIMB, APRIL 15TH-17TH
A snowmobile event held in Thompson Pass. This is a qualifying event for the Snowmobile Hill Climb World Championship. Visit ***www.valdezsnowmachineclub.com*** for more info.

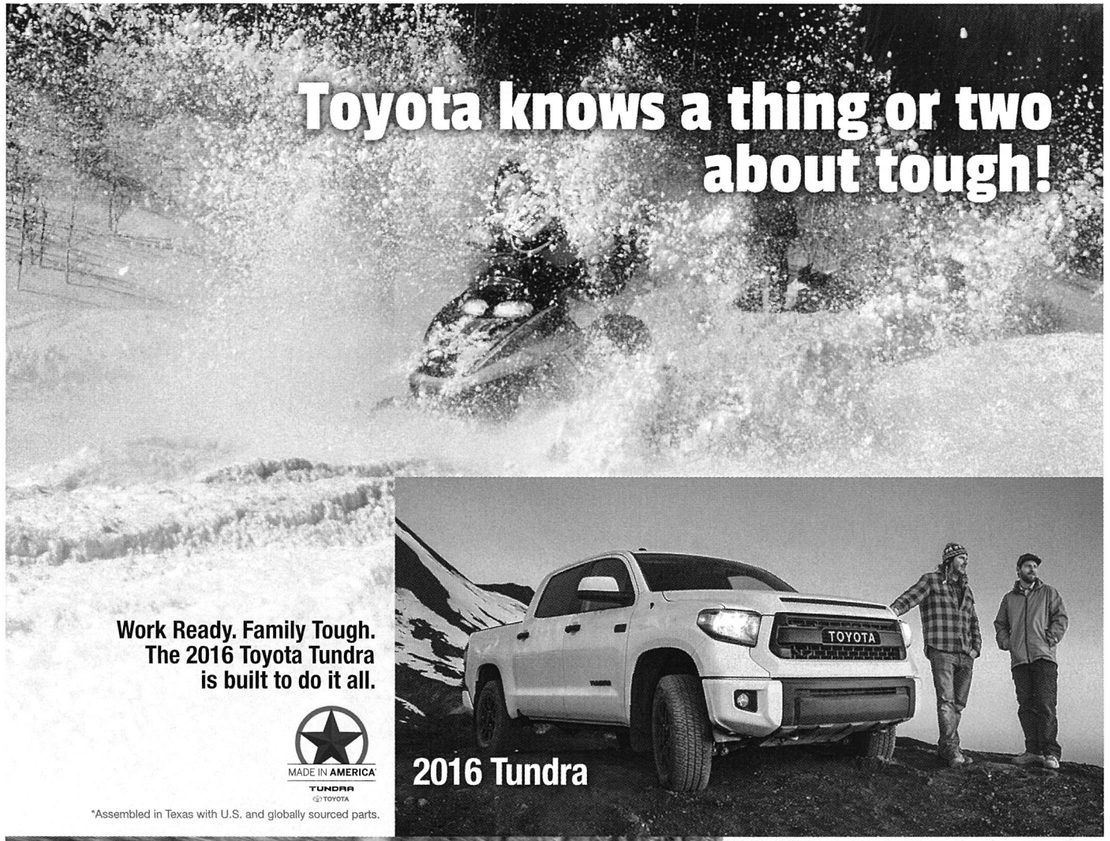
VALDEZ FLY IN AND AIR SHOW, MAY 6TH-8TH
Watch bush pilots compete in Short Take-off and Landing (STOL), Flower Bombing and a touring Poker Run. Visit ***www.valdezflyin.com*** for more info.

GET YOUR *free* VACATION GUIDE *at* VALDEZALASKA.ORG

907.835.2984 | *for current event info visit* WWW.VALDEZALASKA.ORG

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PRIZE DETAILS	CATEGORY	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
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**
Vision X "High Intensity Award" to the 1st Place Finish overall (Fairbanks). Product.	All Pro Class	Vision X*	**$2,000**
"Eighth is Great Award", for the 8th Place team to Finish in Fairbanks. Gift cards for each racer valued at $1,000 each. Product certificate.	All Pro Class	Alaska Industrial Hardware*	**$2,000**
Fastest All-Rookie Team to Fairbanks Ð Two $550 Woody's Product Certificates and two Woody's Pit Coats	Rookies	Woody's Traction Products*	**$1,850**
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 "Sponsor of all things fast Award" to the fastest All-Rookie Team to Finish in Fairbanks. Choice of new phone or tablet for each racer.	Rookies	GCI*	**$1,500**
Fastest All-Rookie Team into "Checkpoint KLIM" in McGrath. $750 Product Certificate for each racer. Product certificate.	Rookies	Klim USA*	**$1,500**
Fastest All-Rookie Team Nome Ð Two $550 Woody's Product Certificates and two Woody's Gear Bags	Rookies	Woody's Traction Products*	**$1,202**
Monster Energy prize package for the fastest five teams to finish in Fairbanks. Prize package includes Monster gear. ($240 product value for each team)	All Pro Class	Monster Energy Drink - Distributed by Coca-Cola of Alaska*	**$1,200**
Holiday Stationstore "Fuel Your Adventure" prize. Fastest All-Rookie Team to North Pole. $1,000 cash.	Rookies	Holiday Stationstores	**$1,000**
MTA "Go GIG or Go Home Award" to the fastest All-Rookie Team to Nikolai. $1,000 cash.	Rookies	Matanuska Telephone Association	**$1,000**
Vision X "Intensity Award" to the fastest All-Rookie Team to Nome and to the fastest All-Rookie Team to Fairbanks. Product valued at $500 for each award.	Rookies	Vision X and TrailToyz Offroad*	**$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**
$1000 in the form of two $500 Shell gift cards awarded to the Fastest Rookie Team to the Crowley Checkpoint at North Pole	Rookies	Crowley Fuels	**$1,000**
"Make Traxxas Award" by Monster Energy for the 5th Place overall finish for an All-Rookie team. (One Monster Energy Traxxas RC car per racer, $300 value each)	All Pro Class	Monster Energy Drink - Distributed by Coca-Cola of Alaska*	**$600**



More than a race

continued from page 22

offered a unique opportunity for students to experience one of the most extreme locations in Alaska.

"We also had a Pro Class team from Barrow recently, so there was a community connection that also played a part in choosing this location for 2015," Kastner said.

Closer to home, the charitable contributions continue, Kastner said. While Iron Dog is the culminating competitive event for racers, for race organizers there is an additional element of a successful event: Giving back.

"Since 2011, Iron Dog has donated $118,000 to charity," Kastner said. "People go online and vote on what they want to support. A lot of times it is the military, and this year they overwhelmingly supported the Alaska Veterans Museum."

Kaleigh Wotring with the Alaska Veterans Museum said the designation could not have come at a better time. It

'Since 2011, Iron Dog has donated $118,000 to charity.'

received 59.66 percent of the online votes after an online polling push that she was instrumental in leading.

"I enlisted friends and family from all over the country, who in turn enlisted theirs," Wotring said. "I actually wandered through a restaurant telling people what was going on and asking them to vote for us and to post on their Facebook pages, too."

Wotring said the Alaska Veterans Museum mission is to tell the stories of Alaska's defenders so they are never forgotten. The money that is raised will help them do that.

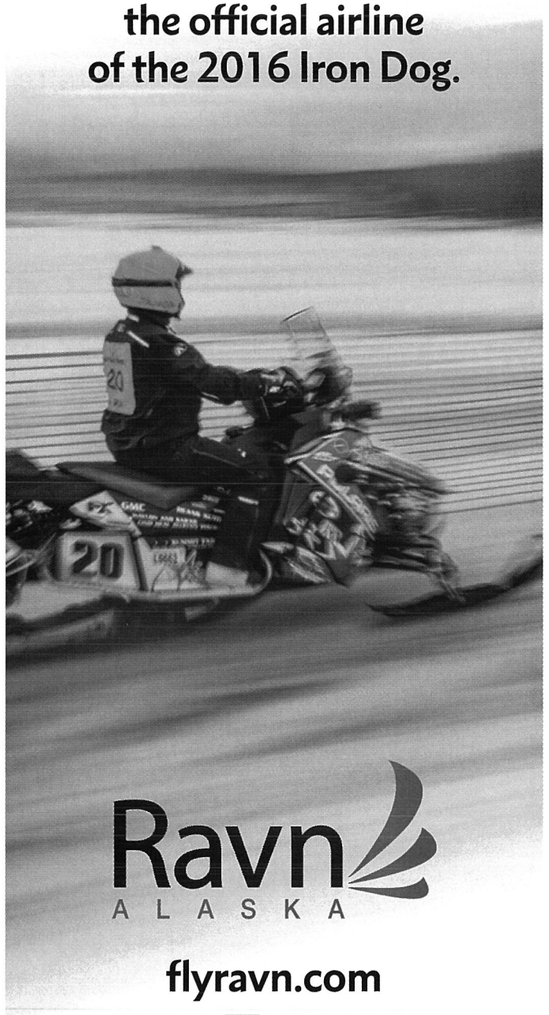
"We have so many things we need to do," Wotring said. "We want everyone to know we are here and why. We want our visitors to be moved by what they see and hear. For those not able to come to the museum, we want to be able to share our recorded oral histories online, and bring traveling footlockers full of educational materials and artifacts to their communities."

Wotring said the museum is outgrowing its current space and they could use a new building, and "we need the help of professionals to take us from a 100 percent volunteer-operated organization run on passion, to the next level of offerings to our community."

Donations will come from the net proceeds of the Iron Dog raffles, which are ongoing until Feb. 27. The prizes include a 2016 Toyota Tacoma, a 2016 CFMOTO U500 UTV and Aluma Tilt trailer, airline tickets with Ravn Alaska, a $1,000 gift card from Cabela's, and a $500 gift certificate from Klim. Raffle tickets are $60, and the winners will be announced at the end of the awards reception on Feb. 27 in Fairbanks. Entrants need not be present to win.

"Please buy a raffle ticket," Wotring said. "We need your help. Our defenders have stories to share. There were sacrifices made for our freedom. We must honor those who made those sacrifices. Their stories must be heard, or the lessons learned will soon be forgotten." ◆

