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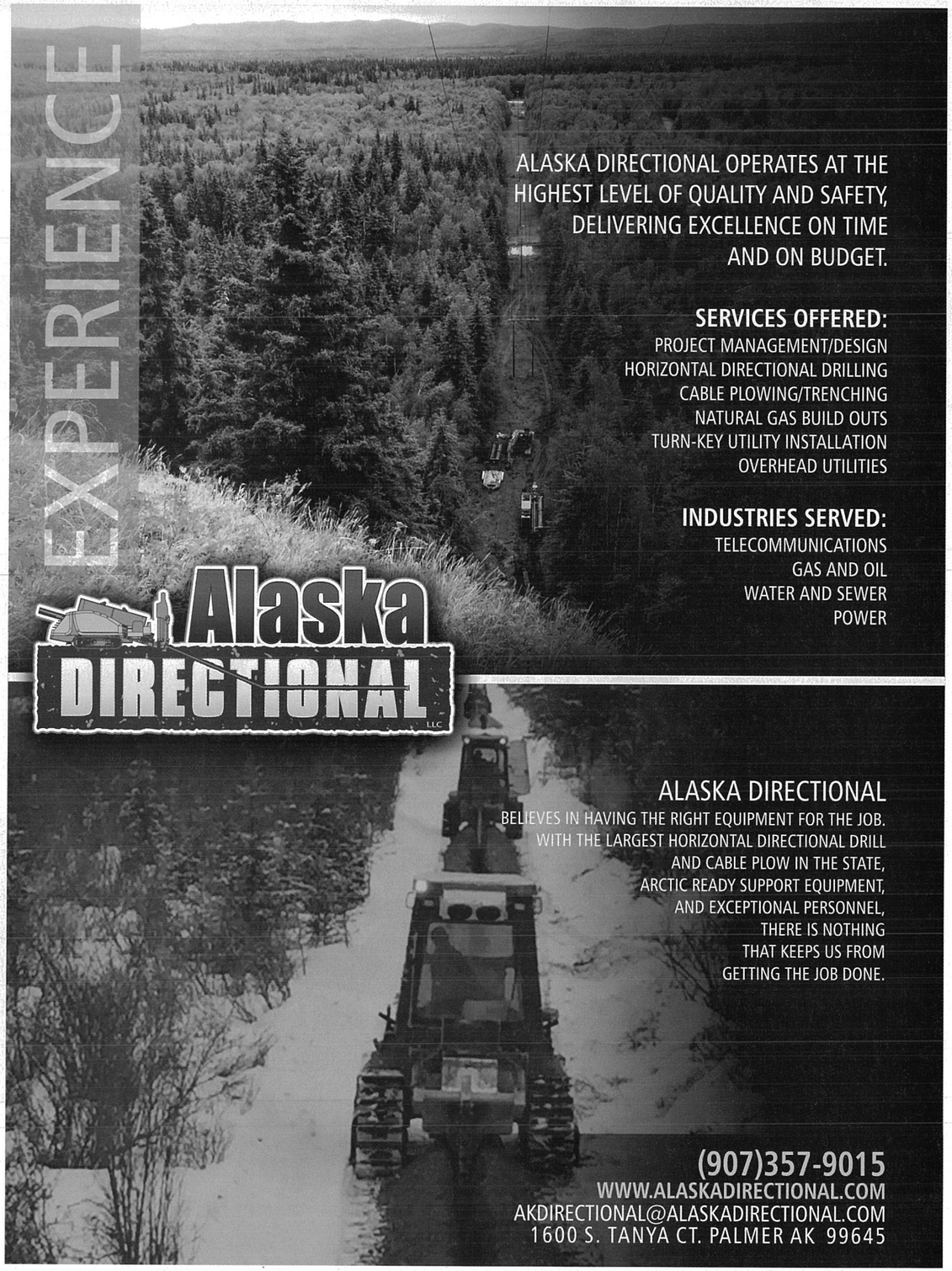
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DIETRICH NIKOLAI

AGE: 32 / **FROM**: McGrath

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

BIO: I am Alaska born and raised. I live in McGrath with my wife, Renae, and three beautiful kids, Kierra, Jacob and Alyzabeth. I enjoy hunting fishing and trapping on my time off from working for Doyon Drilling. I'd like to thank all my personal sponsors and volunteers that made this possible.

Personal Sponsors: Renae, Kierra, Jacob, Alyzabeth Egrass, Gary and Rosalie Egrass, Lucky Egrass, Lucy Miller, Tommy Toguchi, Daryl Petruska, Jimmy Gee, Dan Thibault, Bobby Frankson, Arthur Laraux, Ricky Castro, Nick Reader, Frank Carlo, the communities of Nikolai, McGrath and Takotna.

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POLARIS

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KLINTON VANWINGERDEN

AGE: 36 / **FROM**: Big Lake

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING**: Polaris Pro-S

RACE HISTORY: 2015-16: 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. 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 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

RACING EXPERIENCE: Larry Heal Memorial, second place

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: 33 / **FROM**: Big Lake

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

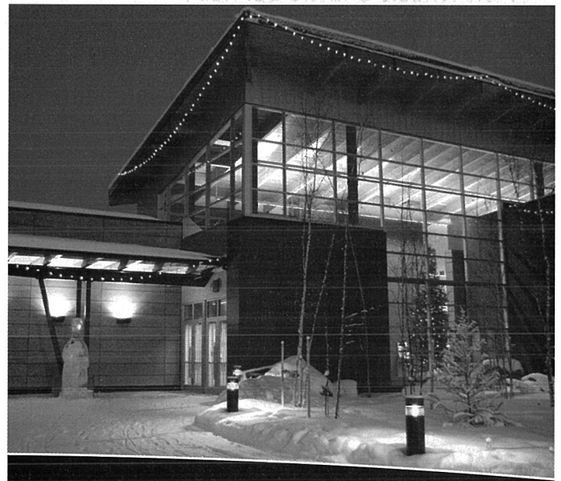
RACE HISTORY: 2015-16: Finished

BIO: Kris is a lifelong Alaskan married to his beautiful wife, Heather, and their daughters, Tesa Monroe and Josie Oakley are his delight. Racing has been a part of the VanWingerden Bros. and family 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, Mark VanWingerden , HLV Massage, Bettye's Bake Sale, Wilson from Nome '16, Skwentna Lodge '16, Esmailka's from Kaltag '16, Vern from Ruby '16, family and friends for their continued prayers and support.



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ARCTIC CAT

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CORY DAVIS

AGE: 28 / **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-times 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: 34 / **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 also have a beautiful fiancé, Paula Gramlich, and a brand new baby son, Blair. I've raced all over North America in all different kinds of snowmachine events since about 2001.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2014 X Games Hill X Gold medal, 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

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SKI-DOO

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RURIK LINDNER

AGE: 39 / **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: 33 / **FROM**: Two Rivers

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

RACE HISTORY: 2016: DNF

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, 3 years old; and Rylan, 5 years old. We enjoy boating, hunting, fishing and spending time with friends and family in the outdoors. I have been snowmachining and snowboarding in the backcountry of Alaska with friends for many years, and hope my boys will follow in my tracks. I have worked as a journeyman carpenter out of the Fairbanks local 1243 for 12 years and am a superintendent for Johnson River Enterprises.

Personal Sponsors: My wife, Christina Swenson, and my two boys Rylan and Brendan for putting up with all the time spent in the shop and away on training runs, my always supportive mom (Kathy), my dad (Rick) and stepmom (Kelly), my teammate RT and his wife, Teresa, Sonny Lindner, Jay and Ginger Delima in Ruby for their hospitality, Jerry and Aggie Miller in Nome, and to everyone who offers their support along the trail and volunteers for the Iron Dog on all levels.

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ARCTIC CAT

*Sponsor: **Team Arctic Racing**, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Motorfist, Mountain View Trucking, Security Mini Storage, Nowka Cabinets, Mr. Lube, Valley Country Stores, AK Bedliners, Stan George, Tattoos by Krystal, Bushwhacker Unlimited, Fine Line Interiors, The Athletic Supply Jacket Express, John Eicher, Tattoos by Stephanie*



COREY BERG

AGE: 27 / **FROM**: Wasilla

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

RACE HISTORY: 2016: Finished

BIO: I was born and raised in Wasilla. I grew up around the family-owned and operated Wasilla Arctic Cat dealership. I'm an avid hunter and fisher and adrenaline seeker, I'd say. When I'm away from my hobbies, I'm working on the North Slope for Fairweather as a rig move coordinator. Excited to be back for my second year racing the Iron Dog. I'm racing In memory of my dad, Mike Berg. Many knew him as Big Mike of the Valley.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2009: Arctic Man Semi Pro Hill Cross, first place; 2009: Alyeska Hill Cross, first place;

2010: Snowcross Semi Pro Anchorage, first place; 2016 Iron Dog, 18th place.

Personal Sponsors: Wasilla Arctic Cat, Factory Arctic Cat, Motorfist, Mountain View Trucking, Security Mini Storage, Trail Tanks, Boiler Man, Beagle Jarvis, B Original Signs, Tattoos by Krystal, Dan Berg, Broc Genta, Jim Agre, Three Rivers Fly and Tackle, JJ's Bottling, Fairweather, mother Karen Berg and sister Kristina Berg, Tyrone Brown, Sat Swett, Andy George, John Eicher, Micah Huss, Ryan Armstrong, Derek Bush, Doug Dixon, Stan George, Bill Nerup, and all family and friends who made this race possible for us.



LUKE GEORGE

AGE: 25 / **FROM**: Wasilla

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Arctic Cat Zr 6000 rxc

BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan and avid outdoorsman. I enjoy snowmachining, four-wheeling, fishing and driving boats in my free time. I work as a floor foreman/lead at Nowka Cabinet Company in Anchorage.

Personal Sponsors: Gary Kaus, Hans and Anette Nowka, Mom and Dad, Dan Berg, the entire Berg family, Dom and Cassi Nickles, Andy and Stephanie George, Anthony Podolinsky, McKayla Crump, John Eicher, Lone Pine Fabrication, John and Brenda Carr, Glenn and Carolyn Helmuth, and all of my friends and family who helped me get to this point.

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POLARIS

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BARNEY ANSELMENT

AGE: 41 / **FROM**: Takotna

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

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

Personal Sponsors: My Wife Misty and our kids Sabrina, Alana, Kaden and Kainoa

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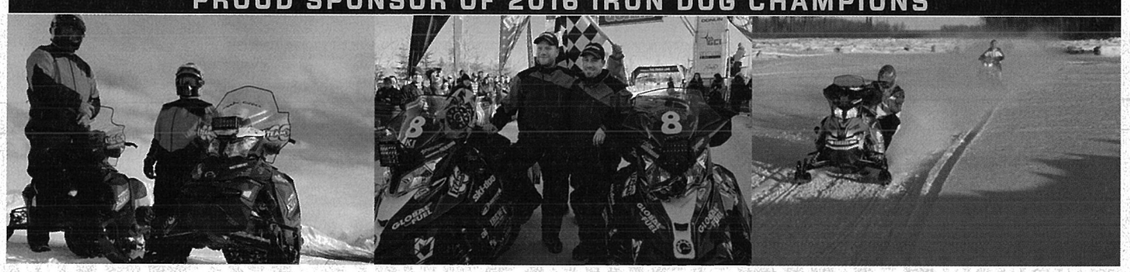
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RYAN FOLSOM

AGE: 35 / **FROM**: Fairbanks
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING**: Polaris Switchback PRO-S
RACE HISTORY: 2014-16: 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 16 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, Todd & Marie Cosgriff, Ron Zugg, Stan Hendrickson, Vern & Ashley Sommer, and Bill & Jane Martz, Tim McKay, Ben Boswood

37 SKI-DOO
*Sponsors: **Alaska Foot & Ankle Specialists***



MATT HEILALA

AGE: 46 / **FROM**: Soldotna
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
BIO: Matt Heilala is Alaskan, "born and raised." He grew up on the Kenai Peninsula and graduated from Soldotna High School. Initially a commercial fisherman, he is now the founding partner of the Alaska Foot and Ankle Specialists. Thanks to his family and friends for the playful encouragement in enjoying all that Alaska has to offer not the least of which the Iron Dog adventure.
RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog Trail Class, 2013-14: Finished, and 2016: Finished.
Personal Sponsors: Klim, Grip N Rip, Stud Boy, Fly, Team CC, HP Polaris, Hygear Suspension



STAN JAMES

AGE: 40 / **FROM**: Palmer
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
RACE HISTORY: None
BIO: I was born in Alaska and lived here most of my life. I enjoy hunting, snowmachine riding and hanging out with friends and family. I'm married to my beautiful wife, Pamela, and we have four daughters: Olivia, Kaydynce, Jadrian and Aurora. Running the Iron Dog has always been a dream for me and a lot of people have helped get me here.
RACING EXPERIENCE: I raced John McCormick across Big Lake once and beat him. I came in second right behind Eric.
Personal Sponsors: Klim, Stud Boy, CC Ski Doo, HP Polaris, Grip N Rip, Hygear Suspension, Fly, Valley Imaging Center, and a big thanks to my wife and family, Matt and Stacey, and the great sponsors I have.