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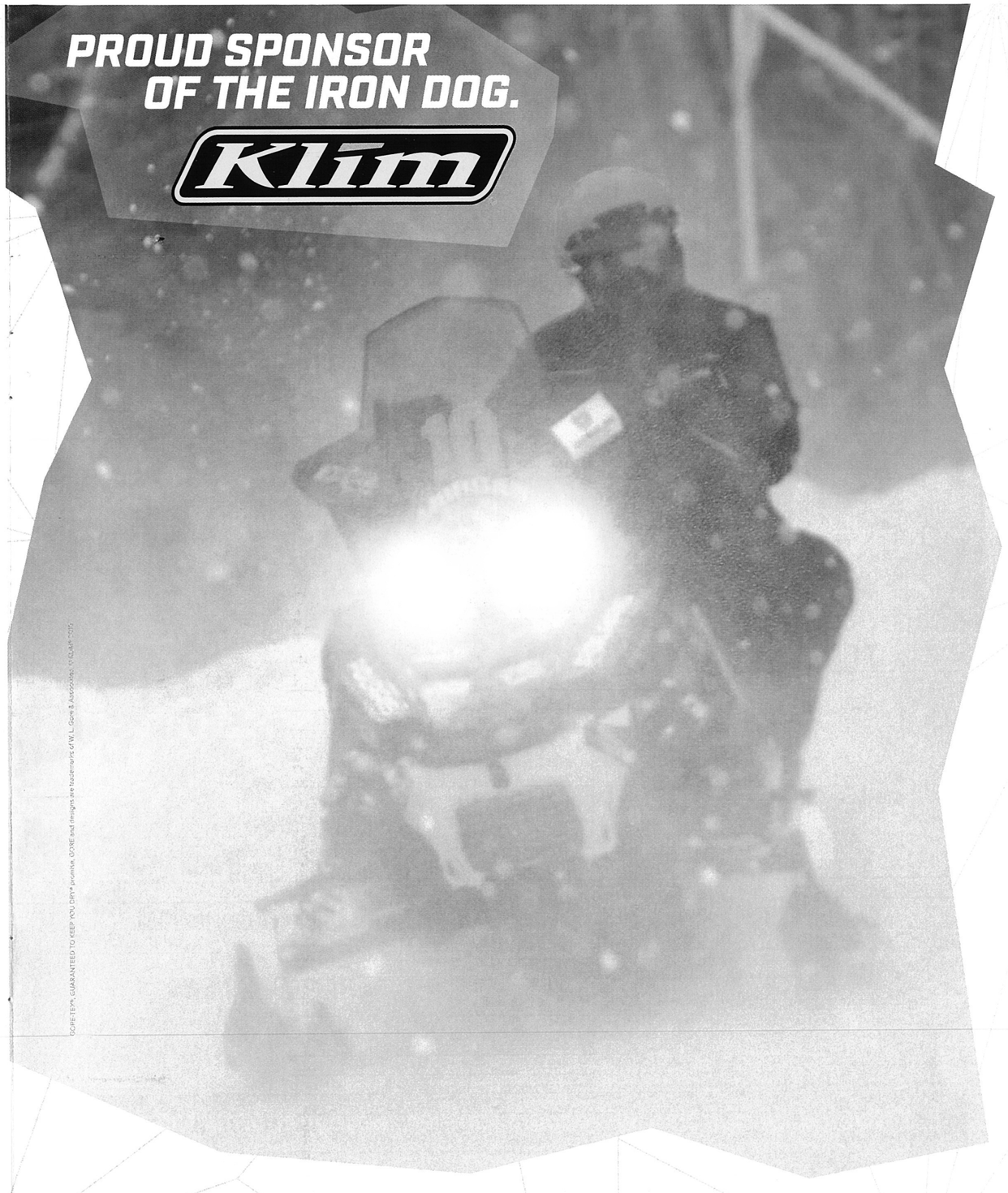
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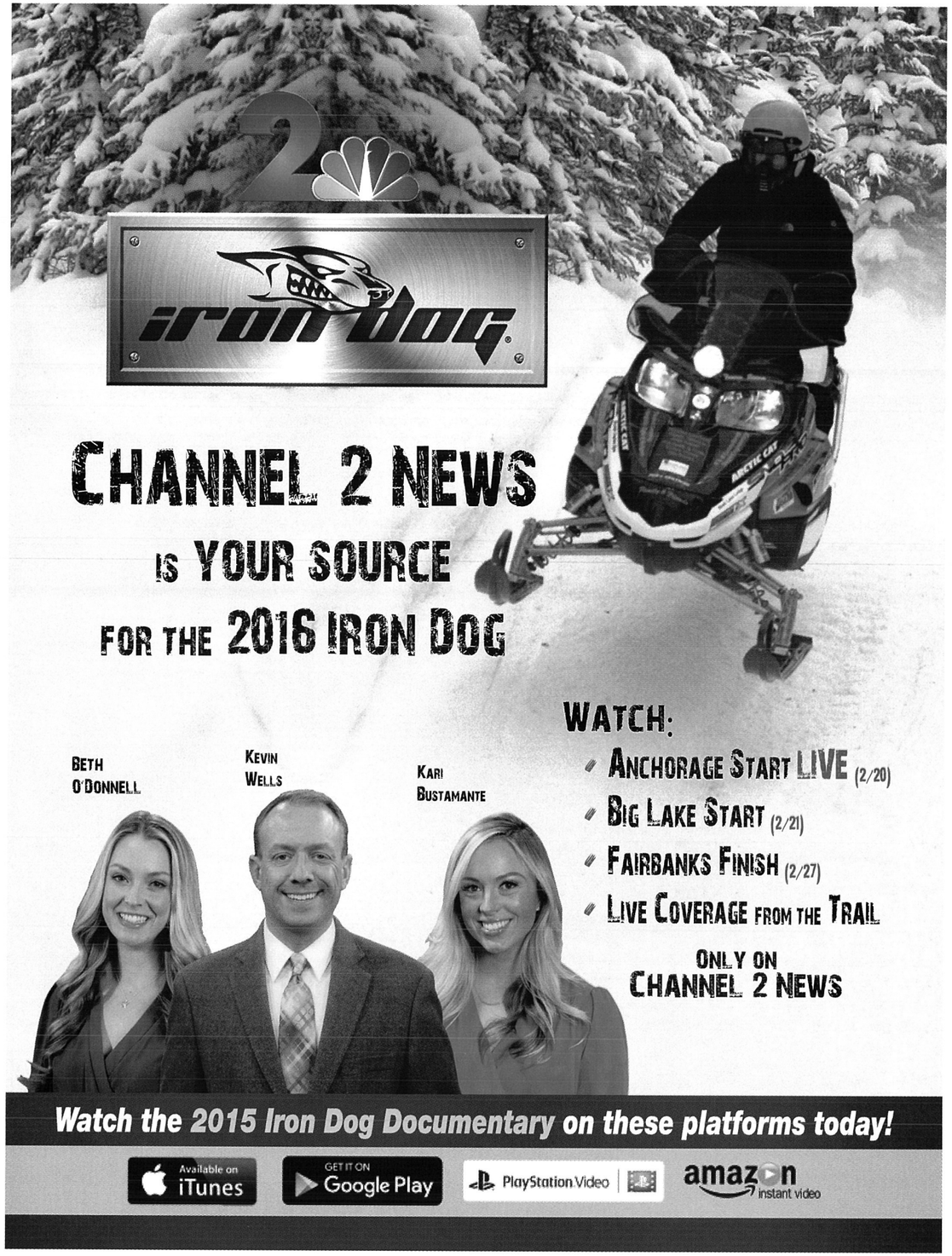
IRON DOG 2016
CONTINGENCY PRIZES

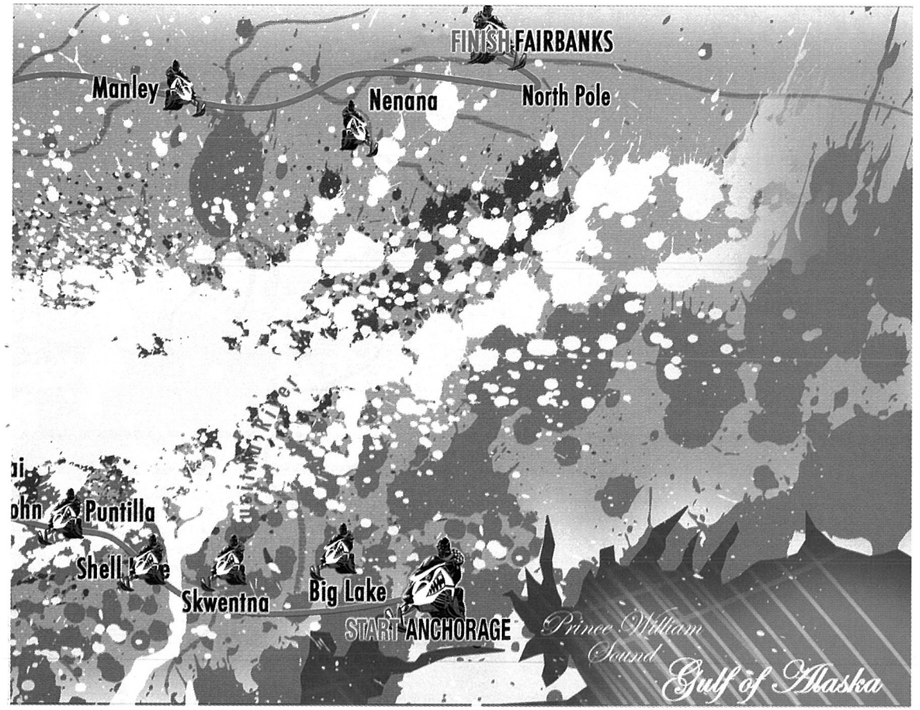


Top finishers of the 2015 Iron Dog display their trophies on the podium in Fairbanks. There are many more ways for riders throughout the pack to get their hands on some great prizes.

PRIZE DETAILS	CATEGORY	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
All-Rookie Team winners. First Place Finish $15,000 Second Place Finish $7,000, Third Place Finish $3,000, both riders must be first-time rookies to qualify, must be in top three Pro finishes. Cash.	Rookies	Iron Dog, Inc.**	**$25,000**
Team CC Ski-Doo A-Team Challenge. Sponsorship package for the top placing SKI-DOO Team that finishes in the top 3 (Podium Finish). Package includes the use of one snowmachine per each racer. Certificate. Requires a Race Agreement with Team CC. A value of $15,000.	All Pro Class	Team CC*	**$15,000**
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**
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	**$5,000**
First Place overall Finish on a Polaris snowmobile.	All Pro Class	Polaris Industries	**$3,000**







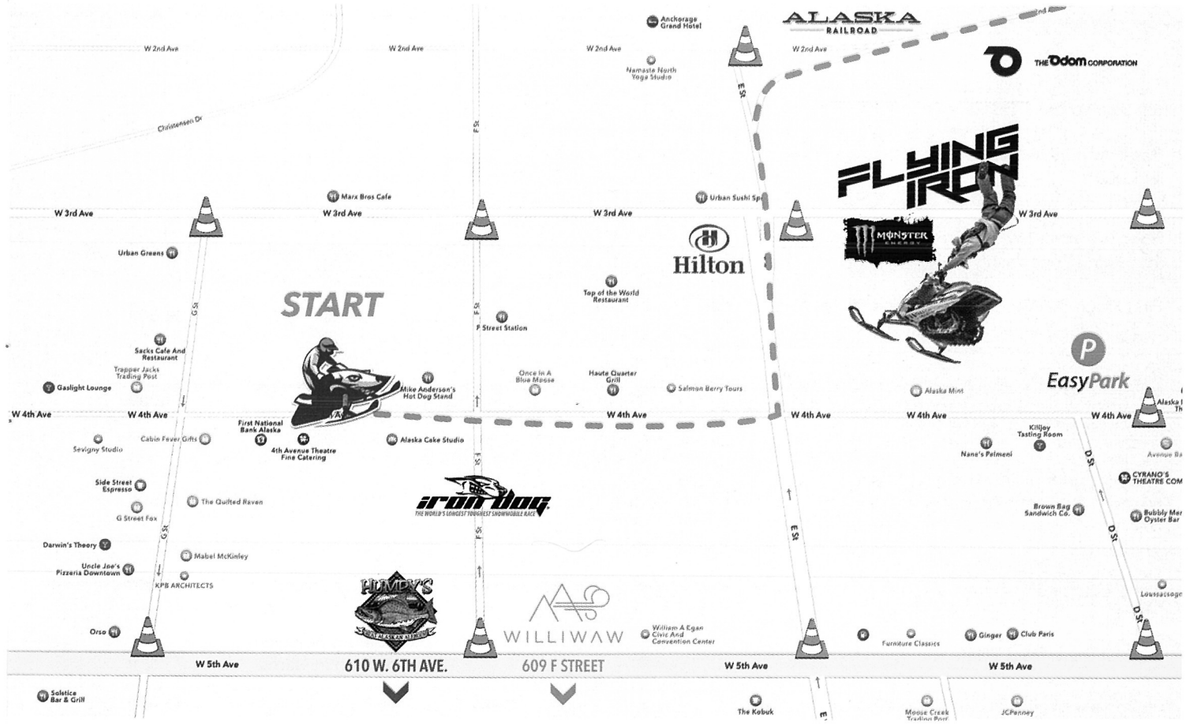
NORTHBOUND

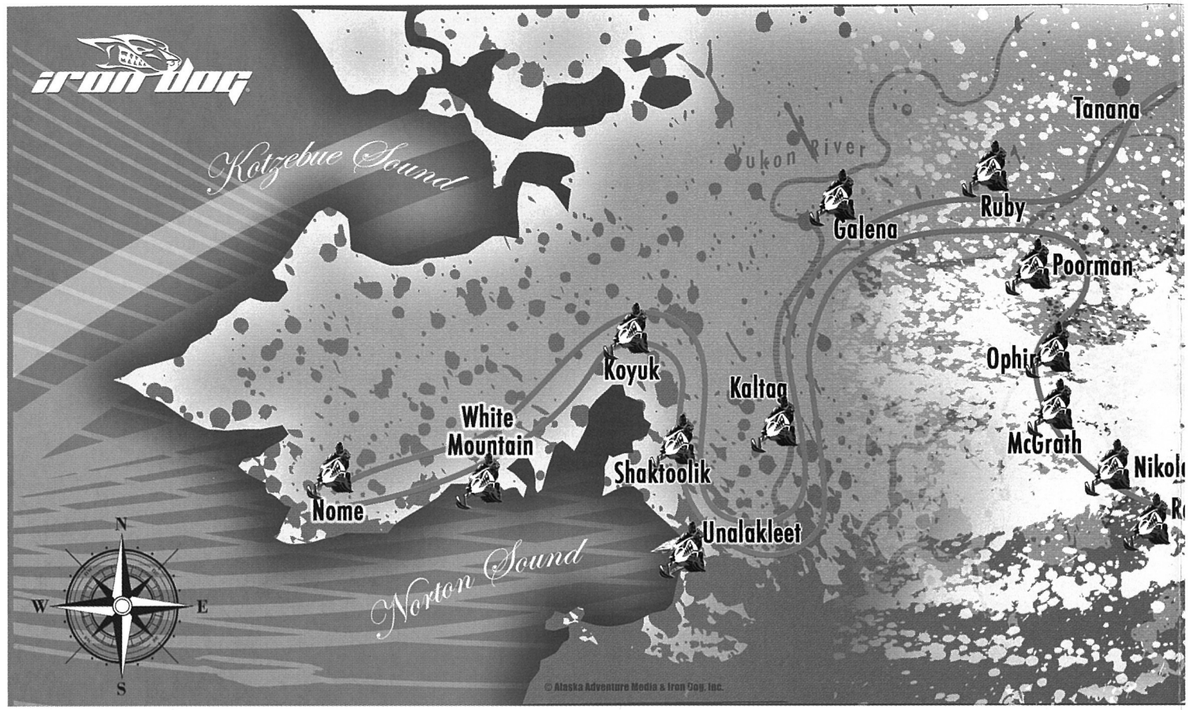
Anchorage to Eagle River	16
Big Lake to Skwentna	89
Skwentna to Shell Lake	17
Shell Lake to Puntilla	55
Puntilla to Rohn	75
Rohn to Nikolai	74
Nikolai to McGrath	52
McGrath to Ophir	63
Ophir to Poorman	99
Poorman to Ruby	72
Ruby to Galena	52
Galena to Kaltag	98
Kaltag to Unalakleet	95
Unalakleet to Shaktoolik	41
Shaktoolik to Koyuk	57
Koyuk to White Mountain	94
White Mtn to Nome	75
Northbound Mileage	1,108

SOUTHBOUND

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	2,047*

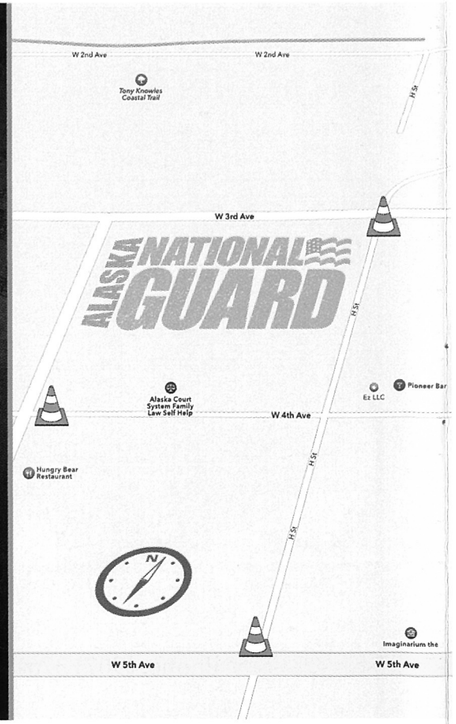
**16 miles of caution flag riding with 2,031 of racing miles.*





2016 IRON DOG DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE MAP

ROAD CLOSURES	4TH AVE. (C ST. TO I ST.), 3RD AVE. (C ST. TO E ST.) I ST. TO D ST. BETWEEN 3RD AND 5TH.
IRON DOG START	IN FRONT OF 4TH AVENUE THEATER
VINTAGE SLEDS & 120CC IRON PUPS	4TH AVE NEAR THE IRON DOG START
IRON DOG HQ & INFORMATION	ON F ST. NEAR 4TH AVE NEAR THE VISIT ANCHORAGE LOG CABIN
FLYING IRON FREESTYLE SHOW	EASYPARK COHO LOT 3RD AVE. BELOW SUNSHINE PLAZA
BEST PARKING	EASYPARK GARAGE ON C ST. BETWEEN 4TH AND 5TH.



Iron Dog Safety Expo features team meet-and-greets, prizes and more

SAFETY FIRST

IF THERE'S ONE THING that all of the sponsors of Iron Dog reiterate, said the race's executive director Kevin Kastner, it's safety. From the moment the racers leave the chute in downtown Anchorage, until they are safely at the finish in Fairbanks, there are countless ways in which they put themselves at risk.

But a prepared racer is a successful one, and the Donlin Gold Safety Expo highlights the many ways in which racers and riders will stay one step ahead of any trouble. The event, free and open to everyone, is set for 9 a.m.-8 p.m. Wednesday, Feb. 17, at Cabela's in South Anchorage. Not only can participants meet the racers, but they also can glean safety information of their own, so when it comes time for their own backcountry adventures, they too are prepared.

"A lot of our partners, like Donlin Gold, they want to reiterate that safety message," Kastner said. "The largest safety improvements Iron Dog has made over the years have been requirements of protective gear and some restrictions on certain dangerous portions of the course — we've enforced some overland routes to keep them off the water, and stayed on top of helmet safety as well… And we have riders, too, who are spreading the safety message."

TEAM 31, BEN BAILEY of Anchorage and Seth Wells of Eagle River, are racing this year to spread an avalanche awareness message. After losing a friend, Russell Miller, to an avalanche last spring, the two men decided this was a way to honor him.

"It wasn't supposed to be him. He was the one that preached, lived and loved mountain safety," Wells wrote in his Go Fund Me plea (to donate, go to https://www.gofundme.com/8e57a8fg). "He was the one with all of the correct gear and the ability to use it. He was the best of us."

Wells and Bailey were inspired to honor Miller's life in some way. In this year's Iron Dog, Miller will be on their minds. The pair will be racing wearing full avalanche gear, including flotation devices, shovels, probes, beacons, etc. Not only will their message stress safety, but also the importance of organ donation. Miller's donations helped save two lives.

"Russ and I had talked about doing the Iron Dog for a few years," Wells said. "It was something that me and him always wanted to do. The avalanche he was involved in was not like anything you would expect; it was on a cut bank off of a creek, maybe 60 feet tall. It could happen anywhere. We are wanting to ride in all of our avalanche gear to let people know: It can happen anywhere."

While safety is the overriding theme of the expo, it also is meant to be a prerace celebration of the days to come. To add to the festivities, organizers created a new event – the 2016 Passport Game and Best in Show competition. Participants can enter to win door prizes and vote on the best-looking 2016 Iron Dog Pro Class snowmachine. The Best in Show prizes will be announced on site.

continued on next page



Snowmachiner Russell Miller died last spring in a freak avalanche. He had always wanted to race in the Iron Dog. This year, Miller's friends Ben Bailey and Seth Wells are racing in Miller's memory for avalanche awareness and organ donation. Here, Miller enjoys the mountains surrounding Whittier. PHOTO COURTESY SETH WELLS



Team 8, Tyler Aklestad and Tyson Johnson, greet fans during the 2015 Donlin Gold Safety Expo at Cabela's. Aklestad holds son Liam, while his wife, Erin, and teammate Johnson look on.

Iron Dog Raffle tickets (drawings to be held Feb. 27 at the end of the awards banquet in Fairbanks) will be on sale, too. Win the grand prize of a 2016 Toyota Tacoma from Kendall Toyota. Or maybe that raffle ticket is worth the second-place prize – a 2016 CFMOTO U-Force 500 UTV from Alaska Power Sports paired with a 10-foot Aluma Tilt trailer from White Spruce Trailer Sales. Those and the other prizes will be on display at the expo. Raffle tickets are $60, and up to half of the proceeds will go to the Alaska Veterans Museum, the chosen beneficiary of Iron Dog's 2016 race.

Throughout all of this, fans can not only talk to teams and wish them luck, but also inspect their sleds, see the required gear spread out and partake in event highlights. They can also brush up on their winter safety skills with riding and snowmachine rescue training provided free of charge. Stop in at Cabela's café for snacks, chat with the racers and become part of the fun.

"It's just a really good way to have the riders and fans interact," Kastner said. "Largely it's a good time and you have a good chance to get up close with the racers and look at their sleds and hear their stories." ◆

DONLIN GOLD SAFETY EXPO

WHEN: 9 a.m.-8 p.m., Wednesday, Feb. 17

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.

GETTING THERE: Cabela's Anchorage 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.

IRON DOG SAFETY EXPO VENDORS

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ON THE ICE

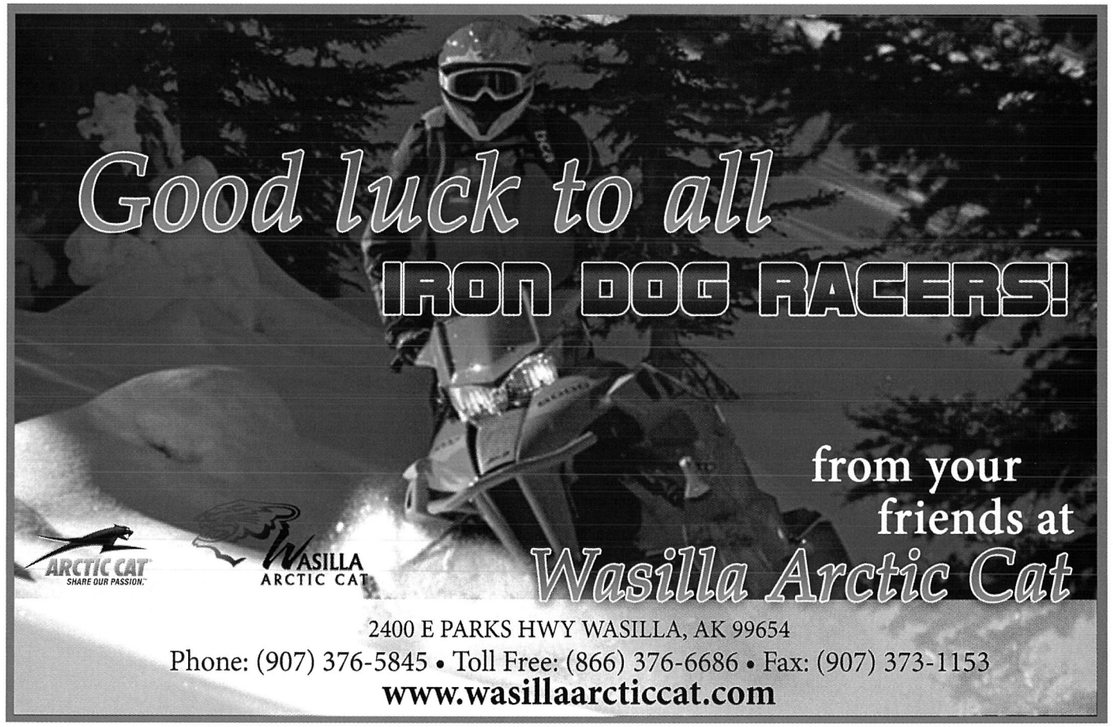
IF YOU MISSED OUT on the Anchorage ceremonial start, you'll have one more opportunity to wave the racers off on their journey. Iron Dog rolls up its sleeves and gets down to business on Sunday, Feb. 21, in Big Lake, on the lake. Race teams will be released in succession starting at 11 a.m. As in past years, each team can be watched as they speed away across icy Big Lake before vanishing into the Alaska wilderness.

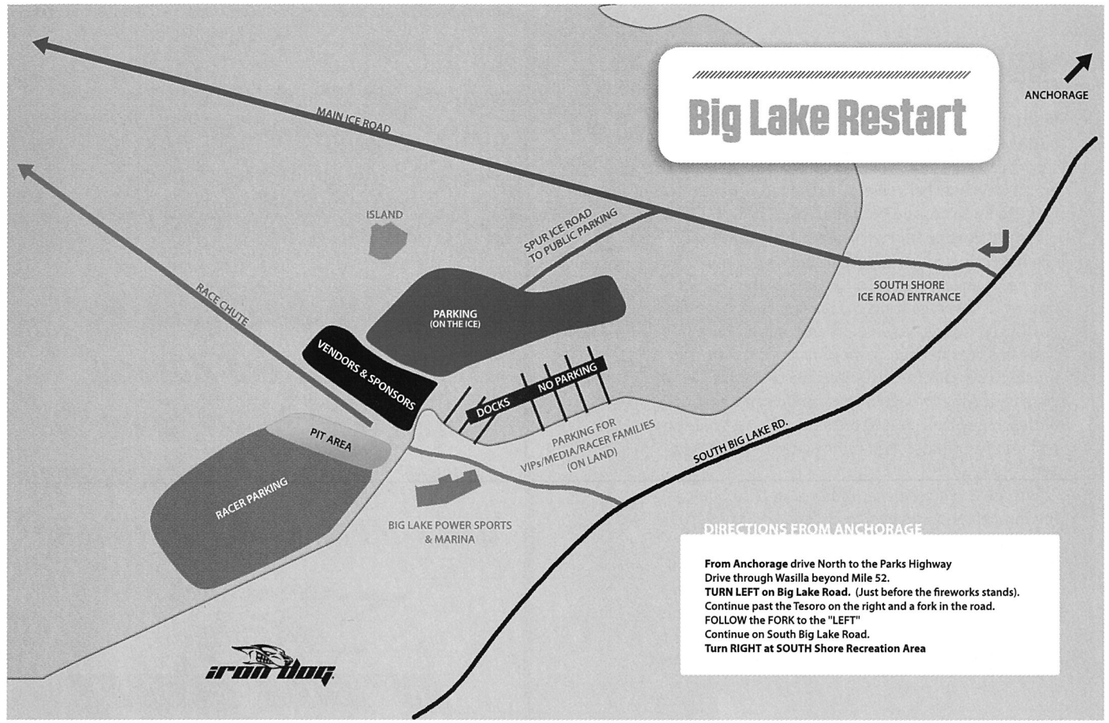
Fans won't find as much of a festive atmosphere as compared to the Anchorage start, but they will see the serious side of the race teams and witness their anticipation to compete.