IRON DOG FACTS

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39 SKI-DOO
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CHAD DOW

AGE: 32 / **FROM**: Fairfield, Maine
STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo X-RS
RACE HISTORY: 2014: Finished
BIO: I was born and raised in Maine. I like working and playing in the outdoors. I have been a racer since 2001 and I also raced stock cars for 12 years. I love working in my fabrication shop where we manufacture all aluminum trailers.
RACING EXPERIENCE: Multiple wins and Top 3s throughout New England in Canada in Snow X and cross country racing. 2014 Iron Dog eighth place finish.
Personal Sponsors: Nitro Trailers



SHANE GRINDLE

AGE: 28 / **FROM**: Belfast, Maine
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo MXZ XRS
BIO: I was born and raised in Belfast, Maine, and enjoy hunting, truck pulling and stock car racing. I am very dedicated, and work for Sprague Energy as a terminal operator.
RACING EXPERIENCE: First place, USCC East 2014 and 2015, second place, RMRXC 2016.
Personal Sponsors: My friends and family

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. As Chris Olds is known for saying, "a slow ride beats a fast walk every time."



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ARCTIC CAT

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KYLE CONNER

AGE: 26 / **FROM**: Wasilla and Willow

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

RACE HISTORY: 2014-16: 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 Iron Dog with 13th-place finishes, and a 10th-place finish in the 2016 race. He's raced Arctic Man for the last five 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 six years.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2014 Iron Dog 13th place; 2014 Arctic Man fourth place snowboard; 2015 Iron Dog, 13th place, 2016 Iron Dog 10th place.

Personal Sponsors: Molly Conner, the Lamborn family, the Conner family, Stonegate Storage, Drifterz Paradise



GEOFF CROUSE

AGE: 33 / **FROM**: Anchorage

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

RACE HISTORY: 2013 and 2016: 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 nine 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, Mark and Lynne Vaughn, Brad and Trevor Helwig

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SKI-DOO

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REMINGTON LESSARD

AGE: 18 / **FROM**: Monmouth, Maine

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo XRS

BIO: I was born and raised in Maine. I enjoy hunting, fishing, riding dirt bikes and snowmobiling. I am a senior at Monmouth Academy and work part time in construction and as a mechanic. I will be attending Tech College in the fall studying Electrical Technology.

RACING EXPERIENCE: First place in Semi Pro 600 and Improved, Rock Maple Cross Country Racing

Personal Sponsors: Carey Lessard, Lexi Roy, Paxton Lessard



TIM LESSARD

AGE: 46 / **FROM**: Monmouth, Maine

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo XRS

RACE HISTORY: 2014: Finished

BIO: I was born in Jackman, Maine, and have lived in Maine all my life except for two years when I lived in Minnesota and worked for Arctic Cat in the engine department. Currently I am employed as a Process Engineer and my wife, Carey, and I own and operate Grip N Rip Racing Products. We have two children, a daughter Paxton and a son Remington. My hobbies are deer hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, snowmachining and spending time with my family. Racing the Iron Dog with my son is something I have always wanted to do.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Cain's Quest, 2009, first place; 2011, third place; 2012, second place; Iron Dog 2014 eighth place, 2015, DNF

Personal Sponsors: Carey Lessard

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POLARIS

*Sponsors: **Woody's Traction Products**, Klim, Weiss Equipment, Big Lake Powersports*



ROB CLEARY

AGE: 43 / **FROM**: Frankenmuth, Mich.

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

BIO: Born and raised in Michigan and looking forward to being in the great state of Alaska to race all the talented riders that the Iron Dog hosts. I love racing anything with an engine, I enjoy snowmobiling and Jetski riding.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 5 Years in ARCA ReMax Stock car series as a Team Co-owner and Team Manager.

Personal Sponsors: Randall Moss, Mark and Jack Hirschman, Jason and Jerry Alward, All of the Iron Dog Employees and volunteers, Last but not least my Family and friends.



DAVE HAUSBECK

AGE: 54 / **FROM**: Reese, Mich.

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

BIO: I've lived in Michigan my whole life and enjoyed snowmachining 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 prestigous Iron Dog race seemed like a perfect fit.

Personal Sponsors: Randall Moss, Mark and Jack Hirschman, Jason and Jerry Alward, All of the Iron Dog Employees and volunteers for all of the hard work they do.

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POLARIS

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TROY CONLON

AGE: 26 / **FROM**: Fairbanks

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

RACE HISTORY: 2016: Finished

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 four 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: 2016 Arctic Man, 13th place; 2016 AMMC Hillcross 800 Modified, second place; 2016 AMMC Hillcross 800 Stock, second place; 2016 Valdez Hill Climb, DNF; 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

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Race Week
Nome Headquarters:
Nome Fire Hall
Fairbanks Headquarters:
Westmark Fairbanks Hotel

IRON DOG
OFFICIAL GUIDE

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SKI-DOO

*Sponsors: **Coffman Engineers**, Rupp Financial, Team CC, Loken Crane Rigging & Transport, LLC, Container Specialties of Alaska, Inc., Ron Webb Paving, Construction Machinery Industrial, LLC, Fairbanks Sand & Gravel Aggregate, Arctic Pension Services, Buckmeir Enterprise, Northrim Benefit Group, Alaska Signs & Barricades, Inc., GMG General, Inc., D&S Concrete, Inc., Rain Proof Roofing, Inc., B.C. Excavating, LLC, Resident Hunters of Alaska (RHAK), Alaska West*



SCOTT FRANZ

AGE: 26 / **FROM**: Fort Collins, Colo.

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo MXZ Iron Dog

BIO: I grew up riding sleds since I was 6 in Colorado. Over the years, I have ridden with very influential and talented people in the sport who pushed me to compete in RMSHA and other hill-x events. After being recruited and moving up to Alaska in 2009 to compete with the 10-time National Championship UAF Rifle Team, I've always wanted to run the Iron Dog. I have competed in Arctic Man, Valdez hill climbs, and now Iron Dog, with a lot of support from family and friends.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Arctic Man: 2015-16 DNF; Arctic Man Hill-X: 2016, 800 second place, open mod, first place; Valdez Mountain Man: 800 fifth place, open mod fifth place.

Personal Sponsors: Justin and Cheryl Franz



NATHAN HAINES

AGE: 37 / **FROM**: Eagle River

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo MXZ XRS Iron Dog

BIO: I was born and raised in Chugiak. I wrecked my first snowmachine at age 4 and have been riding Alaska's backcountry ever since. I have a passion for all that Alaska has to offer and love to share these experiences with my amazing family. My wife, Kaleen, and I are the proud parents of three boys: Dean, Reed and Grant, all great little riders. Our home away from home in the winter is Petersville, where we have had a cabin since the early 1980s.

Personal Sponsors: A.J. Bartel, Kathy Martin, our families and lots of our great friends.

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SKI-DOO

*Sponsors: **Alaska Oral and Facial Cosmetic Surgery**, AMDS, ReMax Dynamic Properties, Michelle Webb, Fox Racing Shocks, Motorfist, Projekt907, Chepo's Mexican Restaurant, Altitude Chiropractic and Massage, Alaska Marble and Granite, Delta Constructors, Magic Metals, Inc., AK Safety, 49th State Distributors, Mudd-Ox Inc., Airborne Electric, Foster 5,Inc., Mudd-Ox*



TYLER BOGERT

AGE: 23 / **FROM**: Big Lake

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

BIO: I was born and raised in Big Lake. 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.

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

Personal Sponsors: Mom and Dad, my girlfriend, Kayla, Ski-Doo, Motorfist, Alaska Mining and Diving Supply, Michelle Webb, Kyle Tingstrom, Brian Turner



BRANDON BURMEISTER

AGE: 25 / **FROM**: Eagle River

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo Mxz XRS

BIO: I have lived in Alaska for 24 years. During my time off work I enjoy fishing, hunting, spending time at our cabin and spending time with my 3-year-old daughter, Brailee, and my, fiancé Talisha. Being my rookie year of racing Iron Dog, our goal is to have a safe and fast race to Fairbanks.

Personal Sponsors: Mom and dad, my grandparents, my fiancée Talisha, the Miller family, Gordon and Jackie Cousins, Nick Olzenak, Cody Hyce for allowing me to take so much time off work, and Artie Soria.

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POLARIS

*Sponsors: **Big Lake Powersports**, LuLaRoe AK Gal, St. Micheal Fuel Co., Superior Wood Products, Frankson Services, Homes Ready Construction, Woody's Traction Products, Motorfist*



TYLER DRAKE

AGE: 24 / **FROM**: Galena

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

BIO: I was born and raised in Alaska. I enjoy hunting, boating, fishing, snowmachining and anything outdoors. When not at work, I look forward to spending time with family and friends; girlfriend Maggi and our 1-year-old son.

Personal Sponsors: Ivan Drake, Magdalena Chittenden, Dwayne Drake and family, Richard Sommer, Dustin Sommer, friends, family and all who made it possible for Team 27 to race.



SHANNON JENKINS

AGE: 41 / **FROM**: Galena

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

BIO: I was born and raised in Alaska. I love spending time with my wife, Mariah, and our five kids. I enjoy boating, camping, hunting and snowmachining. A huge thank-you to everyone who has helped me race this great race.

Personal Sponsors: Wife, Mariah and kids, Earl Sommer and family, Louie Carlo and family, Chris Bryant and family, Joe Cleaver, David Attla, Renae Egrass and family, PK, Ray Koch and family, and many friends and family, James Sweetsir and family.

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SKI-DOO

*Sponsors: **Ski-Doo**, Compeau's , Sourdough Express, Gundersen Painting, Fleenor Paper Company, Walsh, Kelliher & Sharp, State Farm: Stacey Roy, Ron's Towing, Gene's Chrysler, Allstate: Chris Marok, Hale and Associates, CMI, Lavelle's Taphouse, Auto Trim Design, Klim, Vision X, Trail Tank ,Grip n Rip, Team CC*



JASON GUNDERSEN

AGE: 29 / **FROM**: Fairbanks

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

RACE HISTORY: 2016: Finished

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, 2016 Iron Dog, fourth place.

Personal Sponsors: Debbie and Gary Gundersen, Bryce Benson, Bill Allen, Shawn Holly (air support)



JOSH NORUM

AGE: 29 / **FROM**: Fairbanks

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

RACE HISTORY: 2016: Finished

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 sons, Owen and Leo.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2016 Iron Dog, fourth place.

Personal Sponsors: Jayme, Owen and Leo Norum; Dave and Debbie Norum, Jim and Lisa Currie, Bryce Benson, Shawn Holly (air support), Bill Allen, Partydoggz.

IRON DOG FACTS

TEAMS WILL BE RACING within or through 52,114.5 individual square acres of wilderness.

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POLARIS

*Sponsors: **National Rifle Association**, Walker Evans Racing, Eagle River Polaris & Arctic Cat, Polaris Racing, Oak Grove Technologies, Klim, Al Palma Technologies, Zugger Shocks, Stud Boy Traction Products, Amsoil, Ice* **AGE** *Performance, Fairbanks Outpost, L & M Supplies, Renton Coil Springs, Alaska LED Industries, Mike Tope, Ryznar Industries, Schroeder Torsion Bars, Alaska Air Taxi, Anchorage Drag Bike, Toyota, Hiring Our Heroes, Fox Toyota of El Paso*



DAKOTA MEYER

AGE: 28 / **FROM**: Columbia, Ky.

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Polaris Switchback Assault

BIO: Dakota Meyer is the third living recipient of the Medal of Honor since the Vietnam War, and the first living U.S. Marine in 41 years to be so honored.

Born and raised in Columbia, Dakota enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps in 2006 after graduating from Green County High School. He completed his basic training at Parris Island Recruit Training Depot later that year.

A school-trained sniper and Marine infantryman, Dakota deployed twice to combat duty. In 2007, he deployed to Iraq for Operation Iraqi Freedom; and in 2009-10, he deployed to Afghanistan for Operation Enduring Freedom.

In September 2011, President Barack Obama awarded Dakota the Medal of Honor – the highest military decoration awarded by the U.S. government – in recognition of his acts of extraordinary valor on Sept. 8, 2009. Over the course of a six-hour firefight, Meyer repeatedly braved enemy fire in eastern Afghanistan to find and save fellow members of his embedded training team.