BIG LAKE RESTART EVENTS

SUNDAY, FEB. 21

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.
10:45 a.m.	Color Guard, National Anthem and announcements.
11 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.)





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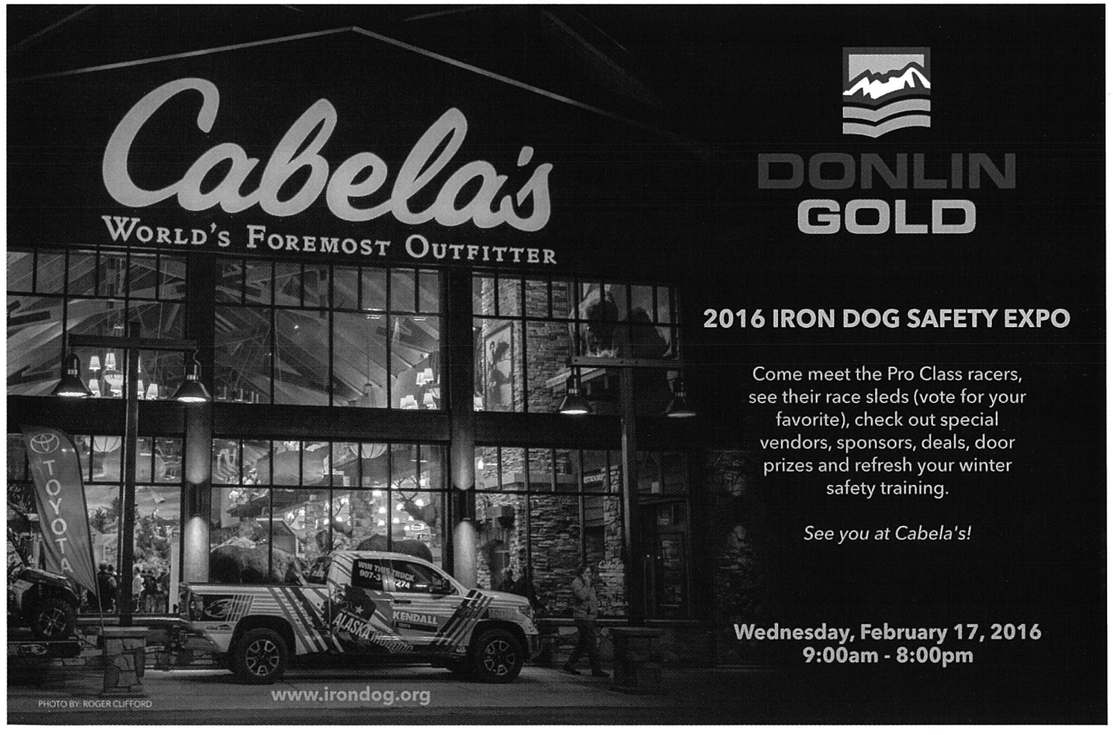
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DONLIN GOLD

2016 IRON DOG SAFETY EXPO

Come meet the Pro Class racers, see their race sleds (vote for your favorite), check out special vendors, sponsors, deals, door prizes and refresh your winter safety training.

See you at Cabela's!

Wednesday, February 17, 2016
9:00am - 8:00pm

Iron Dog features riders from Galena, Nome, McGrath and beyond

RURAL RACERS ON THE RISE



Rick Lie and John Schaeffer, both of Kotzebue, fuel up in Ruby during the 2015 race.

RURAL RACERS, 2016

Team 3: Steven Boney from Bethel

Team 18: Amos Cruise from McGrath and Shawn Pomrenke from Nome

Team 27: Bobby Frankson and Joe Cleaver from Galena

Team 34: Chris Collins from Kotzebue and John Bahnke III from Nome

Team 39: Steffen Strick Jr. and Theron Magnuson from McGrath

Team 43: Vincent Salzbrun and Gux Laraux from Bethel

Team 45: Barney Anselment from Takotna and Dietrich Nikolai from McGrath

Bobby Frankson of Galena raced the Iron Dog for the first time in 2009, but the race didn't end the way he had hoped. While he and his partner started out strong, by Nome they were having problems, and by the time he reached Galena, they scratched.

Ever since then, he's been itching to get back in the saddle, literally.

"I've been sitting on the sidelines for the last five or so years watching the Iron Dog come through, and it's hard to see people go through and not be a part of it," said Frankson, who returns this year with his same partner, Joe Cleaver, also from Galena. Team 27 has been putting in the training miles and perfecting their sleds so they will be ready come race day. Cleaver and Frankson are the only two racers from Galena, and the first Galena duo to represent at Iron Dog since their aborted race in 2009.

Frankson and Cleaver are two of 13 racers representing seven teams from off the road system. Four hail from McGrath, three from Bethel, two from Nome, one from Kotzebue and one from Takotna. Frankson grew up in Point Hope, and listed that as his hometown during the 2009 race, but he now lives and works in Galena.

Laurel Hickel with Iron Dog said there are always a few teams that come from afar, but the race seems to be gaining far-flung momentum even more so this year.

"It's been awhile since we've had a team from Galena," she said. "The race goes through these communities and people see how it can be done."

Kevin Kastner, executive director of Iron Dog, said it's difficult to pinpoint what might be driving the interest in the race beyond the cities, but he's glad for it.

"I think you can attribute much of it to the positive impact Iron Dog has in the communities we visit," Kastner said. "That good news tends to get around in villages."

On the flip side, there are very few Outside racers this year as compared to years past. Of the 41 teams registered, only one is from the Lower 48 (Minnesota), and one Lower 48 racer, Dave Hausbeck of Reese, Mich. is pairing with an Alaskan for his bid. The only out-of-country racer is veteran Ryan Simons, from Camrose, Alberta, who will once again race with Soldotnan Cory Davis.

"To some degree we believe that there's a seasonality to the number of both rural and Outside racers," Kastner said. "Largely, this fluctuation has more to do with economics than it does with level of interest.

Continued on page 33

Watch 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 Anchorage start and improved checkpoint race coverage, similar to its improved coverage from 2015. 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

VIEW

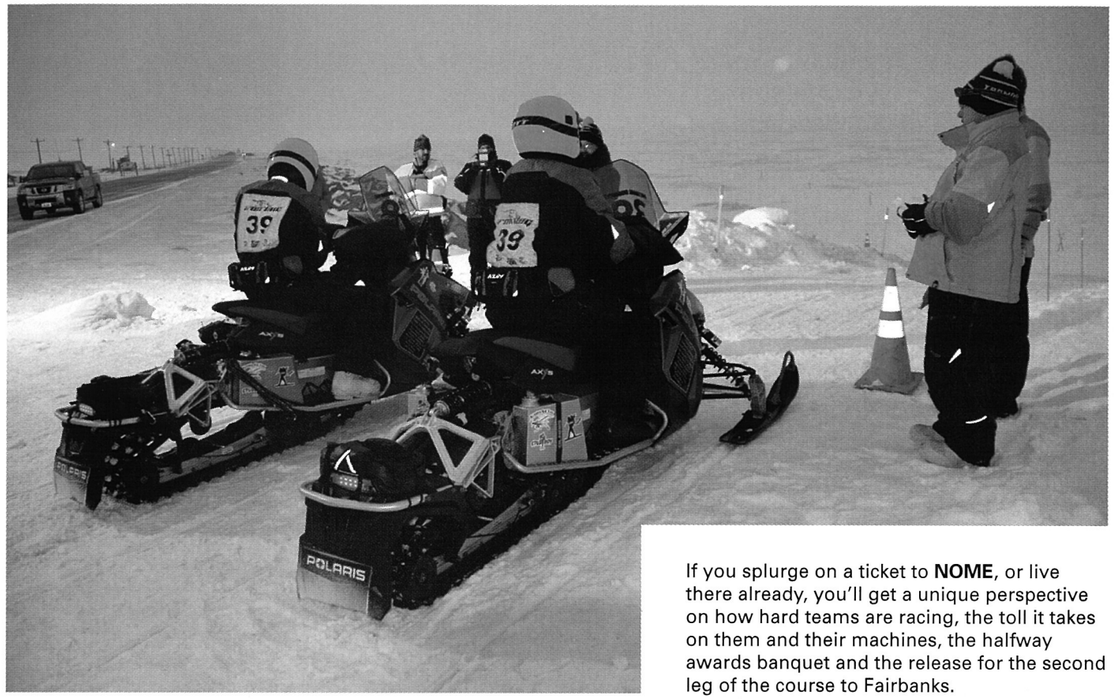
so you can follow along exactly the way you want and filter out any unwanted information.

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.

Get the Iron Dog App

Because the pace of the Iron Dog race is so fast, it's quite handy to check in with racers, say, every five minutes, right? And with smartphones so handy, there is no better way to track the race than with the Iron Dog App. It's free in the App Store, and can be downloaded in minutes – just type in Iron Dog. You can check out current standings, click on on team progress, view the course map, and read the latest news on the race and its competitors. There is a spot for photos, and a link that will take you to the Iron Dog Twitter and Facebook accounts.





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.

A BIRDS-EYE

From sofa to sidelines, there are many ways in which to watch Iron Dog 2016

Even though Iron Dog touches many communities along its route – Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner says it passes through more than 20 remote villages and towns over the course of the race – there are still some who have to get creative in their spectating. Iron Dog knows there are thousands of new fans out there, if only the race was a little easier to connect with and follow. So they fixed that in 2015, and continue to do so during this year's race.

Those new to the sport of snowmachinine racing have many opportunities leading up to and after the Iron Dog race to meet teams, ask questions and determine if they have what it takes to become a future Iron Dog champion. Drop in on the **DONLIN GOLD SAFETY EXPO** anytime between 9 a.m. and 8 p.m. Feb. 17 at Cabella's in South Anchorage. This is where teams are inspected before given approval to race. Fans can talk to racers, see the packing list of gear spread out, inspect the snowmachines, and enjoy some extra family fun and excitement.

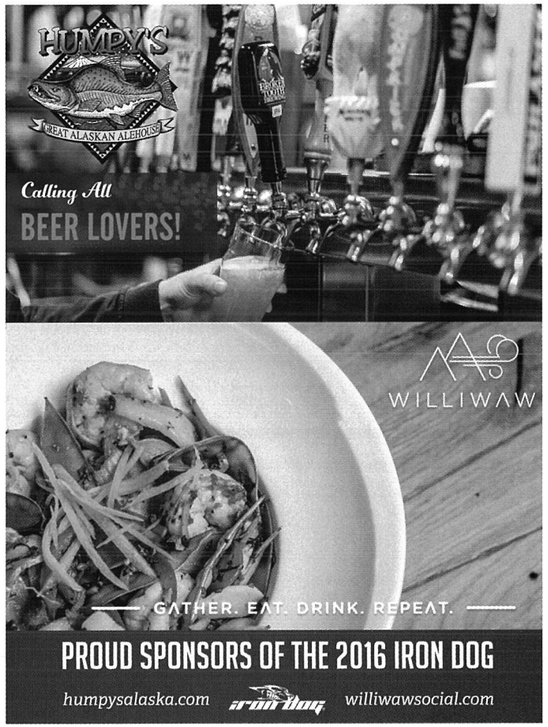
Two days later on Feb. 19, **DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE** begins hosting evening events that lead up to the ceremonial start of Iron Dog, and on Feb. 20 teams will be parading and greeting fans before heading off. (There also will be the Flying Iron Freestyle Show both days for the trick racer in you.) Cheer for the teams as they speed out of town headed for the first stop in Eagle River. Watch teams cruise by headed east on Fourth Avenue between E and G streets, then north on E Street and finally along Second Avenue heading down to and across Ship Creek before vanishing.

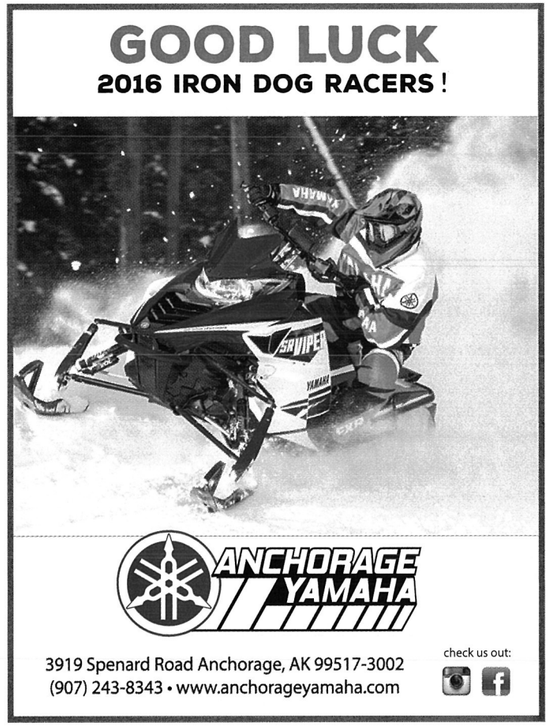
Military personnel will have opportunities to see racers cross **JOINT BASE ELMENDORF-RICHARDSON**, and expect a little viewing as teams get closer to Eagle River where they will load and truck machines to Big Lake for a restart the next day.