Wounded by shrapnel, Dakota entered the kill zone four times to evacuate approximately 13 Marines and soldiers and approximately 23 Afghan soldiers. On his fifth trip in, Dakota recovered the bodies of three missing Marines and a Navy corpsman killed in the battle.

Meyer completed his active duty in 2010 and now serves in the Individual Ready Reserve of the U.S. Marine Corps Reserve. Since returning to civilian life, Dakota has started Dakota Meyer Enterprises, Inc., in hope of establishing a company that not only leaves a mark in the construction industry but also provides a workplace for his fellow veterans.

Dakota is married to his wife, Bristol, and has a daughter, Sailor Grace, and a stepson, Tripp. Dakota enjoys spending time with his family and being in the outdoors.

Personal Sponsors: My wife, Bristol; daughter, Sailor Grace; stepson, Tripp; my dad, Big Mike; my mom, Lisa; TJ, Jeff Brincat, John Lisko, Ed Laukes and the HOH team, Don Esmond



TODD PALIN

AGE: 52 / **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, 2015: 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 four grandchildren, Kyla, Tripp, Sailor and Charlie. 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.

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ARCTIC CAT

*Sponsors: **Team Arctic Racing**, Midwest Doors, DHS Grain LTD, Winning Edge Graphics, Sukup Manufacturing Co., Klim, Country Cat, Planet Powersportz, Spuds Small Engine and Repair, The Winter Spectacular, Runestone Insurance Agency, Jemco Maxair, Vipond Farms, Anderson Oil & LP, Amy Winter Photography, DJ Doc, Arnquist Carpet Plus Color Tile, Sign Max, Aflac/Terry Anderson, Crossfit Repo*



KURT STEINER

AGE: 55 / **FROM**: Bismarck, N.D.

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

RACE HISTORY: 2008 10th place, 2010 DNF, 2014 trail class finish

BIO: Kurt lives in Bismarck, ND, and is the owner of Midwest Doors, Inc. He likes to hunt, fish, ride snowmobile in the mountains, and hang out at the lake

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2008, finished.

Personal Sponsors: Wife Judy, Daughters Kristyn & Brianna, Kirk Hibbert, Dennis Drengson



DIETER STROBEL

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

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

RACE HISTORY: 2015: DNF

BIO: Married with two children Brooklyn, 10; and Bennett, 6. I own and operate a grain handling sales and installation business for the last six years. I enjoy working outside and riding snowmachines in the mountains and now Alaska.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2015-16: 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, especially my wife, Megan, and children.

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SKI-DOO

*Sponsors: **Academy Mortgage**, Wilderness Ski-Doo, Big Kid Racing, Frontier Service Automotive, Mattingley Concrete, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, Lake Parlin Lodge, Nitro Trailers, Chase Toys, Skillings State Farm Insurance, Maine Fire Equipment, Alaska LED Industries, Rigid Industries, SCS Unlimited, Waste Management, Alaska Mining & Diving Supply (AMDS), MTNTK Performance*



CHRIS KRUSE

AGE: 48 / **FROM**: Skowhegan, Maine

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

RACE HISTORY: 2015: Finished

BIO: Chris and his wife, Tracey, along with their two sons, C.J. and Kyle, reside in Skowhegan, Maine. Chris is in commercial and residential real estate development. Chris enjoys spending his free time hunting, flying, motorcycling, and coaching football and baseball.

Personal Sponsors: Joe Kruse, Lake Parlin Lodge, Maine Fire Equipment, Randy's Automotive, Mattingly Products, Waste Management, Jim Prebble, all our family and friends..



PAUL SINDORF

AGE: 53 / **FROM**: Palmer

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

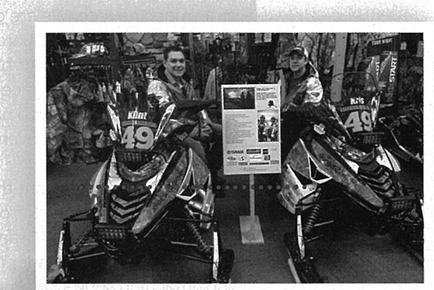
RACE HISTORY: 1998: Finished, 2000: Finished, 2001: Finished, 2002: Finished, 2004: Finished, 2006: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2015-16: Finished

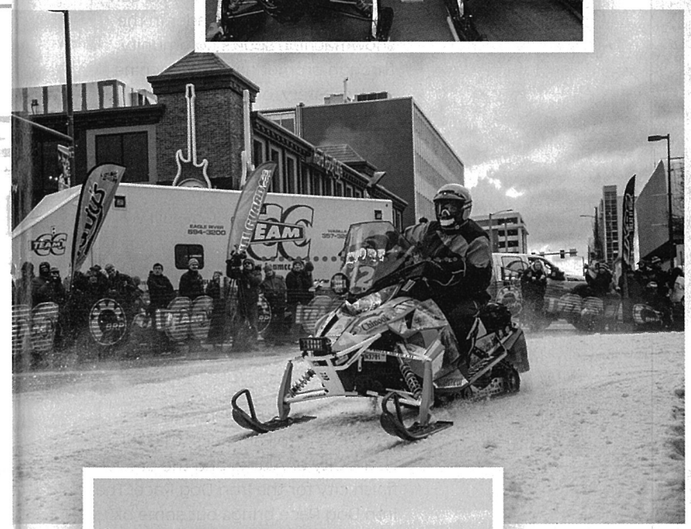
BIO: I am a lifelong Alaskan who enjoys living and playing in the outdoors. I enjoy hiking, mountain bike riding, skiing and motorsports of all types. This will be my 13th Iron Dog race.

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, Ed Paulus, Jonathan Sindorf and Franci Janisch.

EVENTS 2017

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









TUESDAY, FEB. 14

Racer Drawing and Hall of Fame Banquet
Hotel Captain Cook, Anchorage



WEDNESDAY, FEB. 15

Donlin Gold Safety Expo
Cabela's, Anchorage
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FRIDAY, FEB. 17

First Flying Iron Freestyle Show
Downtown Anchorage
PAGE 27



SATURDAY, FEB. 18

Start of 2017 Iron Dog Race
Fourth Avenue, Anchorage
PAGE 23

Second Flying Iron Freestyle Show
Downtown Anchorage
PAGE 23

SUNDAY, FEB. 19

Pro Class Restart
Big Lake
PAGE 29

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 22

Halfway Ceremonies
Nome

SATURDAY, FEB. 25

Pro Class Finish:
Fairbanks
PAGE 42

CROWLEY FUELS
ADVENTURE

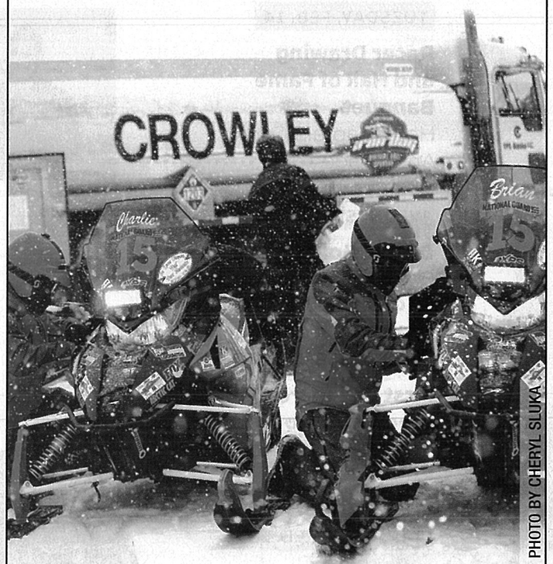
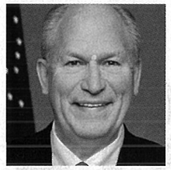


PHOTO BY CHERYL SLUKA

Crowley is proud to fuel adventure as the offi cial fuel distributor of the 2017 Iron Dog - just like we're proud to provide the fuel that powers homes and businesses across the state.

To discover the other ways we've been fueling Alaska for over 60 years, give us a call at 907.777.5505 or visit us at CrowleyFuels.com.

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BILL WALKER
GOVERNOR OF ALASKA

Dear Iron Dog racers, fans, and community members,

Welcome to the 34th annual Iron Dog Race. The Iron Dog is the world's longest and toughest snowmachine race. We are grateful to the Alaska National Guard for its support, event sponsors, volunteers, communities along the race route, and the racing teams who participate in this world-class event every year.

The Iron Dog brings out the best competitors in the sport, from Alaska and the Lower 48, and continues to be a proud leader in the snowmachine sports community through promoting snowmachine sports, safety, outdoor education and community events.

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

— Gov. Bill Walker



JIM MATHERLY
MAYOR OF FAIRBANKS

Dear Iron Dog Racers and Fans,

Welcome to Fairbanks, the Golden Heart City of Alaska and the official finish city for the Iron Dog Race! The Iron Dog Race brings out some of the best competitive spirit in Alaska and we are happy that the race has finished in downtown Fairbanks for the last seven years.

This is the second year that the race will finish behind the Morris Thompson Cultural and Visitors Center and we hope that you will come and enjoy the finish of the race while checking out all of the vendors. Teams will be coming in throughout the afternoon and heading into the Morris Thompson Center to warm up. There will be a live feed for those who cannot attend in person; it can be found at irondog.org/live.

Good luck to all the racers and we hope to see lots of fans at the finish line!

— Mayor Jim Matherly

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SKI-DOO

Sponsors: ***Team CC***



ERIC WATSON

AGE: 35 / **FROM**: Wasilla

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo XRS

RACE HISTORY: 2011: Finished

Bio: Father of 2 great kids, husband to a beautiful wife of 20 years. This is my 4th time racing iron dog. Multiple Alaska cross country racing participant, pro class champion in 2015. Commercial journeyman electrician by trade. Enjoy everything Alaska has to offer, especially spending time with friends and family. In the off season mt. Biking and old muscle cars take up most of any down. Racing is a huge passion in my life and has opened the door to meet some really great people, but would not be possible without the support of all my friends and family.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Larry heal memorial: 2015 - 1st Arctic man x-country 2015 3rd Ammc cross country 2015 pro class champion Biglake 150 semi pro 2013 1st K-150 semi pro 2013 2nd Larry heal memorial semi pro 2013 1st

Personal Sponsors: Blackstar motorsports Panco construction Team cc Klim Woodys traction Scs racing Ak led Gates belts Orien construction All my friends and family.



ANDREW ZWINK

AGE: 27 / **FROM**: Wasilla

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo MXZ XRS

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

BIO: Adventurer, hard-working, determined, Eagle Scout: These are all words that describe Andrew Zwink. Another thing that has defined Andrew is the Iron Dog Race. He has grown into manhood throughout his years chasing down that elusive Iron Dog Gold. His first trial was 2008 when he ground his teeth on the trail, and he has been improving every year since – mentally, physically and financially. This year he spent his free time exploring Alaska's majestic outdoor beauty. When you didn't find Andrew on the mountain, he was working hard for Dirtworks, Inc., perfecting his driving and operating skills. The rest of the time he likes to relax with his family, and close circle of friends. For the second year he is a top contender for Iron Dog's most eligible bachelor. Shout out to Bacher and all the other main homies.

RACING EXPERIENCE: This will be Zwink's ninth year racing Iron Dog with top finishes in 2011 (fifth place), 2012 (third place), and 2015 (sixth place).

Personal Sponsors: Dirtworks, Inc., Klim, Gates Belts, Woody's SCS Racing, 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.

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.

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POLARIS

Sponsors: None listed



HAROLD ATTLA

AGE: 51 / **FROM**: Fairbanks, Hughes

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING**: Polaris 2017 XCR 600

RACE HISTORY: 2012: Finished, 2013: DNF

BIO: Harold is a lifetime Alaskan, born and raised in Hughes and Tanana, and currently residing in Fairbanks with Tiffany Simmons. He owns Attla Services, LLC. Harold has three children, Austin, Harrison, and Avionna. He enjoys racing. Last winter he raced the Fort Yukon Draanjik 180, and he also finished the Iron Dog Trail Class in 2010 with partner Ken Harding and went on to race the Iron Dog Pro Class in 2012 with Archie Beetus, where they placed 18th and DNF in 2013 with partner Ash Wallace. Harold is also a boat racer and has been racing the Yukon 800 Marathon boat race since 1988. Harold enjoys being outside hunting and fishing when it's not snowmachine and boat racing season.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog 2010 Trail Class, finished; 2016 Fort Yukon Draanjik 180, fifth place

Personal Sponsors: Yukon Cargo, Fort Yukon Alaska, Gerald James Family, Wright Air Service, McKinley Polaris, Northern Alaska Tour Company, Tiffany Simmons and Audrey Bifelt



ARCHIE BEETUS

AGE: 30 / **FROM**: Hughes

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING**: Polaris XCR

RACE HISTORY: 2012: Finished, 2014: Finished

BIO: I like hunting and riding snowmachines.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog 2012, 18th place, and Iron Dog 2014, 11th place.