On Sunday, Feb. 21, Iron Dog will host the race restart, 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 underway. Teams are released in 2-minute intervals and can be seen speeding off across the lake. Expect fewer festivities than in Anchorage, but enjoy some real race action.

And in **FAIRBANKS** another festive, downtown experience can be had as the crowd along the Chena River near First Avenue, Lacey Street and Wendell Avenue. Races 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. ◆

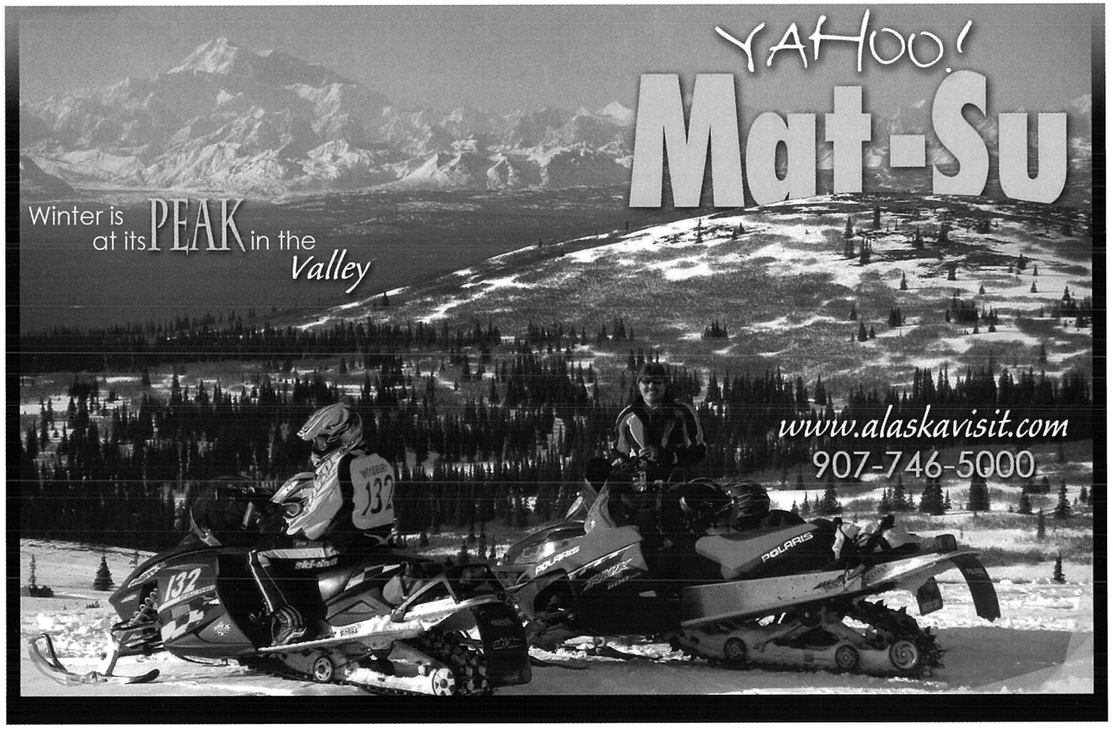
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McCafferty's, A Coffee House: 408 Cushman St. (907) 456-6853 – a locals' favorite.

Hot Licks Homemade Ice Cream: 3453 College Road, (907) 479-7813: Two of our favorite things in one location – hot espresso or homemade ice cream: Choose your poison.

DINING

Red Lantern Steak & Spirits: 813 Noble St., (907) 456-7722. Hankering for a great steak? This is the location.

Lavelle's Bistro: 575 1st Ave., (907) 450-0555. A good choice for that special night out – for example, celebrating a successful race finish?

Zach's Restaurant: 1717 University Ave., (907) 479-3650. This comfortable locale offers finer meals, but with the casual backdrop of big-screen TVs and relaxed seating.

Lemongrass Thai Cuisine: 388 Old Chena Pump Road, (907) 456-2200. Tasty dishes and local favorites brought to you from authentic recipes from Chiang Mai, Thailand. Come enjoy the flavors and styles of Northern Thai recipes.

Shogun Hibachi Japanese Steakhouse: 4005 Geist Road, (907) 328-3222. The only hibachi restaurant in Fairbanks does not disappoint.

Silver Gulch Brewing and Bottling Co.: 2195 Old Steese Highway N., (907) 452-2739. Visit America's most northern brewery for the dining and beer highlight of your trip. Come experience their motto: "Fairbanks, where the people are unusual and the beer is unusually good."

ARTS

First Fridays Fairbanks: 5 p.m. Downtown. Once a month, residents turn out for citywide gallery openings featuring work by local artists in watercolor, acrylic, oil, sculpture, pen and ink, photography and mixed media. Come see Fairbanks arts scene at its best. www.downtownfairbanks.com/tag/firstfriday



Tired Iron: Feb. 27-28, on the Chena River in Downtown. Watch as older-model snowmachines race – it's fun for the entire family. www.fairbankstirediron.org

EVENTS

Denali Winterfest: Feb. 26-28 at Mile 237 Parks Hwy, Denali Park. Now in its 16th year, Denali Winterfest offers loads of outdoor fun and educational events. Featuring dog sledding, a 5K race, snowshoeing, hiking, park ranger programs and more. This engaging community-oriented festival starts off with a potluck and ends with a chili feed and cake walk – small-town charm in the heart of Denali National Park. www.nps.gov/dena/planyourvisit/winterfest.htm

BP World Ice Art Championships: Feb. 29-March 27, Ice Park, 3030 W. Phillips Field Road. Enjoy an international ice sculpting competition with more than 180 sculptures, plus a kids' park made entirely of ice. www.icealaska.com.

Fairbanks Winter Carnival: Daily beginning Feb. 29 and continuing through March 27, throughout Fairbanks. Imagine the Winter Carnival Queen sitting on her throne carved out of ice or a team of dogs streaming down the frozen Chena River. Step back in time and you will discover that people of the far north have been celebrating winter in March for many years. Created in 1934, The Winter Carnival features arts, dog mushing and ice sculpting events. Times may have changed a bit since the 1930s but the energy and excitement of Winter Carnival still remains. Look for events hosted by the Alaska Dog Mushers Association, www.sleddog.org; Ice Alaska, www.icealaska.com; and the Fairbanks Arts Association, www.fairbanks.org.

MUSEUMS AND THEATERS

University of Alaska Museum of the North: 907 Yukon Drive, UAF Campus, (907) 474-7505, Breathtaking architecture and award-winning exhibits make the museum an extraordinary destination. Experience 2,000 years of Alaska art. Discover fascinating stories about the people, places and wildlife. Open year-round on the UAF campus. www.uaf.edu/museum.

Fairbanks Community Musem: 535 Second Ave., Ste 215, Co-Op Plaza, (907) 457-3669. Come see exhibits on winter in Fairbanks, the flood of 1967, Klondike Gold Rush, early Fairbanks and dog mushing. Hours are 11 a.m.-3pm. Monday-Friday. Admission is free, but donations are appreciated.

Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center: 101 Dunkel St., (907) 459-3700. Enjoy this free center for world-class exhibits celebrating the people, land and culture of Interior Alaska. Experience Alaska Native art, music, stories and dance. Located on the banks of the Chena River in downtown Fairbanks. www.morristhompsoncenter.org.

Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum: 212 Wedgewood Resort, (907) 450-2100. Fairbanks may seem an unlikely place for an auto museum, but this one is worth checking out. Stroll through a remarkable collection of 70 rare and one-of-a-kind antique cars. Other exhibits include vintage clothing, large Alaska historical photos, streaming videos, memorabilia and roadhouse display. www.fountainheadmuseum.com

SPORTS

Hockey Week: Feb. 27-March 6, Big Dipper Ice Arena, 1920 Lathrop St. A Celebration of the fastest sport on ice with events for all ages. Events take place at the Dipper and other places in the Fairbanks area. www.fairbankshockeyhalloffame.com.

Ski Land: 3215 Ski Land Road, (907) 389-2314, If you haven't had enough snowy adventures, enjoy Ski Land's chair lift – the furthest north lift in north America. www.skiland.org

Rural racers

continued from page 30

For teams trying to break into the race, it's a very expensive and time-consuming ordeal. We are always thrilled to see new teams coming from communities around Alaska and from as far away as Newfoundland or Nova Scotia. Given the expense and distance, I believe we will continue to see a pattern of change."

'When you come into the villages, they are really into it. You got 100 fans no matter who you are.'

From Galena, Frankson said he and Cleaver have been putting in a lot of training miles – up to 1,000 by early December – and they are taking advantage of every free minute to ride. But expenses do play into their decision to enter the race every year. On a mid-December morning, Frankson had just flown into Anchorage to find some sled parts and run Iron Dog errands before heading back home. A trip like this, with airfare and all the shopping he has to squeeze in, can top $1,000, easily.

"Some people think we got an advantage because we can run so far up here for training, but that is offset by the cost of everything," he said. "For example, I'm paying $7.85 a gallon for gas. That adds up fast."

Repairs can be compounded financially as well.

"Two weeks ago, I was on a trip to Huslia, 90 miles away," he said. "I smushed an A-arm and had to search and search for a replacement. The mail here can take 10 days, and I had a friend in Anchorage who had flown it up to me in three days. But you have to pay for that. It's not a 'jump in your truck and run to the store thing.' If you don't have a part on hand, you're out of luck."

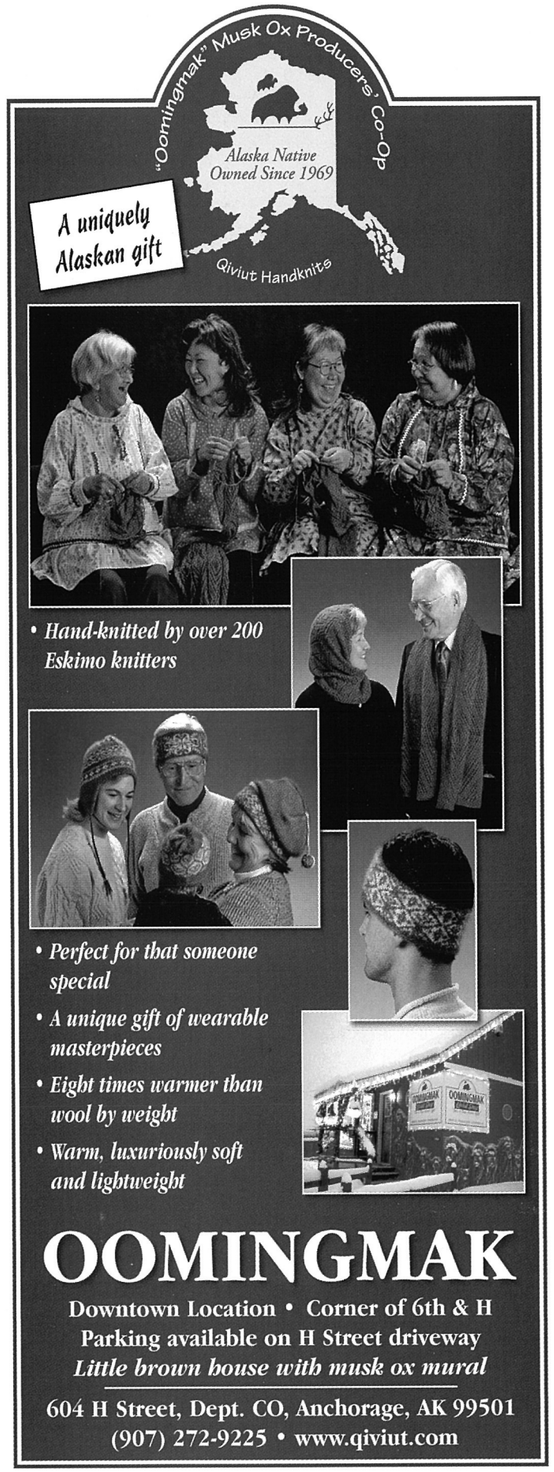
Despite the cost, Frankson said he wouldn't trade his Iron Dog dreams for anything.

He owns a successful business, is married with two daughters and enjoys racing and cross-country treks on his sled. He and Cleaver will be riding on Polaris Switchback PRO-S.

"We're definitely trying to push for top 10," he said. "I am pretty familiar with snowmachines, and feel like I have experience, but do you have luck on your side? You never know. And there are some great riders out there. We're just hoping to go in there and give it a push."

And when he gets to Galena, will he and Cleaver have the home-crowd advantage?