Personal Sponsors: Wilmer Beetus and Margaret Williams

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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ARCTIC CAT

*Sponsors: **Team Arctic Racing,** Big Lake Arctic Cat, Motorfist, Able Locksmith & Security System*



CHARLIE POTTER

AGE: 33 / **FROM**: Big Lake

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

RACE HISTORY: 2009: Finished, 2012: Finished, 2014: Finished, 2015: Finished, 2016: Finished

BIO: Charlie is a 33-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, Able Locksmith & Security, CW Tack & Western Wear, Big Lake Arctic Cat, H5 Bucking Bulls, North Star Animal Hospital, Webb Auction, Big Dipper Clothing Company, Kenny Hacket, Team Arctic Alaska, Brewed Oasis, Tony and Cynthia Jacobson, Curt Ensminger, Rick Kelly, C.H. Martelle, Stephen and Dawn Primera, Kim, JR Hacket, Rodeo Alaska, friends, family and all who made It possible for Team 15 to race.



ALEX SCHWOCHERT

AGE: 25 / **FROM**: Big Lake

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Arctic Cat RXC 6000

BIO: Alex, a father of two (Carson and Kamber) is known mostly for his success in auto racing. With his recent accomplishment of a 100th feature win, and seven championships spread amongst asphalt and dirt ovals, he is no stranger to competition. He has had several respectable finishes in the AMMC hosted events, many "Acts of Heroism" awards for lifesaving rescues, as well as a lifetime of backcountry riding experience. Alex is confident he has what it takes to be a top contender in the world's toughest snowmachine race, the Iron Dog.

Personal Sponsors: Schwochert Racing, Vulcan Towing, Grizzly LED and design, Quality Muffler, Robinson Millwork, Howard Concrete Services, The Thomas Co., family and friends, including my kids, Carson and Kamber.

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POLARIS

*Sponsors: **Polaris Industries**, Mountain Dew Kickstart, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Perk Up Espresso, Big Dipper Construction, A1 Pawn, Udelhoven Oilfield System Services, Inc., Edge Fitness, VFW Post 9365, Cindi Heal Allstate Insurance, Klim, B Original Signs, Walker Evans Racing, Blu Skye Design, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Quam Tech, Pioneer Peak Asphalt, Skwentna Roadhouse, Shell Lake Lodge , Shade 10, Larson Chiropractic, Woody's Traction Products, OSI Pile Driving, Polaris Engineered Lubricants.*



TODD MINNICK

AGE: 37 / **FROM**: Wasilla

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

RACE HISTORY: 2002: Finished, 2004-08: Finished, 2009: 1st Place, 2010-13: Finished, 2014: 1st Place, 2015-2016: 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.

RACING EXPERIENCE:

Personal Sponsors: Sharilyn Minnick, Emma & Canyon Minnick, Paul & Diane Minnick, Eric Quam, Ken Lee, Tracey Brassard, Rod & Arden Miller, Dick & Jennie Weldin, Mike Dropik, Mike & Jayne Koskovich, Gilbert Perez, Al Palma, Sam and Nita Towarek, Hazel Esmailka, Pat Lumba



NICK OLSTAD

AGE: 34 / **FROM**: Wasilla

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

RACE HISTORY: 2005: 1st Place, 2009: 1st Place, 2011: Finished, 2014: 1st Place, 2016: Finished

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 13th 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

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SKI-DOO

*Sponsors: **BRP**, Team Ski-Doo Racing, Team CC, Fox Racing Shocks, Stud Boy Traction Products, Motorfist, XPS, Well Solutions, Inc.*



CHAD GUECO

AGE: 32 / **FROM**: Wasilla

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

RACE HISTORY: 2012: Finished, 2015-16: 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 11 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, 9; Ella, 6; and Haiden, 3.

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, Trail Tank, Well Solutions, Inc., Stud Boy Traction, Gueco Racing, Rip N Grip, Fine Line Interiors, Alaska Comprehensive Dental, Body Renew, AK LED Industries, my family, and 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: 47 / **FROM**: Kasilof

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

RACE HISTORY: 1994: Finished, 1998: Finished, 2000: 1st Place, 2001: Finished, 2002: 1st Place, 2004: 1st Place, 2005: Finished, 2008: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2011: Finished, 2012: 1st Place, 2013: 1st Place, 2014: Finished, 2016: Finished

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.

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 Company, Compeau's Ski-Doo, Wilderness Ski-Doo, Scott Goggles, Ice **AGE** *Rails, Team Ind., Renton Coil Springs, Grip N Rip Racing, RPM Composites, Fine Line Interiors, MGM, Tesoro Alaska Company, Alaska Equipment Appraisers, Lead Dog Helmet Lights, Alaska Spine Institute, Ryznar Industries, Alwayz Graphyks, Airport Equipment Rentals, Body Renew, Design Between The Lines, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Bills Distributing, Goodwin Performance, Brian Horschel, Trail Tank*



ETHAN BERKOWITZ
MAYOR OF ANCHORAGE

Dear Iron Dog racers and fans,

Welcome to Anchorage and the start of the world's longest, toughest snowmachine race.

Don't worry about the traffic lights when you are riding through town. We'll follow your progress across the Interior and along the coast, and back again.

Thanks to the staff and volunteers in Anchorage and across Alaska who make this event happen.

The Iron Dog in an iconic statement in which the entire state takes pride.

Good luck to all racers and best wishes for another great Iron Dog race! Be safe and have fun.

— Mayor Ethan Berkowitz



RICHARD BENEVILLE
MAYOR OF NOME

Welcome to Nome!

As mayor of Nome, it is my pleasure to welcome you to The Gold Rush City. The Iron Dog has been coming to Nome for many years, and there is always a special excitement that comes with your visit. The sound of your snowmachines fills the air, and the energy of this race seems to infect everyone.

The Iron Dog, "World's Longest Toughest Snowmachine Race," captures the imaginations of kids. You are their heroes! They love the machines you drive and admire the effort and expertise you put into the race. Many of them hope one day, too, they will be one of you, a noble ambition.

Your families, friends and, of course, the crews are welcome as well. Enjoy our restaurants and taverns. Visit the new Richard Foster building. It houses the Carrie McClain Museum, the Kitirvik Cultural Center and the Kegoaya Library.

Again welcome!

— Mayor Richard Beneville

A SIGNATURE EVENT CELEBRATES ITS HUMBLE BEGINNINGS



JIM WILKE
PRESIDENT, IRON DOG BOARD OF DIRECTORS

FROM ITS HUMBLE START in 1983 in a remote Alaska town, to racing through downtown streets in the largest city in Alaska, the Iron Dog has stood the test of time and evolved and grown to become the signature event in the sport.

The Iron Dog is a family event that spans generations, with multiple racers having fathers, sons and brothers who are proud to call themselves Iron Doggers. It gets in your blood, pulls you in and never lets you go. What started as a truly Alaskan race is now well known outside of our great state. The 2017 Iron Dog includes racers 14 from the Lower 48 and one Canadian.

There have been 33 races with 66 champions, but those titles are held by just 25 men—10 of them only won once. Seven of those 25 are entered to race the 2017 Iron Dog. The title of Iron Dog champion is rare, indeed, which is why it is so highly prized..

Over the years, the race has changed in many ways. The length has more than doubled, the route and finish line has moved, and the pace has gotten ever faster. Iron Dog vets will tell you winning the race takes a mix of skill, preparation and luck: You can control two of those elements, but the third is out of our hands. That third factor is what draws racers in and keeps them coming back for more. Last years' champions, Tyler Akklestad and Tyson Johnson, were the first team to scratch out of the race in 2015. And 2015 champion Scott Faeo did not finish in 2016. The only thing predictable about the Iron Dog is its shear unpredictability.

From sponsors and racers, to volunteers and spectators, there is a place for everyone, and we encourage you to get out and support this truly, uniquely Alaskan event: The longest and toughest snowmachine race in the world.

— Jim Wilke

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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.

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ARCTIC CAT

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JASON MOORE

AGE: 38 / **FROM**: Wasilla

STATUS: Veteran / **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 Grrrr Moore, Strick Family, Tony Webster, Peter Frank of Boretide Const., Tim and Amy McKay, Cody and Nikki Moore, Justin and Terry LaCoss, Matt Peterson, Jackie and Kevin Cochran, WMS Staff, Scrappy Schmidt, Marcus, Shannon and Tammy Jardine, Alaska Skydive Center Family, Carl and Mel Swenson, Nick Kenshelo, Logan Imloch, Travis Reid, Daniel Blydenberg, John Bebee, Marilyn Meiler, Pam Button, Paul Kelly, Aaron Ulmer, Matt North, Jeff Baker, Dusty Little, Andy and Stephanie George, Brad George, Matt Peterson, the community of McGrath, Roberta Bissell, Stan Guthrie, Cam Harmon, Micah Huss, and 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: 31 / **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, snowmachining 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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ARCTIC CAT

TEAM 13

*Sponsors: **Arctic Cat**, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Country Cat, Winning Edge Graphics, Klim, Bright Seeds, Inc., Runestone Insurance Agency, Anderson Oil & LP, Angelina's Restaurant & Bar, The Winter Spectacular, Owen Peterson Farms, Amundson Peterson, Alaska National Guard, Kensington Bar and Cafe, West-Con Cooperative, Sid's Electric, Kensington Bank, Crossfit Repo, Kris Telkamp, Counselor Realty Inc. of Alexandria, Minn., Telkamp Farms, Johnson Farms.*



PAUL JOHNSON

AGE: 38 / **FROM**: Hoffman, Minn.

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

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

Personal Sponsors: Paul Johnson Farm



MIKE TELKAMP

AGE: 47 / **FROM**: Hoffman, Minn.

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

RACE HISTORY: None

BIO: I was born and raised in Hoffman, Minn., and have owned and operated a farm for 28 years. I've been married to my wife, Kris, for 25 years and we have two sons, Trevor and Trenton. When the farming gives us some time off, we go fishing, hunting, skiing or snowmachining. In 2014, I decided to participate in a new challenge, the Iron Dog Trail Class (typically you find me in the mountains snowmachining) and I was excited to see Alaska for the first time. Meeting the racers, their families and seeing Alaska has been a part of my life since then and it's been a great experience.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2014 Iron Dog Trail Class finisher with a team of seven. 2015 Iron Dog Trail Class finisher.

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: **Ski-Doo**, Team CC, Motorfist, Stud Boy Traction Products, Fly Racing, Western Power Sports, Rox speedfx, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products.*



CASEY BOYLAN

AGE: 22 / **FROM**: Anchorage

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo MXZ-XRS

BIO: I was born and raised in Anchorage and have been racing snomachines for 13 years. Five years of that has been out of state at a national level.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2010 ISOC national sport super stock first, second and third place; 2011, podiumed every national after returning from a knee injury; 2012 pro lite ISOC regional champion; 2012 pro lite ISOC national multiple Top 5 finishes; 2013 pro stock ISOC regional champion; 2013 pro lite ISOC national multiple Top 5 finishes and Top 10 year-end points; 2014 pro lite ISOC national heat race wins, Top 5 main event finishes; 2014 Arctic Man men's snowboard win; 2015 Mayor's Cup cross country pro class win.

Personal Sponsors: Team CC ski-doo, Motorfist, A2D Sledworks, Jon McDonald, STR Alaska, Alaska LED, ROX Speedfx, Stud Boy, Bill Bishop, Boylan Boyz Racing, Leslie Racing, Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc. NMLS3094, Alaska Snomobile Salvage, Fly Racing, Western Powersports, Alaska House of Yamaha, Hair Addiction, Cody Woodworth, Arctic Glass, IBEW 1547



BRYAN LESLIE

AGE: 23 / **FROM**: Anchorage

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Ski-Doo MXZ-XRS

BIO: I love to ride or be on anything with a motor. I have raced quads and dirt bikes and have won multiple state and city championships. I also enjoy being with family, fishing, camping and really anything to do with the outdoors.

RACING EXPERIENCE: AMMC, semi pro champ, 2015; 2015 Larry Heal, first place; 2015 Arctic Man Ice-X, first place.

Personal Sponsors: Statewide Door and Glass, STR Alaska, A2D Sledworks, Alaska Snowmobile Salvage, Alaska LED, Primary Residential Mortgage, Inc. NMLS3094, Alaska House of Yamaha, Hair Addiction, JJ's Lounge, Endeavor Electric, Three Bears, Boylan Boyz Racing, Leslie Racing, Jon McDonald, Bill Bishop, Cody Woodworth, IBEW 1547

IRON DOG FACTS

THE IRON DOG COURSE if roughly the distance from New York City to Phoenix.