"Nah, I don't think so," he said. "It's a pretty equal playing field. That's the great thing about the Iron Dog – when you come into the villages, they are really into it. You got 100 fans no matter who you are." ◆



RACE COURSE OVERVIEW

Iron Dog's larger Communities and Checkpoints

ANCHORAGE

Downtown Anchorage hosts Iron Dog's ceremonial start while other facilities in the Anchorage area to include Spenard Builder Supply, Cabela's and Williwaw host pre-race 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 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 16 miles to Eagle River 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 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 1998 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 Recreational Riders finish, numerous support efforts and crews, lodging and banquets for Recreational Rider and Pro Racers, and a race restart. Nome is in western Alaska on the coast of the Bering Sea, and the surrounding area is some of the most challenging on the course, due to ice shelves and open-water conditions.

FAIRBANKS

Since 1998, Fairbanks has been the official finish of the race. Fairbanks facilitates the final rallying of Pro Class racers who completed the entire 2,031-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 38 (as of July 2015), is located on mostly flat land in South-central Alaska on the Skwentna River. It is 89 miles from the start.

PUNTILLA, population two (as of 2013), is located on Puntilla Lake near a breathtaking mountain pass. Puntilla is 161 miles from the start.

ROHN, population zero (as of 2012), is located at a small roadhouse where two rivers join, and is 236 miles from the start.

NIKOLAI, population 96 (as of 2013), is 310 miles from the start on the south fork of the Kuskokwim River.

McGRATH, population 354 (as of 2013), located on the Innoko River, is 362 miles from the start.

OPHIR, population zero (as of 2013), is 425 miles from the start located on the Innoko River.

POORMAN, population zero (as of 2013), located in a flatland region and the last checkpoint before Ruby, is 524 miles from the start.

RUBY, population 170 (as of 2013), 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 479 (as of 2013), 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.

KALTAG, population 194 (as of 2013), located along the Yukon River, is 746 miles from the start on the way to Nome and 1,470 miles from the start on the return route to Fairbanks.



2015 Iron Dog winners Eric Quam and Scott Faeo flank Walker Evans as they celebrate their victory. PHOTO COURTESY ORZEL PHOTO

FAIRBANKS FINALE

After the racing is done, let the celebrations begin

BRINGING THE IRON DOG FINISH to Fairbanks was as monumental a race move back in 1998 as adding the Anchorage start to the race was in 2015. Both decisions allowed better access to the race and racers, and improved overall spectator participation across the state. By having the start and finish in the state's two largest cities, it is bringing Iron Dog to the masses.

This year will be no different, as racers are expected to start showing up in Fairbanks sometime on Saturday, Feb. 27.

"It is always a good time in Fairbanks watching racers come in off the (Chena) River," said Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner. "It was a good move making the finish end there, in Alaska's second largest city."

Indeed having the finish in Fairbanks affords fans one last opportunity to watch the racers – albeit they are a little more haggard, a little less chipper yet in celebratory mode after their long race is over. The route veers south of Fairbanks through the Fort Wainwright Recreational Area toward North Pole, Alaska and Chena River Lakes Flood Control Project. Racers drive north through the Flood Project and onto the Chena River heading back toward downtown Fairbanks. Although festivities are on a smaller scale than the Anchorage send-off, now is the time that the racers can finally relax and enjoy the fact that they have survived the coined "longest, toughest snowmobile race in the world."

As has been the case with the previous few years, spectators and family members wishing to usher racers across the finish line can expect a fun time. The National Guard is out in full force, showing their support for the race, and the city of Fairbanks rolls out the "what-to-do" list for those who want to stay a few days and see a side of the city that the summer tourists never get to enjoy.

"The excitement that Iron Dog brings to Fairbanks is visible in the community," said Angie Cerny, with Explore Fairbanks. "The Tired Iron coincides with the Iron Dog finish on the Chena River, and it's a local favorite. The Tired Iron features races for older-model or vintage snowmachines and includes other family-friendly fun. Events vary from races titled "The Jurassic Classic" or "The Wet Iron," to activities like moose-nugget bowling and putt-putt golf on ice."

Kastner said it takes a large village of volunteers and cooperating sponsors to help pull off the Fairbanks finish – at a time when those who have been working tirelessly from the start are beginning to fade. Crowley Fuels is a consistent Iron Dog sponsor, and Monster Energy Drinks will be at the Fairbanks finish line with the Toyota Tacoma raffle truck.

Between watching the racers come in, there are plenty of other things to check out in Fairbanks. February is one of the best months for viewing ice sculptures, which talented artists from across the world come to Fairbanks to create. Cerny said it is one of the city's most popular wintertime activities – along with dog mushing, aurora watching and, of course, snowmachining.

"Visitors might see ice art in front of local businesses around town," Cerny said. "If they extend their stay by a few days they can catch the opening ceremonies of the World Ice Art Championships (Feb. 29-March 27), where more than 70 teams of ice artists from around the world create over 180 sculptures and a kids park made entirely of ice.

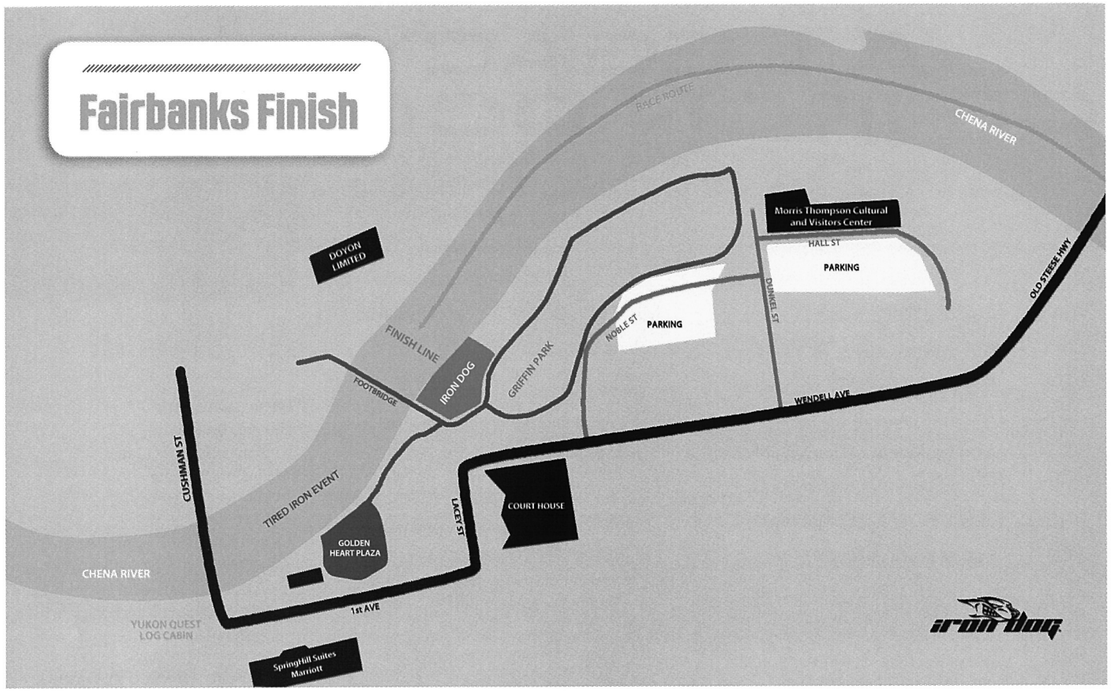
"Or stay out late a few nights while you're in town and look up to the night sky," she added. "The northern lights make regular appearances over Fairbanks during this time of year."

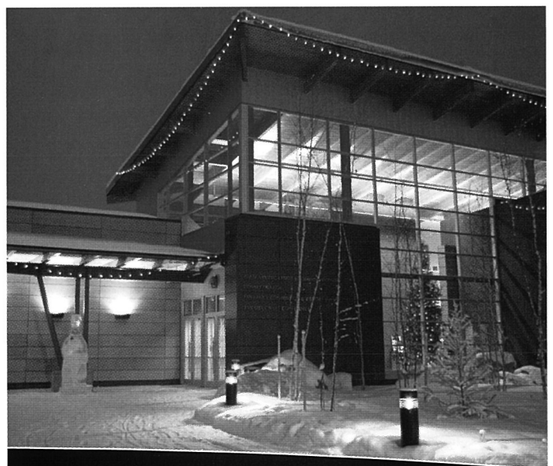
For those staying for the awards reception, the fun begins just after most of the remaining racers have arrived. The reception will celebrate the racers' efforts, give awards to finishers and, of course, reveal the lucky raffle winners. The reception will be held at the official Iron Dog hotel, Westmark Hotel, at 813 Noble St., in Fairbanks. ◆

FAIRBANKS FINISH EVENTS

SATURDAY, FEB. 27

10 a.m.	Kick off with sponsors, vendors and activities in downtown Fairbanks.
11:30 a.m.	Announcements and preparing for the first-place 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.
6 p.m.	Meet and Greet and cocktails at the Westmark Gold Room Ballroom.
7-9 p.m.	Awards Ceremonies
10 p.m.	After-party at the Westmark





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UNALAKLEET, population 712 (as of 2013), 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 260 (as of 2013), 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 344 (as of 2013), 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 197 (as of 2013), 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 251 (as of 2013), located on the Yukon River, is 1,740 miles from the start.

MANLEY HOT SPRINGS, population 89 (as of 2010), is 1,812 miles from the start.

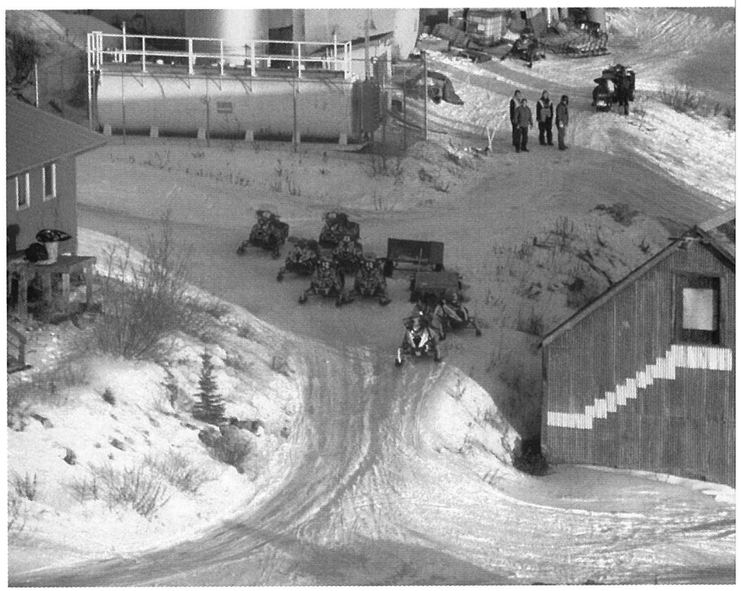
NENANA, population 386 (as of 2013), located on Mile 305 of the George Parks Highway, is 1,917 miles from the start.

NORTH POLE, population 2,214 (as of 2013), is located on the Richardson Highway, just south of Fairbanks. North Pole was added to the racecourse to facilitate a new finish location in Fairbanks, and increased the course distance.

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



Racers near Unalakleet skated over sheer ice during the 2015 race.



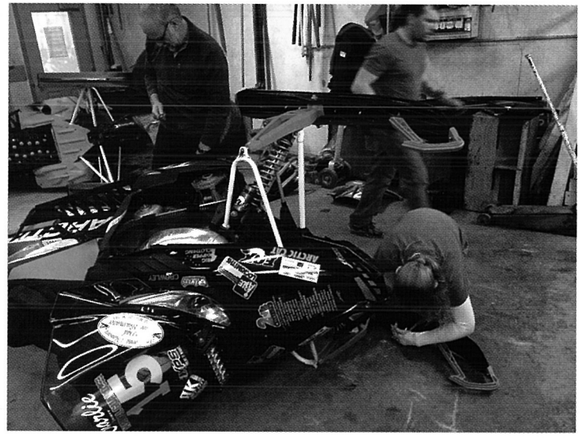
Sleds converge in White Mountain during the 2015 Iron Dog.



Young fans in McGrath cheer on 2015 Iron Dog racers.



Every minute counts when racers wrench sleds in Nome



PHOTOS BY SARAH MILLER

THE RACE IN

ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS the Iron Dog race is a made up of pairs is to ensure racers' safety. For 2,000 some miles, these two racers have each other's backs. If something goes wrong, they can help each other out. If there is an injury, they can seek help for the other. In between checkpoints they are essentially on their own.

But that all changes once the racers reach Nome, where they can rest their bodies and recharge their machines. There, racers are allowed a short window in which to inspect their snowmachines, schedule maintenance and even have the help of up to two approved assistants during their brief shop visit. This all happens in the Nome garage, and it is a place of unprecedented activity during the days leading up to the halfway restart.

"There will be tools and parts scattered all over the place," said race marshal Lee Davis. "It's in a garage that's not very heated, and these guys are sweating they are going so fast. I've seen guys change two tracks in an hour, and that's pretty impressive."

The Nome garage is indeed a great place to watch the race continue – because the clock does not stop ticking. Once racers arrive in Nome, they get their sleds inside, let them thaw out and take a breather.

"We pack them in the garage and usually the guys wait and let the sleds dry off a little so they can see inside," Davis said. "Then we give them 15 minutes off the clock to inspect their machines – they can look at the engines and the suspension, all off the clock."

After the brief inspection, racers then strategize, getting the parts they need and coming back later for their timed and scheduled work. This is when the nail biting can begin, Davis said, because they are timed down to the second. A team that arrived five minutes ahead of another to Nome, for example, can lose that lead-time if they spend that many more minutes than their competitor working on their sleds. All of a sudden the lead team is behind by a minute, all because they changed a part out slower than the other racer or had larger mechanical issues with which to contend.

"It's pretty exciting," said Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner. "You can be on top one year, and then one year a mechanical problem can make you drop like that. It's all part of the race."

Spectators can watch the action from a cor-

A LEGACY OF IRON DOG CHAMPIONS

YEAR	CHAMPIONS	MACHINE BRAND	TRAIL TIME
2015	Scott Faeo & Eric Quam	Polaris	41:46:52
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	—
1988	John Faeo & Dan Zipay	Polaris	72:21
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



Did you know?

WINS BY BRAND:
15 Wins on Polaris
10 Wins on Arctic Cat
3 Wins on Yamaha
3 Wins on Ski-Doo

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

JOHN FAEO AND SCOTT DAVIS are tied for the most wins with seven each and they never once rode together.

TODAY'S RECORD TIME is 35:39:56 set by Marc McKenna and Dusty VanMeter in 2012 on their Ski-Doos.

MCKENNA AND VANMETER'S record time was set on the 2,031-mile course, but their time somehow topped leading times for the previous 1,971-mile and 2,000-mile courses.

COMPARED TO THE FIRST Iron Dog at 1,049 miles and a winning time of 23:50, McKenna and VanMeter's 2012 race was nearly double the length, yet only took 1.5 times longer to complete. They averaged 60 mph for the duration.

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

FOR THOSE who are more accustomed to living and traveling in the Lower 48, the Iron Dog course if roughly the distance from New York City to Phoenix, Miami to Denver or Seattle to Chicago.

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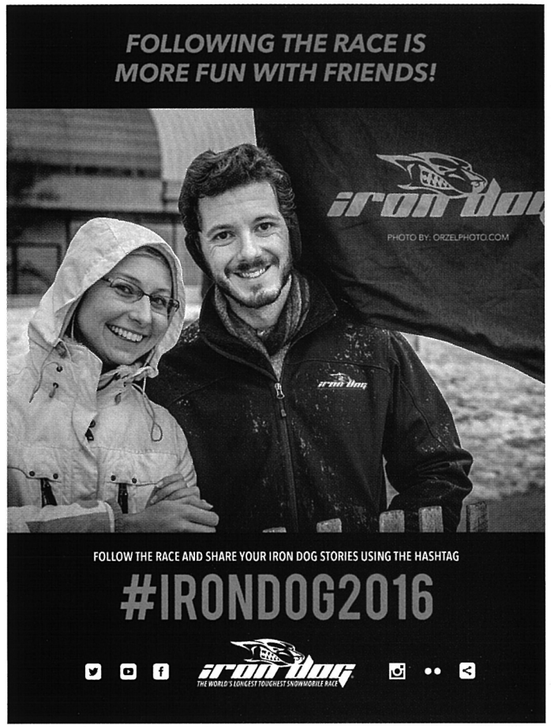

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doned-off section of the garage; the speed with which racers and their approved assistants do their work is akin to the pit stops of NASCAR racing, Davis said.

"We get a pretty good crowd in there to watch the teams," Davis said. "Usually we have as many as three teams working at one time, and if it's something major that has to be repaired, people like to watch."

While the garage work is chaotic and constant, back on the trail the racers are again on their own. Still, Davis said, it is the Iron Dog way to render assistance if needed. In fact, it's in the rules. No racer is expected to leave another stranded racer in harm's way if they need help, and to this day, Davis is yet to see unsportsmanlike behavior.

"If you found somebody in distress, you are required to render aid," Davis said. "That does count against your own time, but we've taken course time off teams who have helped. We've even done it for racers helping civilians too, if they come upon a local whose machine might be broken.

"A lot of these guys will do it because they know they might need help down the trail." ◆

Students lead the charge

Look for live feeds from in the Nome Garage, Fairbanks and beyond



THE GARAGE

'It's new for the kids to be on-site in Nome this year and we think it's going to be a real success.'

AN EXPERIMENT TO INCLUDE TEENAGERS as documentarians during the 2015 Iron Dog proved so successful that it is being enhanced this year with even more coverage than before. Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner said that students from South Anchorage High School's media team were invited last year to cover the race remotely, with a camera that he set up in Nome, as well as offer some local coverage in Anchorage.

"We had a live webcam, and this year the South Anchorage High School media team will go to Nome, with a multi-camera program on the ground, moving around," Kastner said. "A lot of that will be focused on the work in the garage."

Lee Butterfield is South Anchorage High School's electronic media teacher and is working with the team that was selected for this year's trip to Nome.

"Students are brought into the class based on their dedication to hard work and their passion for electronic modes of artistic and informative communication," he said. "For the Nome feed in particular, this year's team was chosen based on interest, dedication and a strong-enough standing in their other responsibilities for their parents to approve the weeklong trip."

Kastner said the partnership has been mutually beneficial by introducing a younger generation to the sport, having the newest information technology brought to the race, and helping students learn about the media business in a real-life setting.

"It's new for the kids to be on-site in Nome this year and we think it's going to be a real success," he said.

Butterfield said the chance to work on a real event makes his class much more engaging for the students, too.

continued on next page

Students lead the charge

continued from previous page



"Based solely on the success of last year's work with the race, we were able to develop an entire class dedicated to live events and sports broadcasting," he said.

Long before the group of students will hit the ground in Nome, they have been preparing for this year's race with live feeds that they have recorded from pre-race events such as the Rookie Workshop in early December, to weekly video blogs that give the the history of racers, volunteers and sponsors – all of which are posted on the team's YouTube channel (visit it at Iron Vlog or subscribe at www.irondog.org/about/irondog-blog/).

"Students are currently developing the graphics package for the banquet, planning the live feeds of the Flying Iron events, the banquet, the Nome garage, and the awards in Fairbanks," Butterfield said. "During the Nome feed, students will assemble our full studio, manage the film and audio feeds into the live stream, manage the streams themselves to ensure proper archiving, promote the event via social media, troubleshoot equipment and stream problems, and maintain a level of professionalism while in a high stress environment."

It's a tall order, Butterfield acknowledged, but one he is confident his students will master.

"The partnership with Iron Dog has already accomplished more than we could have ever dreamed for these students," Butterfield said. "This program was designed and built to give students real-world experiences in high-stress and high-demand environments. They get critical and constructive feedback from the director of the Iron Dog … and utilize that feedback to adjust their work to create better products by viewing the Iron Dog as a customer.

"They get better each time and they leave the course with more experience than many students leaving broadcast or film school at the college level." ◆



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continued from previous page

CITY SAMPLER

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, house-style fettuccini, live music and football all day Sunday. 610 W. Sixth Ave.; 907-276-2337.

Williwaw, Humpy's newest addition to its family of awesome eateries, is just next door and serves finer foods in a beautifully remodeled downtown building. 609 F St.; (907) 868-2000.

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.

Red Robin Alaska has bottomless baskets of fries, mean burgers and a sporty-casual atmosphere; 4450 Cordova St., Suite 100; 907-561-5555.

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.

Hard Rock Café's famous rock-themed chain restaurant from the Lower 48 has made it to Alaska. 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 is permitted on sections of the trail. The pathway starts on Second Avenue and ends in Kincaid Park.

The Anchorage Light Speed Planet Walk is an educational center about the solar system for residents and visitors. 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.

Alaska Railroad provides passenger service from Anchorage to as far as Fairbanks to the north and Seward to the south. Ride the rails within a stone's throw of glaciers, along the coast, across deep gulches and even past Denali, North America's tallest peak. The Railroad is key to many an adventurer's travel, as a way to get into the backcountry. The Railroad also is a key sponsor and supporter of the race. The main office is not far from the Iron Dog start – 411 W. First Ave.; 907-265-2494.

MUSEUMS AND THEATERS

The Alaska Veterans Museum is Iron Dog's 2016 recipient of support. Race organizers voted on this worthy museum to receive up to 50 percent of its raffle winnings so it can keep its work going. The museum is at 333 W. Fourth Ave., Suite 227; (907) 677-8802

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.

The Imaginarium Science Discovery Center offers hands on exploration for all ages. It's at 625 C St., (907) 929-9200.

Anchorage Museum of History has a permanent collection with thousands of years of Alaska[1]'s history. Open on Wednesdays through Sundays. 121 W Seventh Ave.; 907-343-6163.

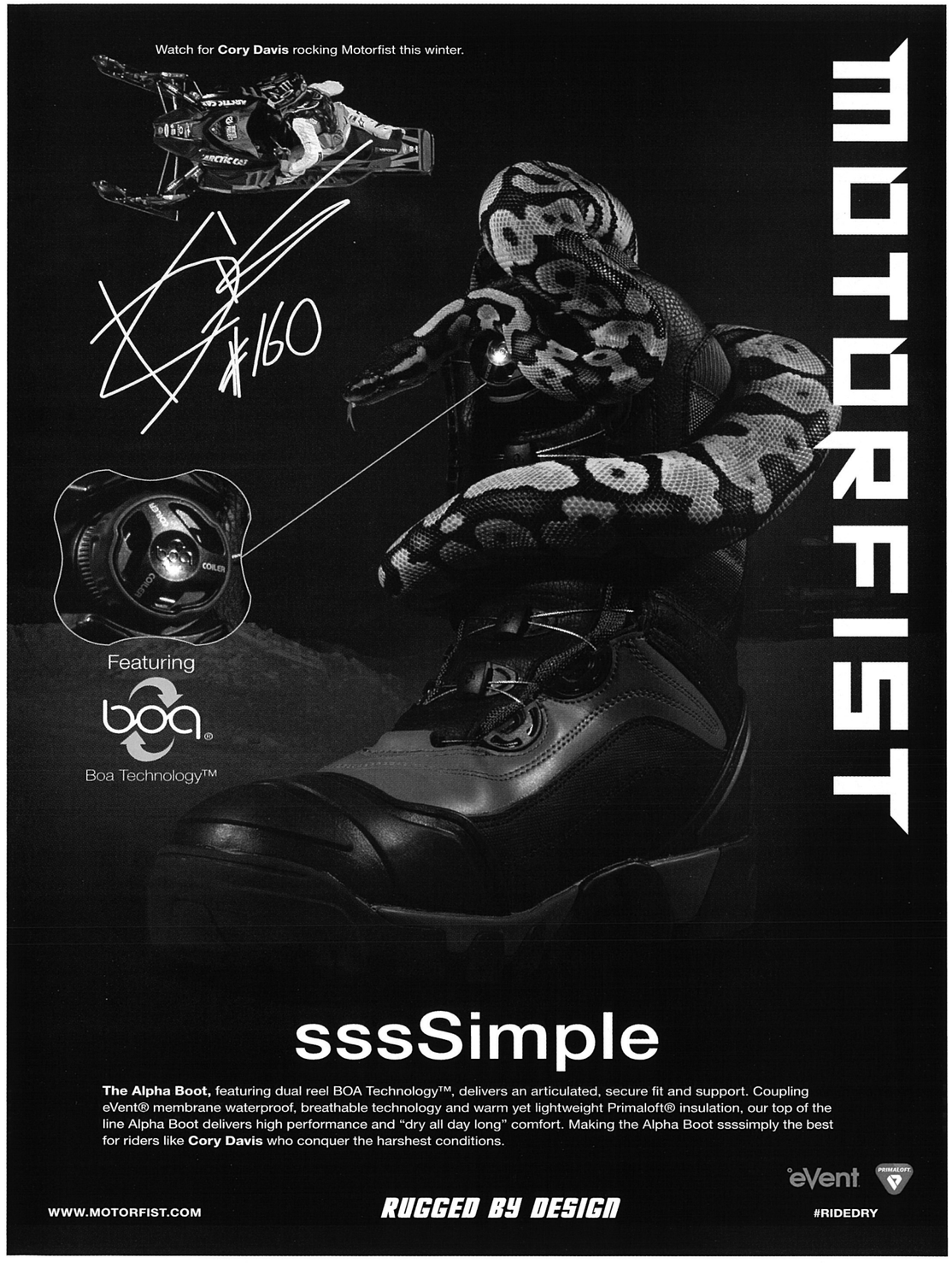
Aurora Fine Art Gallery features more than 400 artists and original works. Offers international and national shipping. 737 W Fifth Ave.; 907-274-0234.