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SKI-DOO

*Sponsors: **Ski-Doo**, Team CC, Taco Bell, MTA, Global Fuel, H&K Sheetmetal Fabricators, Inc.; Northern Chiropractic, Northwoods Lodge, Alaska LED Industries, Cruz Construction, Stud Boy Traction Products, Fineline Interiors, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, B&B Automatic Transmission, Klim, Specialty Truck and Auto, IBEW Local 1547, Straightline Performance, Alaska Line Builders, Hybrid Color Films, SCS Unlimited, Trail Tank, RPM Composites, Gates Belts, OFT Racing, AK Spine Institute, Fox Shocks*



TYLER AKLESTAD

AGE: 31 / **FROM**: Palmer

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

RACE HISTORY: 2007: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2012: Finished, 2013: Finished, 2016: Finished (First Place)

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: 36 / **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, 2016: Finished (First Place)

BIO: I have been racing Iron Dog since I was 17 years old with this year's race being my 19th entry. I have many Top-5 finishes, including three second-place finishes and my first win in 2016. I have seven Arctic Man titles (five in ski, two in snowboard) and many Cross Country race wins. I work for H&K Sheetmetal Fabricators as a sheet metal journeyman. I enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, welding, hanging out with my wife, Alexis, and new son Rowan, and pretty much anything that involves the outdoors.

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

Personal Sponsors: Special thanks to my wife, Alexis; Korey and Barbara Cronquist, Danny Gueco, Body Renew, Eric and Shan Johnson, our pilot Keith Mantenach, crew chief Steve Spence, Al Palma, and all of our other friends and family who help support us.

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SKI-DOO

*Sponsors: **Team CC,** Kurt Mentzer, Coutts Bros., Alaska Hand-Elbow-Shoulder Surgical Specialists, Klim, Pioneer Peak Asphault, S&P Auto, Plumbline LLC, Chris Manion, Fox Racing Shocks, SCS Unlimited, RPM Composites, Alaska Frontier Services, Stud Boy Traction Products, Carlos Tree Service, Aeroworks of Alaska, Alaska Sealcoating, Get Plowed Snow Removal, Bills Distributing, CMI, Dakota Diggers, Fineline Interiors, Alaska Safety, Door Systems of Alaska, REMAX of Eagle River*



JOSHUA PLUMB

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

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

RACE HISTORY: 2014: Finished, 2016: Finished

BIO: Joshua is a lifelong Alaskan from Eagle River. He is a devoted husband and father, 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, snowmachining and traveling. Josh and his wife, Kateland, have a 4-year-old daughter named Elodie and a newborn son, Joshua.

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



JORDAN STARR

AGE: 25 / **FROM**: Eagle River

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

RACE HISTORY: 2014: Finished, 2016: 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.

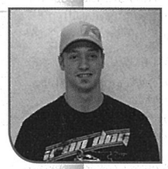
RACING EXPERIENCE: 14th place, 2014 Iron Dog, Seventh place, 2016 Iron Dog

Personal Sponsors: Special thanks to my mom and dad, Mike McNamara, our pilot Tim Bloom, Kurt Mentzer, my girlfriend, Ellicia; Greg and MJ Farrel, Rachel and Steve Harrison, and Donna Kenison, and all of our friends, family and relatives.

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POLARIS

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MIKE MORGAN

AGE: 31 / **FROM**: Nome

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

RACE HISTORY: 2009: Finished, 2012-2016: 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 eighth Iron Dog race and sixth 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; 2016 Kotzebue race, first; 6 Iron Dog finishes and 5 Top-5 Iron Dog finishes.

Personal Sponsors: Family and friends



CHRIS OLDS

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

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

RACE HISTORY: 13 Top-10 and 11 Top-5 Iron Dog finishes. Iron Dog champion, 2010 and 2011.

BIO: Chris is a 33-year Alaskan, married to Christine with two children, Haley and Mya. Chris works for UIC Construction as a project manager. He enjoys hunting, fishing, four-wheeling, dirt bikes, mountain bikes and hanging with family. Chris has been racing snowmachines since 1998.

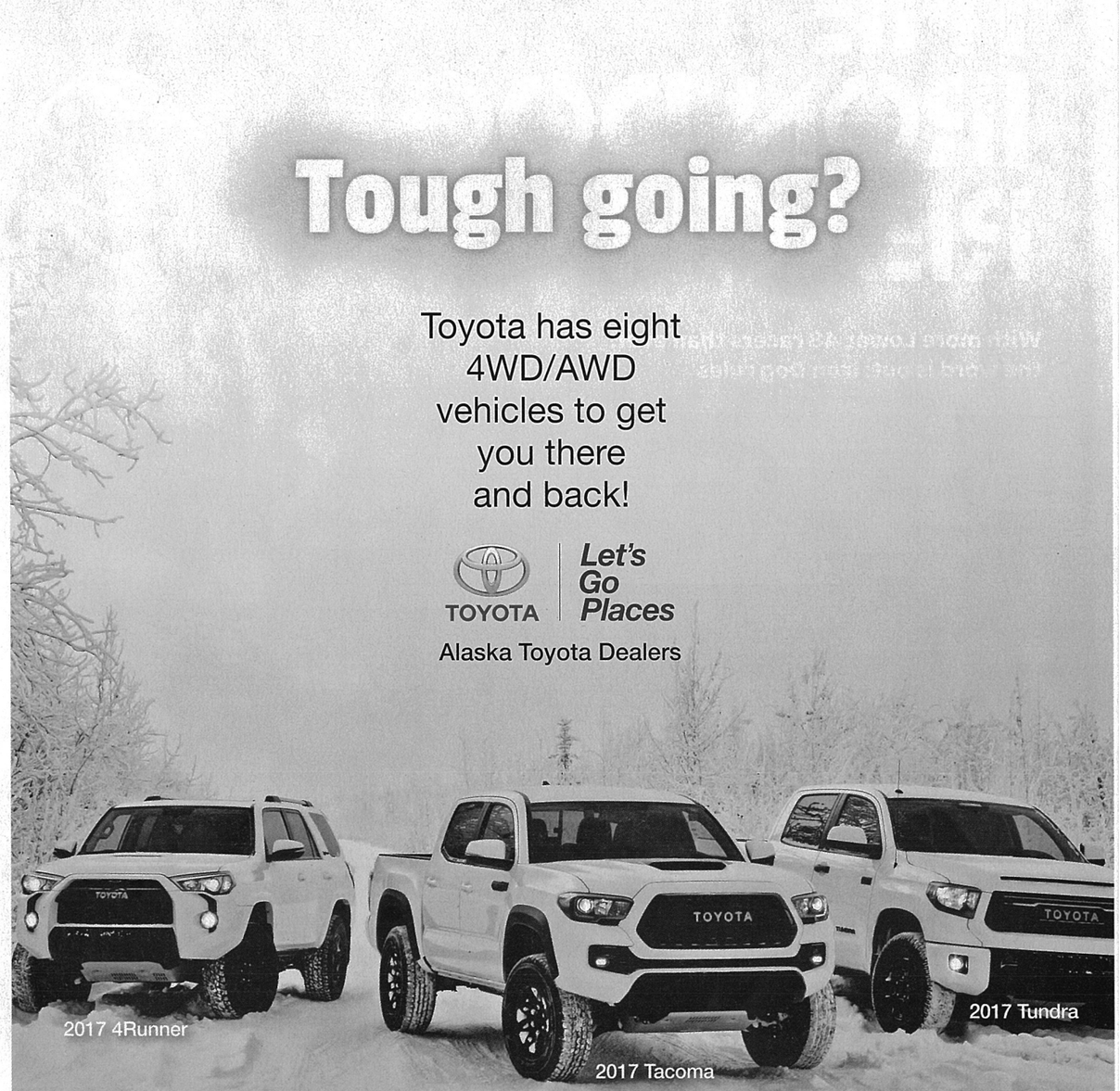
RACING EXPERIENCE: Iron Dog champion, 2001 and 2012. First place K-400, numerous Top 3 finishes in Hillclimb, Hillcross, Cross Country and Snowcross. Twelve Top 10, and 10 Top 5 finishes in the Iron Dog.

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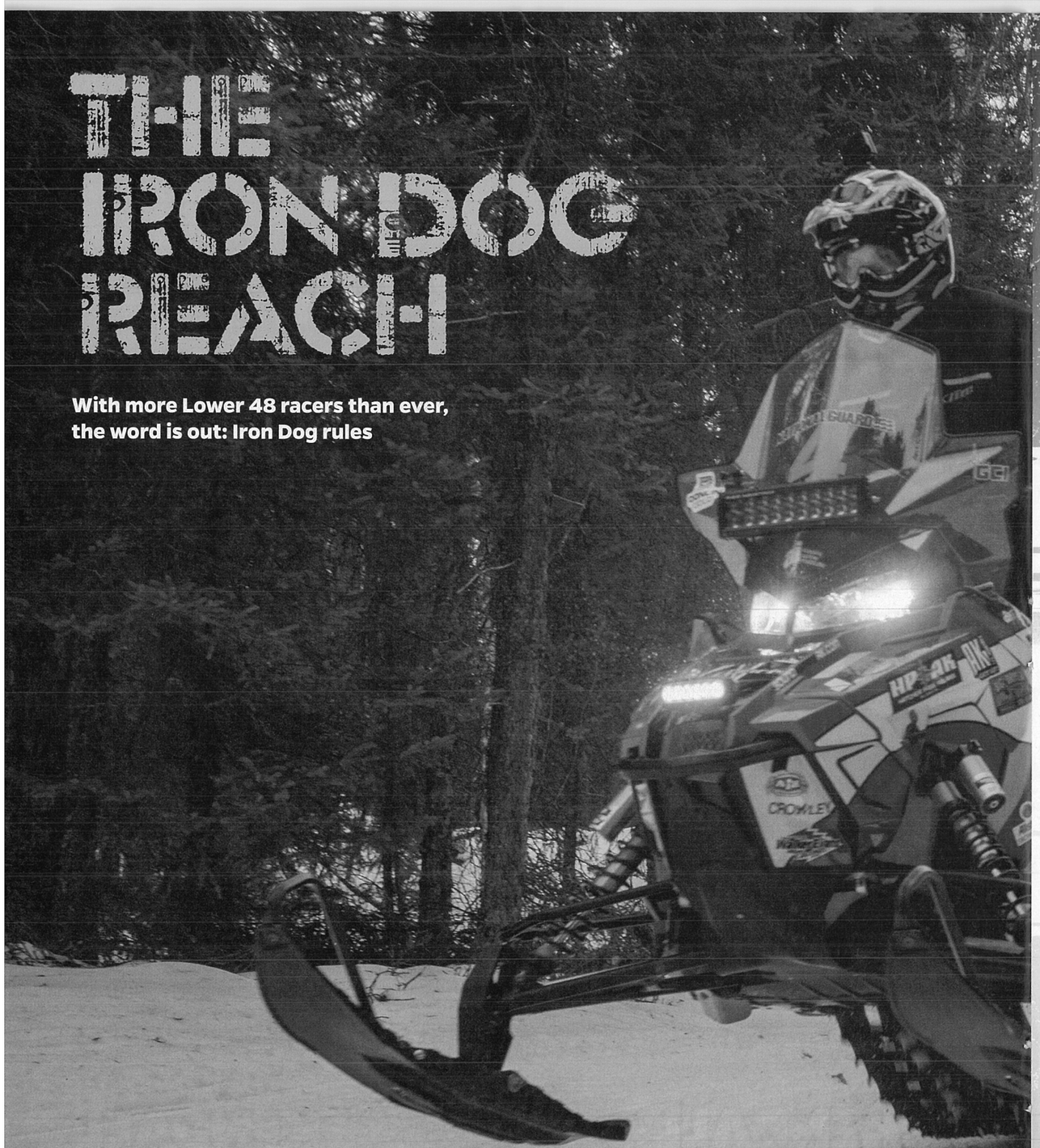
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THE IRON DOG REACH

With more Lower 48 racers than ever, the word is out: Iron Dog rules



Bobby Menne, a highly successful Team Polaris pro racer from Minnesota, will race the Iron Dog for the second time in 2017. MATT WALISZEK / ORZEL PHOTO

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POLARIS

*Sponsors: **Eagle River Polaris & Arctic Cat**, Denali Dental Care, Polaris Racing, Tequila 61, Alaska Mechanical Contractors Association/ SMACNA, H&K Sheetmetal Fabricators, Inc., Adventures in Eye Care, Motorfist, Vision X Lighting, Kanady Chiropractic Center, Steve Deptula, Rally Automotive, Big Dipper Clothing, Color Art Printing Co., Support Services of Alaska, Black Gold Express*



NICK PETITO

AGE: 29 / **FROM**: Anchorage

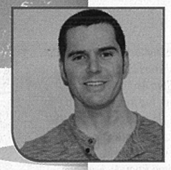
STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Polaris Axys Pro-S

RACE HISTORY: None

BIO: Nick grew up in Alaska riding snowmachines whenever and wherever he could. During his free time he can be found working on his house, fishing, riding or spending time outside with his wife, Ashley, and pit crew Kamryn, Carson and Bennett.

RACING EXPERIENCE: None listed.

Personal Sponsors: Rally Automotive



JERROD VAUGHN

AGE: 33 / **FROM**: Anchorage

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING**: Polaris Axys Pro-S

RACE HISTORY: 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished, 2016: Finished

BIO: I promised my wife I'd only race one time – it's been five years in a row now. Iron Dog is too addicting to quit. God has blessed me with a great family who has tremendous patience and support. Thanks to my wife, Jennifer, and kiddos Makenna, Austin and Rylee. They are the best pit crew I could have. I am looking forward to a new season with a new partner and the challenges the trail brings this year.

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

Personal Sponsors: Jennifer, Makenna, Austin and Rylee Vaughn; Mark and Lynne Vaughn; Paul Hughes; Joan and Pops Laury; Jim and Sandy Potvin, Shelli and Darrel Koontz; Mike and Wendy Eldridge; Donald Koontz; and our pilot Jeremy Rogers.

SKI-DOO

*Sponsors: **Ski-Doo***



BRAD GEORGE

AGE: 23 / **FROM**: Wasilla

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

RACE HISTORY: 2013-2016: Finished

BIO: I was born and raised in Alaska and spend all my free time working on my house, working on my toys, and working on keeping up with Robby. I love killing bears, racing sleds and hanging out with family and friends.

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, Extream Fun Center, 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, Howdie, Q.A.P, Advanced Family Dentistry, SafeLite Autoglass, Better Health Chiropractic, Enderson Concrete, Jackovich, Wolf Eye Center, Play It Again Sports, Kevin Keene, Tasha's Techniques, Team Schachle



ROBBY SCHACHLE

AGE: 29 / **FROM**: Wasilla

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

RACE HISTORY: 2016: Finished.

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.

RACING EXPERIENCE: First place, I500; Larry Heel, first place; Soo I500, finished; Ice endure, first place.

Personal Sponsors: Korey and Barb Cronquist, Hank Swan, Mr Lube, Andy George, Penn Jersey Drilling, Tasha's Techniques, Sign Works, CF and Hope, Workman Motorsports, Dave with Criterion, Prism, Alaska Pacific Rental, Road Side, Prism, Alaska Line Builders, Spenard Builder's Supply, Wasilla Dental, Easy Rent, Alaska Spine Institute, AK Nails, Steve Foster, Napa, Inlet Petroleum, Team CC Ski-Doo, Hill Top Recycling, ACLS, Alaska Gold Star, Alaska Sales, IBEW Local 1547, A1 Signs, the Schachle Family.

7

ARCTIC CAT

*Sponsors: **Arctic Cat**, Fox Shocks, Woody's, Interstate Batteries of Alaska, Marc McKenna, Bill Wilkes, Wayne Wold, Chris Collins, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Northwest Grading, Gene Wixson Enterprises, Inc., Peterson Cat, Advanced Technology Surveying, Black Oak Development.*



DARRICK JOHNSON

AGE: 44 / **FROM**: Coeur D'Alene, Idaho

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

RACE HISTORY: 2008: Finished.

BIO: I have two amazing children, Ethan and Avery. I am currently doing contract work for the insurance industry. The 2017 race will be my seventh Iron Dog. My last race was in 2012, while running in about eighth place, I crashed and spent eight days in critical care in Anchorage after being airlifted out by Guardian Life Flight. I am anxious and ready to return in 2017. I want to thank everyone who helped out and supported Team 9 after my crash. The ladies in Nulato, the Guardian flight crew, the medical staff at Providence, Vern Monette, Marc McKenna for proving what a true champion is, the Gueco Family, Steve Spence, and everyone who visited. Thank you all!

RACING EXPERIENCE: No race history provided.

Personal Sponsors: Melissa King, Vern and Tammy Monette



KRAIG KING

AGE: 50 / **FROM**: Willits, Calif.

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

RACE HISTORY: None

BIO: King has lived in Nome and various other communities around Alaska, and is currently living in northern California working as a self-employed excavation contractor. His hobbies include backcountry riding, hunting, fishing and jet boating. Kraig has two daughters, Kallie King and Katie King, and a granddaughter, Mary Lou.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Nome-Golovin 200.

Personal Sponsors: Melissa King, Gene Wixson, Melissa King, Harvey Farley, Odessa McHart

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ARCTIC CAT

*Sponsors: **Team Arctic Alaska**, Neeser Construction, Big State Mechanical, Klim, Vision X, Help Line Towing, Nowka Cabinets, UA Local 367 Plumbers & Pipefitters, Carpenters Local 1281, Arctic Cat Inc., C&A Services, Projekt 907, Fox Racing Shocks, Renton Coil Springs, Zugger Shocks, Evans Coolant, Thunder Products, Woody's Traction Products, Gu Sports, Elete Electrolytes, Greatland Welding and Machine, Gates Belts, Trail Tank, Larson Racing, Ultimate Dog Bags, Wasilla Arctic Cat, Nome Arctic Cat, RV Sports, Speedwerx, Action Graphics, Anchorage Drag Bike, Advanced Powder Coating, Alaska Skydive Center, Synthetics Alaska, Amsoil, Nome Machine Works*



RYAN SOTTOSANTI

AGE: 39 / **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 married to my beautiful wife, Heather, and have a 8-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, Faith Sottosanti, Pete Nolfi, Byron Flipin, Micah Huss.



MICAH HUSS

AGE: 41 / **FROM**: Willow

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

RACE HISTORY: None

BIO: I've been racing cross-country snowmachines for the past 24 years, winning numerous races throughout the years. I'm manager/owner of Team Arctic Alaska race team for Arctic Cat in Alaska. I'm also operations manager and boat captain for Discovery Channel's television show, "Bering Sea Gold" and National Geographic's "Man vs. Wild: The Raft." I enjoy all powersports, working on engines, helping others, being outdoors, working out and spending time with family and friends.

RACING EXPERIENCE: Many first- through third-place finishes in Kotzebue-region races throughout the years. Raced the I-500 in 2010 and 2011. Raced the Nome-Golovin race seven times as well as Arctic Man.

Personal Sponsors: Howard Gregg and family; Ronnie, Ayden and Kaitlin Huss; Tony and Lisa Haugen; AK Off-road Unlimited; Smith Goggles; Dennis Davis and family; George Greene and family; Leon Shellabarger; Andy and Stephanie George; Cindy Kottke; and Sarah and David Forbes.

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POLARIS

*Sponsors: **Walker Evans Racing**, Klim, Eagle River Polaris & Arctic Cat, Alaska Air Taxi, Aurora Drilling and Consulting, Bright Minds Learning Center, Alaska Air Balancing, Alaska Golf Shot, H&H Construction, Integrity Excavating, Alaska Hardrock, Inc., First Choice Physical Therapy, Criterion General, Spain Excavating*



SHANE BARBER

AGE: 42 / **FROM**: Willow

STATUS: Veteran / **RIDING**: Polaris XCR

RACE HISTORY: Finished in 2000, 2004, 2006-07, 2009, and 2014-15.

BIO: I have a gorgeous wife, three children and one grandchild. I've been racing competitively for over 20 years. I am a drill site manager in Milne Point. I love life and adventure and look forward to this year's challenge. "We the people." God bless.

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

Personal Sponsors: Momma Barber, Dad and Mom Spain, my wife, Tammy; and my children, Cody, Brandi, Shana, Brett, Evan and grandson Bryant.



DAVID SPAIN

AGE: 32 / **FROM**: Willow

STATUS: Rookie / **RIDING**: Polaris XCR

RACE HISTORY: None

BIO: I am a third-generation Alaskan and have been running heavy equipment almost all my life. I have been an avid snowmachiner since the age of 5 and have been riding most of my life. My family and I are looking forward to this year's race season. I have the support and dedication of my lovely wife of 13 years, Kerrie Spain, and our three children, Brayden, Dawson and Taylar.

RACING EXPERIENCE: I have participated in K150, K200, K400 and Mayor's Cup.

Personal Sponsors: Bright Minds Learning Center, H&H Construction, Integrity Excavating, Criterion General, Spain Excavating.

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POLARIS

*Sponsors: **Polaris Industries***



BOBBY MENNE

AGE: 25 / **FROM**: Virginia, Minn.

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

RACE HISTORY: Finished in 2016.

BIO: I work for a marketing company out of Minneapolis during the summer. During the winter, I race full time for Polaris as a cross-country, oval, and enduro racer. My main focus over the past few years has been in the USXC Circuit and SOO-500 but recently I've been dedicating more time to the bigger races including the I-500 cross country, the SOO-500 and the Iron Dog.

RACING EXPERIENCE: 2015-16, No. 1 qualifier at Soo I-500 (mechanical during race); ninth-place Iron Dog finisher, multiple USXC pro podiums; 2014-15, third-place Pro 600 season points, multiple USXC pro podiums; 2012-13, qualified 16th and finished third overall with co-driver Mike Babcock in first Soo I-500.; 2012-13, second in Pro Open points and ninth in Pro Stock points, USXC cross-country racing.



Personal Sponsors: 131 Racing, Polaris, Polaris Engineered Lubricants, Fly Racing, Western Power Sports, Woodys, C&A Pro Skis, Eleven Design Co., Strait Productions, Walker Evans Racing, Triple 9 Optics, Speedwerx, Gates G-Force Belts, Zollinger Racing Products.

DANIEL THIBAULT

AGE: 33 / **FROM**: Anchorage

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

RACE HISTORY: Finished in 2007 and 2016.

BIO: I was born and raised in Alaska. I currently work for Big Dipper Construction. My wife and I have two daughters, Ashlyn and Ellie. When I'm not working I enjoy RZR riding in the summer and riding snowmachines with my family in Petersville during the winter.

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

Personal Sponsors: Valley General Energy Services, Soundworks, Big Dipper Construction, HPAK, Matthew Spernak, Al Palma, Taylor Leasing, Fine Line Interiors, A2D Motorsports, Northern Solutions, Walker Evans Racing, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Klim Team 45, VisionX USA, Projekt907, Lead dog helmet light, my personal trainer DJ with LutroFit, and all my family and friends who have supported me and made this possible.



IN HIS FIRST IRON DOG RACE in 2007, Darrick Johnson and his teammate Fred Grub represented only two of four racers from outside of Alaska. A year later, he and teammate Kurt Steiner returned and again were in the minority. They were one of only five teams from outside of Alaska to enter the race. That year, just three of those teams successfully completed the race, and Johnson, from Coeur d'Alene, Idaho; and Steiner, from Bismarck, N.D., were the top finishers, placing 10th.

"It's evolved from that first year tremendously because of the relationships we've built with people in Alaska," said Johnson, who is back to compete this year after a serious injury ended his 2012 Iron Dog quest. "The first year it was a break-the-bank effort because I didn't know a single person in Alaska. I've grown up riding in the Midwest, running



Mike Telkamp, of Hoffman, Minn., running the 2016 Iron Dog. MATT WALISZEK / ORZEL PHOTO

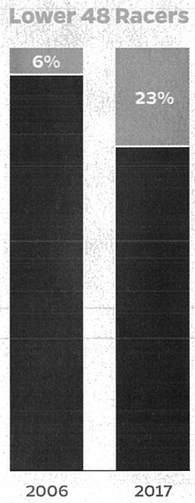
ditches and farm fields, and I moved to Coeur d'Alene because I liked the mountains. That's what drew me to Iron Dog that first time, too."

Things have changed quite a bit since then. This year's 34th annual Iron Dog race features the largest field of Outside competitors in the race's history. Sixteen racers hail from outside of Alaska—15 from places such as Minnesota, Maine and Idaho and one from British Columbia—and like 2008, five full teams are entered. There also are mixed teams of riders, such as Johnson, who will be racing with Kraig King, who although he lists his current residence as California has spent years living and riding in Nome; and Bobby Menne, who lives in Virginia, Minn., but will be racing with Alaskan and Iron Dog veteran Dan Thibault, from Anchorage.

"The years of solid public relations and media productions like NBCSports and National Geographic shows, strong social media numbers and Iron Dog's engagement in national snowmobile events like Hay Days are all contributing factors," said Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner. "The Lower 48 has also had some big snow years, which may have led to more word of mouth."

Indeed this year's field will be interesting to watch. This year's Outside competitors represent 23 percent of the racing field—compared to just 6 percent in 2007 and 12.5 percent in 2008, for example. There are plenty of new names to consider. One never knows who might be the next underdog to race from behind—could it be rookies Paul Johnson and Mike Telkamp, the Team 13 duo out of Hoffman, Minn., who are jumping into the pro-racing ranks once again after scratching from last year's race? Or maybe it will be Team 32, Michigan rookies Rob Cleary from Frankenmuth, Mich., and Dave Hausbeck of Reese, Mich., who chase the podium. The one rule that stands true for this race every year is that nothing is guaranteed.