Artic Rose Galleries offers Native and Russian art, glass, pottery and more. 420 L St. Ste. 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. ◆

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Out on the Town: Anchorage

continued from page 46

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 small shops stay open late, featuring a new artist solo or group show. It's a great way to see Anchorage, socialize and enjoy an array of 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, visit: www.anchorageconcerts.org.

The Anchorage Museum at Rasmuson Center 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.

SPORTS

Ten days of parading, community games, carnival and an abundance of festive fun kicks off on Feb. 26 with **Fur Rondy**: www.furrondy.net. **The Iditarod** sled dogs and mushers depart Anchorage on March 5 for their 1,000-mile journey and continue racing through the next nine days or more. Visit www.Iditarod.com for trail and race updates. **The Tour of Anchorage**, Alaska's premier ski marathon, runs Sunday, March 6. For details visit: www.tourofanchorage.com.

In the evenings, hockey fans won't have a chance to see Alaska's professional sports franchise — the **Alaska Aces** — play. Their games are away during Iron Dog week. However, you can still get your hockey fix with exciting matches against the **University of Alaska Anchorage Seawolves** hockey team, as they take on take on Lake Superior State on Feb. 19 and 20 at the Sullivan Arena, and Minnesota State on Feb. 26 and 27, also in the Sullivan Arena.

For boxing enthusiasts, **Thursday 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 monthly events calendar.

Continued on page 50

Good Luck to Alaska Spine Institute Sponsored Racers

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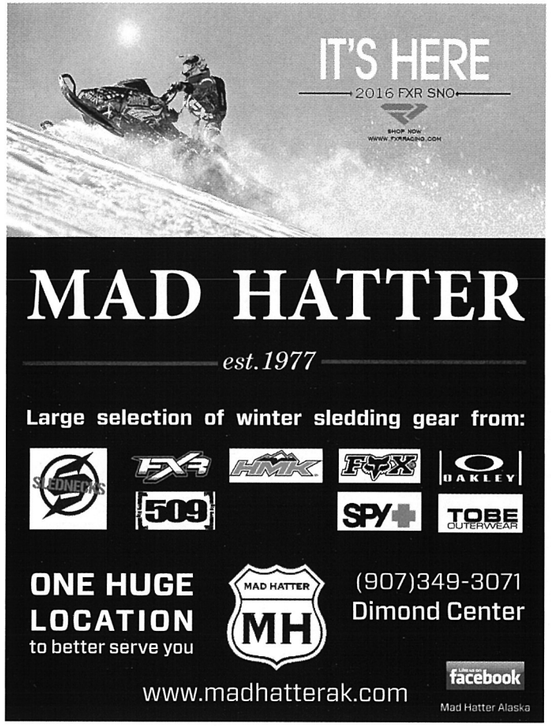
TEAM 17
Gueco & VanMeter

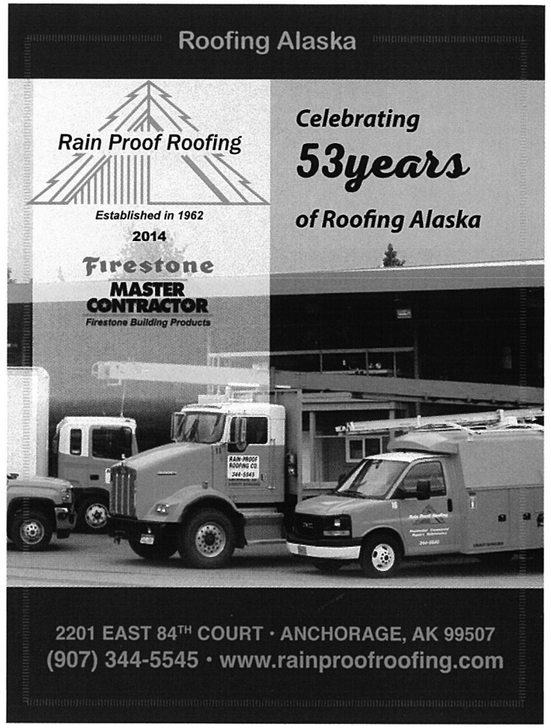
TEAM 29
Levine & Alward

TEAM 20
Faeo & McKenna

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alaska spine institute











Team 20, Eric Quam and Scott Faeo, celebrate their victory at the Fairbanks finish line, decorated in Alaska Army National Guard signs.
ORZELPHOTO.COM

IRON DOG AND NATIONAL GUARD: A WINNING TEAM

Volunteers and sponsors help make a successful race

WHEN THE DRIVERS pull their snowmachines to the start line at this year's Iron Dog, they are about to embark upon the race of their lives. Travelling at blistering-fast speeds into some of the most unforgiving land in Alaska, they are betting on success – that their sled stay intact, their bodies endure the beating they take and their long hours of training has paid off and will carry them to the finish. Forget how high you place in this race – just completing it is an accomplishment of which to be proud.

This scenario is much the same for the Alaska National Guard, Iron Dog's primary sponsor. The Guard is a place where individuals challenge themselves to be their best, to test their limits and to accomplish goals that might seem inconceivable at first glance. Seeing that parallel, the Guard embraces the chance to help Iron Dog athletes race in such a challenging event – and Iron Dog embraces the support without which the race would not exist.

"Iron Dog is a great match for the Alaska National Guard because the competitors face unique challenges in harsh, remote, rugged terrain," said Lt. Col. Eric Barlow, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard recruiting and retention battalion. "Alaska Guardsmen train to face challenges under the same brutal conditions, and we are a permanent part of the communities that embrace and support Iron Dog.

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.

'Alaska Guardsmen train to face challenges under the same brutal conditions.'

"One of the reasons the Guard is here is to reconnect with the rural communities," said Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner. "The relationship we have with the National Guard is designed to help them get their name out to potential Guard members across the state."

The Guard also provides cash support – in fact it is the largest financial donor of Iron Dog, Kastner said. That support strongly complements Iron Dog's ability to promote the events while the vast number of in-kind supporters makes the race logistically possible. And it's a

Iron Dog and National Guard

continued from previous page

process that is months in the making.

"We're doing school events around the Iron Dog and it gives National Guard a chance to get their name out," Kastner said. For instance, the Guard will typically work with Donlin Gold and Iron Dog to visit schools and do a presentation on preparing for the future. One such event, held at King Career Center in Anchorage, has always been popular.

"Donlin might talk about their employment options, like being a welder or plumber or pipefitter," Kastner said. "And then the National Guard will say, 'We can teach you to do all of this,' because they can. And then we will bring in an Iron Dog racer who will talk about how they are able to race and also have a job like this. It's a door-opener for the National Guard and a way for students to see that they can have this life too."

Similar programs have been held in Barrow, Bethel, Unalakleet and Galena, he added, giving the Guard a presence in communities across the state.

"It is a great opportunity to spend time with young Alaskans and discuss job opportunities in the Alaska Army National Guard, in addition to sharing Army values, such as 'duty, respect and personal courage' with them," Barlow said. "It's important for young adults to know the variety of career options they can choose from, and that the Army National Guard could be a great fit for them."

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.

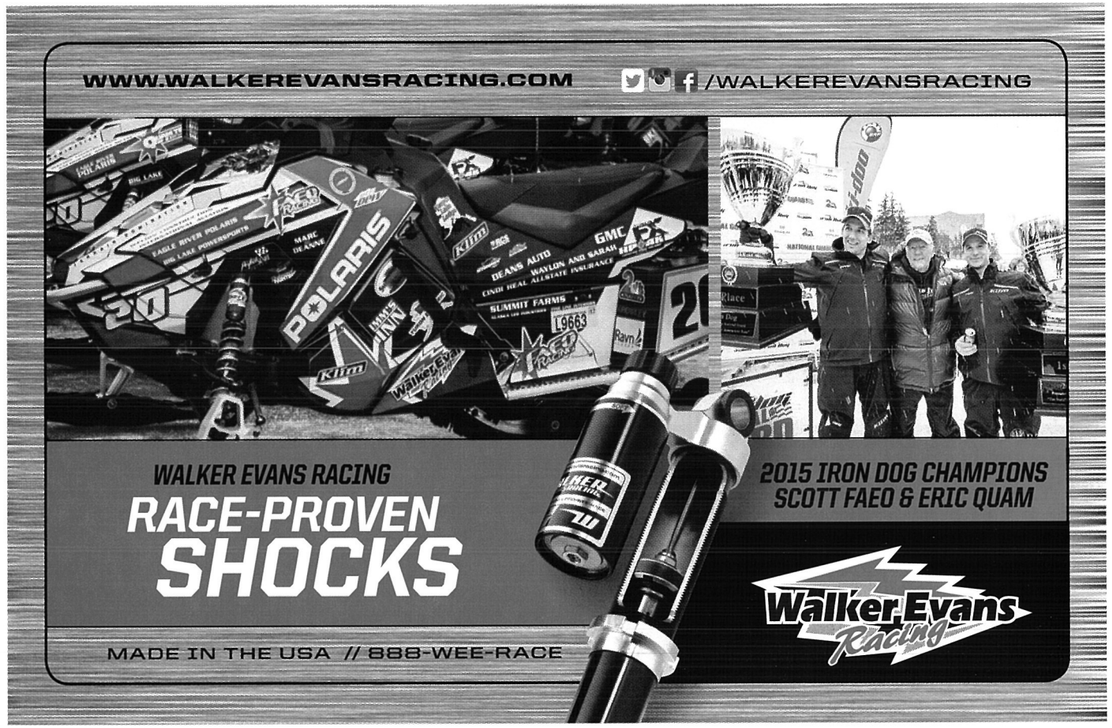
The consistency of the Guard partnership continues to strengthen and improve the chance of success for both organizations.

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, Lynden and many others."

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

"There's no doubt that Iron Dog relies heavily on its sponsors and volunteers," he added. "The race entries barely cover the basics of providing fuel, travel and supplies for the actual race. All of the major events, promotions and activities are successful because Iron Dog has assembled the very best of Alaska's logistics sponsors, amazing financial support from a wide array of businesses local and international and the absolute finest volunteer community from more than 25 communities in state and Outside." ◆







OUT ON THE TOWN

Enjoy Anchorage's city life with these dining and entertainment options

WITH COMING EVENTS like Fur Rendezvous and Iditarod, not only does Iron Dog kick off three full weekends of fun, it also gives visitors a chance to experience an insider-Alaskan's perception of Anchorage – the side of the city that we live year-round and not the hanging-basket extravaganza that is Anchorage during the summer tourist season.

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.

"From getting a birds-eye-view of the city and snow-covered mountains and glaciers on a flightseeing trip to learning about the state's rich history and Alaska Native Culture at one of our museums, the fun never ends in Anchorage," said Julie Saupe, Visit Anchorage executive director and CEO. "It's no wonder that livability.com designated Anchorage as the No. 1 Winter City in America."

As for activity, there never seems to be a dull moment. This might include something as simple as visiting the Anchorage Museum or Alaska Native Heritage Center, or perhaps taking a flightseeing excursion or going for a ski at a nearby resort.

"Experience the serenity of our pristine nature on a snowshoe or Nordic ski adventure, or get an adrenaline rush on the slopes of Mount Alyeska, which is the training ground for numerous Olympians," Saupe added. "Ask for a Northern Lights Wake-up Call to see colorful ribbons of light dance across the sky when they're out, if they weren't out before you retired for the night."

And don't forget the food, either. There's fine dining, casual dining and even food-from-a-truck dining for those who just want to eat on the run because there are so many other exciting things to do – such as enjoy the nightlife.

"And nightlife?," Saupe said. "Winter is the season when world-class artists and award-winning performances fill the marquee at Anchorage venues. We invite you to discover for yourself why winter is many Alaskans' favorite time of year."

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 at 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 situated on the corner of the Alaska Center for the Performing Arts at Sixth Avenue and C Street; 907-344-6510.

STEAMDOT COFFEE at Williwaw (which, incidentally is a proud Iron Dog sponsor) is convenient and tasty. It's at 609 F St.; (907) 868-2000

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.

CAFÉ D'ARTE at the Fur Rondy Shop, 400 D St., Suit 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**. 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.

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HATCHER PASS POLARIS



2 LOCATIONS TO SERVE YOU

WILLOW
Mile 66 Parks Hwy
Willow, AK 99688
Phone: (907) 495-4639
Toll Free:(866) 495-4639
FAX: (907) 495-5010

PALMER
5953 E Blue Lupine Dr.
Palmer, AK 6665
Phone: (907) 373-4639
Toll Free: (877) 409-4639
FAX: (907) 373-4647

GOOD LUCK IRON DOG RACERS

HP AK
HATCHER PASS POLARIS
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WWW.HATCHERPASSPOLARIS.COM

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RESPECT
SELFLESS SERVICE
HONOR
INTEGRITY
PERSONAL COURAGE



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The GUARD Values are our foundation and our core. They define who we are and what we stand for.

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