"There is skill, weather, mechanics and luck involved," said Johnson, "so you never know what will happen."



PRIZE DETAILS	CATEGORY	SPONSOR	AMOUNT
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 Pro Team into Fairbanks, LEAD-DOG Helmet Lights. Product certificate.	All Pro Class	LEAD-DOG Helmet Lights	$230
Two Woody's Gear Bags and two Woody's Sled 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*	$100
		Total Contingency Prizes for 2017	$112,496

*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 2018 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.

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
Fastest All-Rookie Team to Fairbanks — 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
Fastest All-Rookie Team into "Checkpoint KLIM" in McGrath. $750 Product Certificate for each racer. Product certificate.	Rookies	Klim USA*	$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
Fastest All-Rookie Team Nome — 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
"Eighth is Great" award for the 8th-place team to finish in Fairbanks. Gift cards for each racer valued at $500 each. Product certificate.	All Pro Class	Alaska Industrial Hardware*	$1,000
GCI "Sponsor of all things fast Award" to the fastest All-Rookie Team to Finish in Fairbanks. Technology package.	Rookies	GCI*	$1,000
Holiday Stationstore "Fuel Your Adventure" prize. Fastest All-Rookie Team to North Pole. $1,000 cash.	Rookies	Holiday Stationstores	$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

THERE IS SKILL, WEATHER, MECHANICS AND LUCK INVOLVED, SO YOU NEVER KNOW WHAT WILL HAPPEN. — DARRICK JOHNSON

ALL PRO

Also new this year, Iron Dog organizers have eliminated the recreational ride. Low turnout necessitated the change, but the race will return in the future.

"It's really just an anomaly this year," Kastner said. "As good snow years get riders out on the trails, friends, family and 'bucket list' riders will return to go on the Rec Class adventure. I don't see it becoming a new norm to have so few riders."

Bobby Menne, a racer from Minnesota who will compete for the second time this year, says he is happy to see the race focus in on the Pro Class. As a highly successful Team Polaris pro cross-country, oval and enduro racer, he has begun to shift his focus to the longer, more challenging races such as Iron Dog. Last year, he subbed into the race last minute, replacing Anchorage rider Marcus Jensen, who was injured before the race and had to scratch.

"I got called four days before the race; (Dan Thibault's) partner got hurt and ended up not racing, and Cory Davis ended up calling me," Menne said. "I basically was winging it. We did a 40-mile test run on the sled once I got up there, and I didn't have any family members or other people up there supporting me. I just basically flew up there and raced."

Despite having never been on the Iron Dog course and with limited practice time, Menne and Thibault defied the odds—Menne was the top-placing Lower 48 racer, as he and his Team 4 teammate Thibault crossed the finish line in ninth place.

"What kept people away before is the thought that, 'Oh, Iron Dog's an Alaska race and you won't do very well if you are not from Alaska," Menne said. "But last year, Dan and I were sixth into Nome, and I'd nev-



Alaskans Tyson Johnson (above) and Tyler Aklestad recorded the fastest winning time in race history in 2016.
JENNY DANIELS PHOTOGRAPHY

er ran up in Alaska before. I think there can be success for Lower 48 riders."

This year, Menne has fine-tuned his focus as he and Thibault try to up their placement and become even more competitive.

"We are building the sleds over a longer period of time, and enhancing some different stuff we've come up with," Menne said. "We will be better set up and better prepared than last year, and I will be running a couple of the shorter cross-country races around here to prepare."

Even after only one Iron Dog though, Menne learned an important lesson.

"Last year I found out it was more mental than anything," he said. "The speeds aren't anything different than what I run down here, but it's the mental side of things where you're out in the middle of Alaska and nobody is going to show up to help you. You kind of have to pace yourself differently and be positive about the next part of the race, no matter how tired you are."

BE POSITIVE ABOUT THE NEXT PART OF THE RACE, NO MATTER HOW TIRED YOU ARE.

— BOBBY MENNE

WHO WILL WIN?

As to who will win the race? Well, that's anyone's guess said Iron Dog's Kastner.

"Weather is always a consideration," he said. "It was Todd Palin (and others) who said 'Mother Nature dictates this race,' and he's correct. Iron Dog as an organization has a stalwart and adaptive approach to managing those challenges. We hope for the best and plan for the worst."

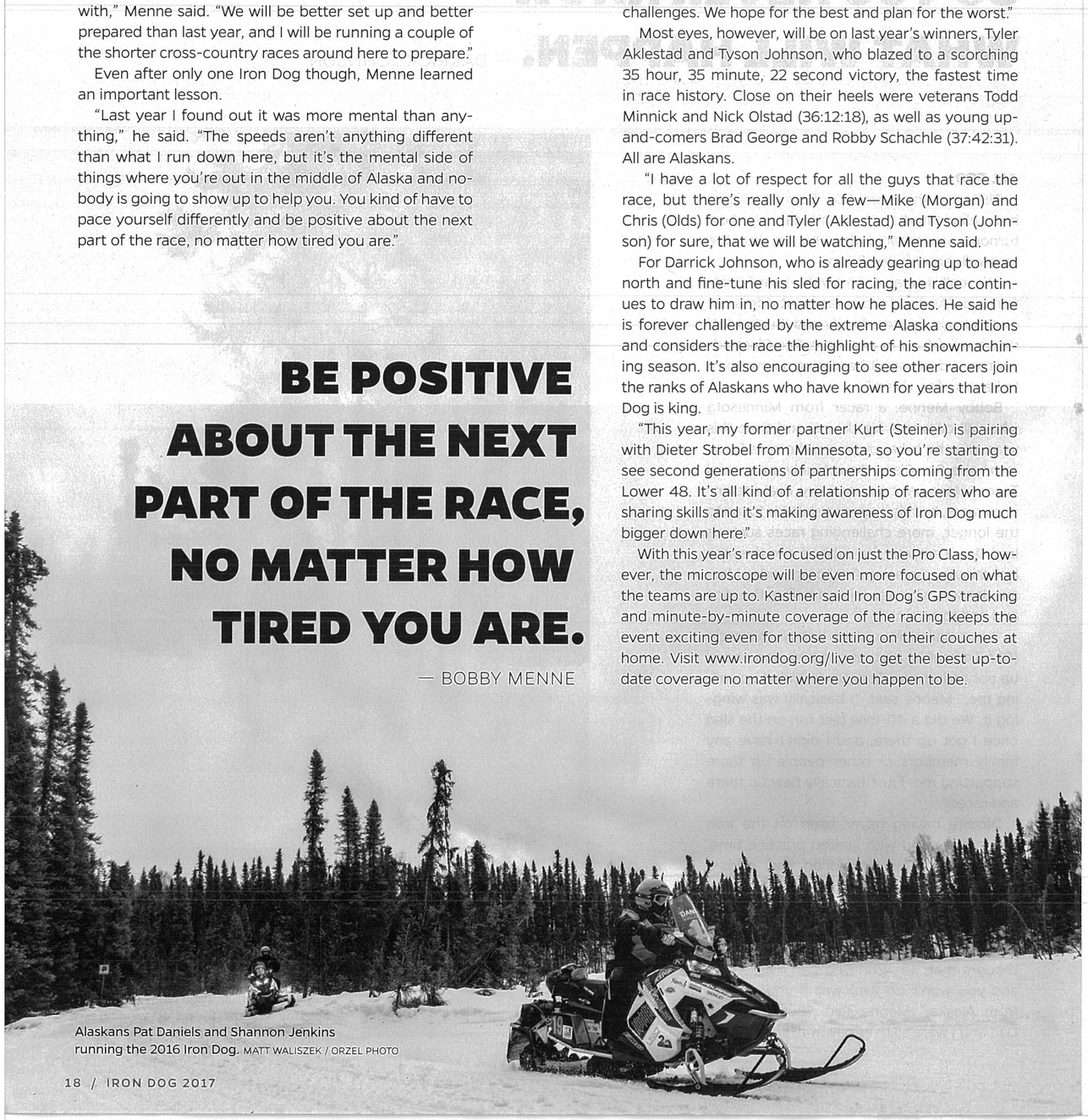
Most eyes, however, will be on last year's winners, Tyler Aklestad and Tyson Johnson, who blazed to a scorching 35 hour, 35 minute, 22 second victory, the fastest time in race history. Close on their heels were veterans Todd Minnick and Nick Olstad (36:12:18), as well as young up-and-comers Brad George and Robby Schachle (37:42:31). All are Alaskans.

"I have a lot of respect for all the guys that race the race, but there's really only a few—Mike (Morgan) and Chris (Olds) for one and Tyler (Aklestad) and Tyson (Johnson) for sure, that we will be watching," Menne said.

For Darrick Johnson, who is already gearing up to head north and fine-tune his sled for racing, the race continues to draw him in, no matter how he places. He said he is forever challenged by the extreme Alaska conditions and considers the race the highlight of his snowmachining season. It's also encouraging to see other racers join the ranks of Alaskans who have known for years that Iron Dog is king.

"This year, my former partner Kurt (Steiner) is pairing with Dieter Strobel from Minnesota, so you're starting to see second generations of partnerships coming from the Lower 48. It's all kind of a relationship of racers who are sharing skills and it's making awareness of Iron Dog much bigger down here."

With this year's race focused on just the Pro Class, however, the microscope will be even more focused on what the teams are up to. Kastner said Iron Dog's GPS tracking and minute-by-minute coverage of the racing keeps the event exciting even for those sitting on their couches at home. Visit www.irondog.org/live to get the best up-to-date coverage no matter where you happen to be.



Alaskans Pat Daniels and Shannon Jenkins running the 2016 Iron Dog. MATT WALISZEK / ORZEL PHOTO

IRON DOG 2017

CONTINGENCY PRIZES



Top finishers of the 2016 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	Rookies Finish Line Challenge	$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
Fastest team from White Mountain to Nome (Northbound). Cash.	All Pro Class	Bering Sea Lions Club in Nome	$6,000
Entry for both racers into the 2018 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 Pro Team from Big Lake to Skwentna	All Pro Class	Alaska Directional	$5,000
First Place overall Finish on a Polaris snowmobile.	All Pro Class	Polaris Industries	$5,000

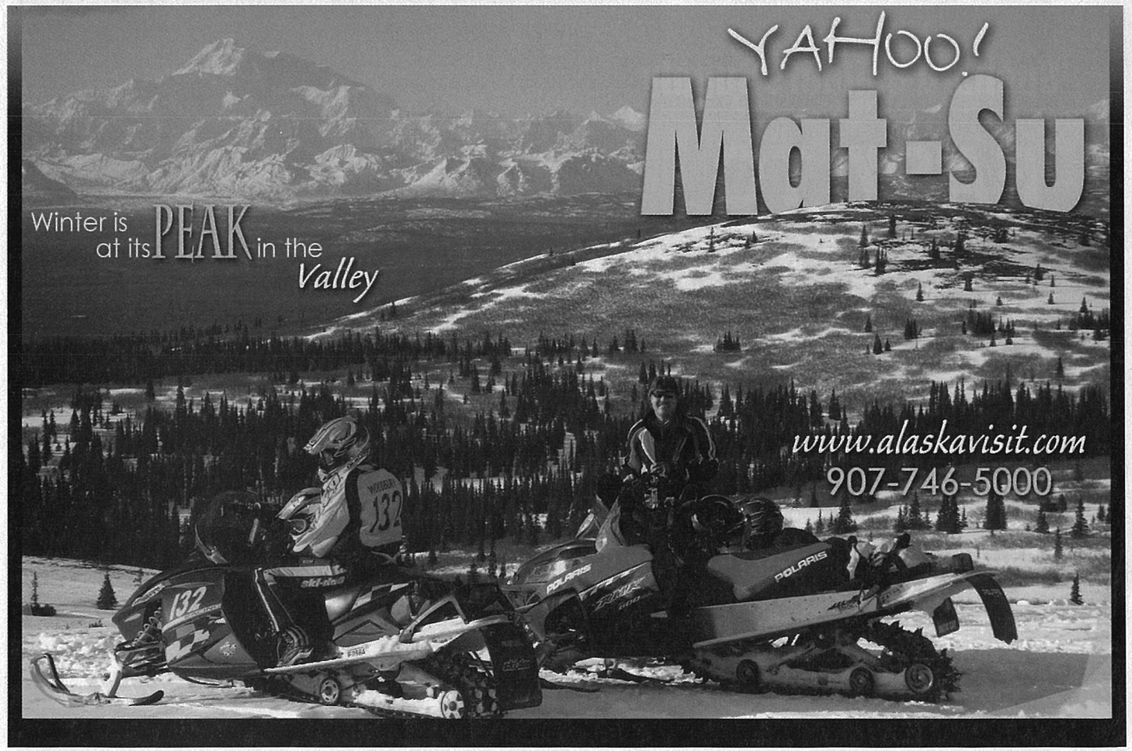
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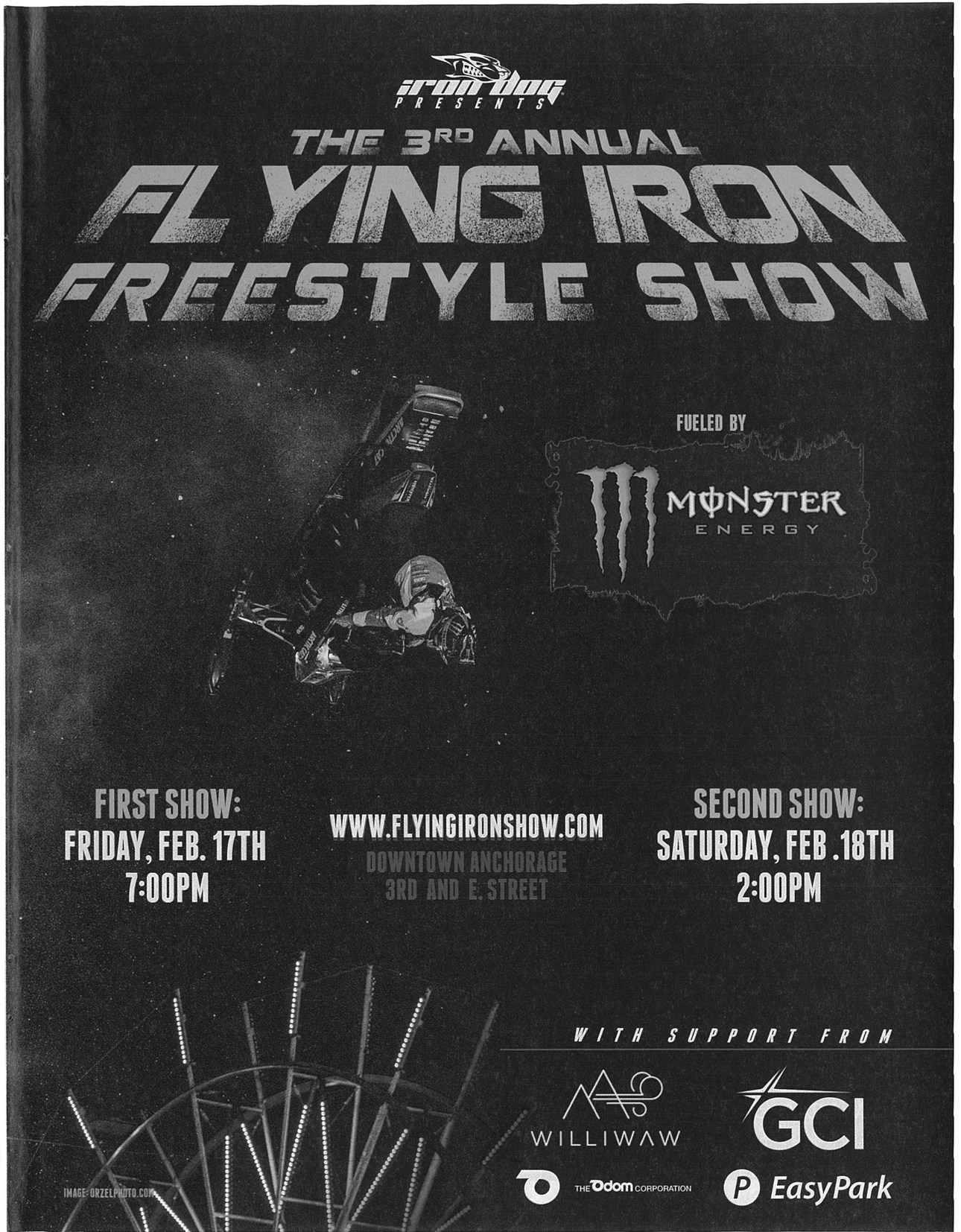
Donlin Gold is proud to be a Premier Sponsor of the **2017 Iron Dog** race and a Principal Sponsor of the **Nome Halfway Gold Rush Prize.**

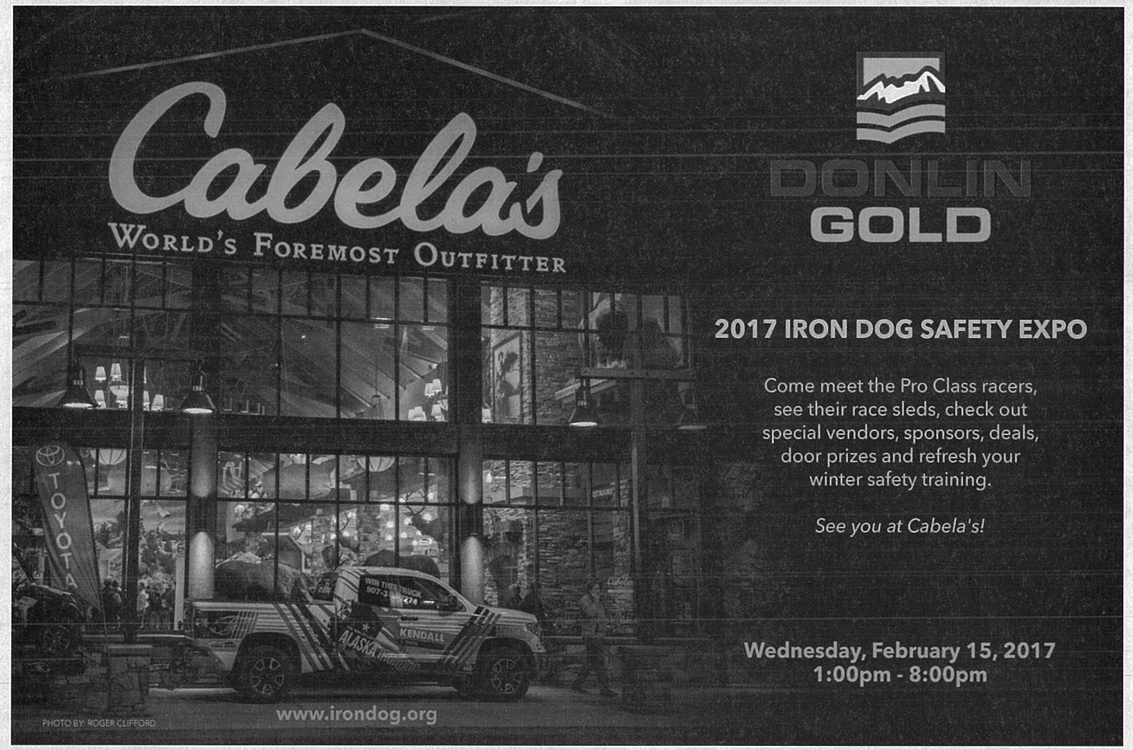
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To learn more about the project visit **DonlinGold.com**







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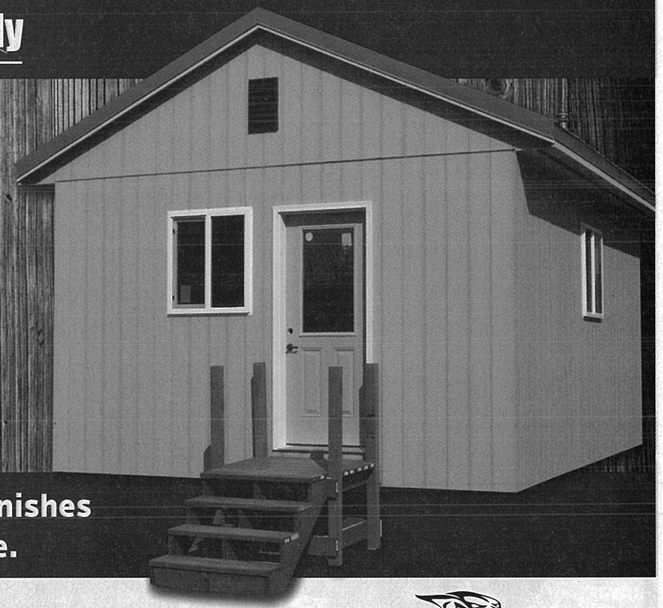
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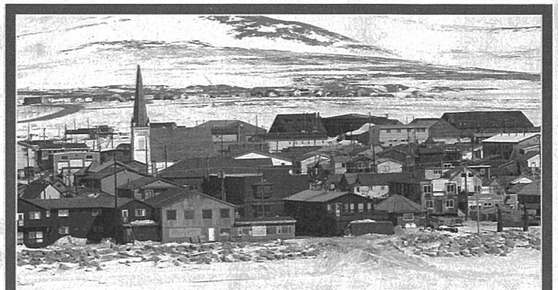
IRON DOG: A LEGACY OF CHAMPIONS

THE IRON DOG'S CURRENT RECORD time is 35:35:22, set last year by Tyson Johnson and Tyler Aklestad on their Ski-Doos.

Their time was set on the 2,031-mile course, but it 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, Johnson and Aklestad's 2016 race was nearly double the length, yet only took 1.5 times longer to complete. They averaged 60 mph for the duration.

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

YEAR	CHAMPIONS	BRAND	TRAIL TIME
2016	Tyson Johnson & Tyler Aklestad	Ski-Doo	35:35:22
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	40:12
1988	John Faeo & Dan Zipay	Polaris	—
1987	John Faeo & Dan Zipay	Polaris	51:00
1986	John Faeo & Dan Zipay	Polaris	47:00
1985	Scott Davis & Gary Eoff	Yamaha	38:00
1984	John Faeo & Rod Frank	Polaris	23:50



The Nome Convention and Visitors Bureau would like to welcome the Iron Dog staff, volunteers and racers to Nome, Alaska!

iron dog



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IRONDOG.ORG/RAFFLE

Alaska Gaming Permit #79 | Winner need not be present to win | Drawing date: February 25, 2017
Photos of prizes are examples only and do not represent the actual prize(s) awarded

2016 TOYOTA TUNDRA 4X4
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Team 30 Iron Dog racers Geoff Crouse, in front, and Jerrod Vaughn leave the starting chute during the 2016 Iron Dog ceremonial start in Anchorage. MATT WALISZEK / ORZEL PHOTO

ACTION IN ANCHORAGE

Iron Dog ceremonial start kicks off a week of racing excitement



6 WAYS TO GET THE LATEST

Iron Dog App: Search "Iron Dog" at the Apple App Store or Google Play Stores

Facebook: facebook.com/snowmobilerace

Twitter: @irondograce

Instagram: @irondograce

Youtube: youtube.com/IronDogRace

Follow the hashtag #irondog2017 for updates all along the route.

OUT OF SIGHT BUT ON YOUR DEVICE

WHILE RACERS ARE HUNDREDS OF MILES into the backcountry, you'll need to rely on technology to stay abreast of the action. Watch news coverage o **KTUU Channel 2**, listen on the radio, or surf the Iron Dog website and Facebook page. Expect news coverage and prerace information from KTUU before and during the race.

The South Anchorage High School Media Team will be providing **live streaming** coverage from the start line in Anchorage, all the way to the finish line in Fairbanks. As well as updates along the route. Find the most current live stream online at www.irondog.org/live as well as find previous live streams.

For those who prefer web-based and mobile viewing information and near-real-time **GPS tracking**, the place to be is the Iron Dog website, www.irondog.org. Look for Race Tracking, where you can follow your favorite team at www.irondog.org/gps-tracking/. You can find team information, checkpoints and live GPS tracking. Watch as the team move across Alaska from checkpoint to checkpoint, over mountains and down rivers. GPS tracking provides custom features so you can follow along exactly the way you want and filter out any unwanted information.

CHOOSE YOUR VIEW

From sofa to sidelines, there are many ways to watch Iron Dog 2017

EVEN THOUGH Iron Dog touches many communities along its route—Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner says the route 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 a few years ago, 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 1 and 8 p.m. Feb. 15 at Cabela'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. 17, downtown Anchorage begins hosting evening events that lead up to the ceremonial start of Iron Dog, and on Feb. 18 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 through 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. 19, 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 two-minute intervals and can be seen speeding off across the lake. Expect fewer festivities than in Anchorage, but enjoy some real race action.

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

And in Fairbanks another festive, downtown experience can be had as the crowd gathers by the Morris Thomson Cultural & Visitors Center, where the race ends.

Racers can be seen cruising up the river, making way for the finish. Cheer them on from the sidelines or watch from the bank. If you get cold, duck into a downtown restaurant or café for something hot to eat, into the cultural center, or check with Iron Dog sponsors for their offerings.

IRON DOG 101

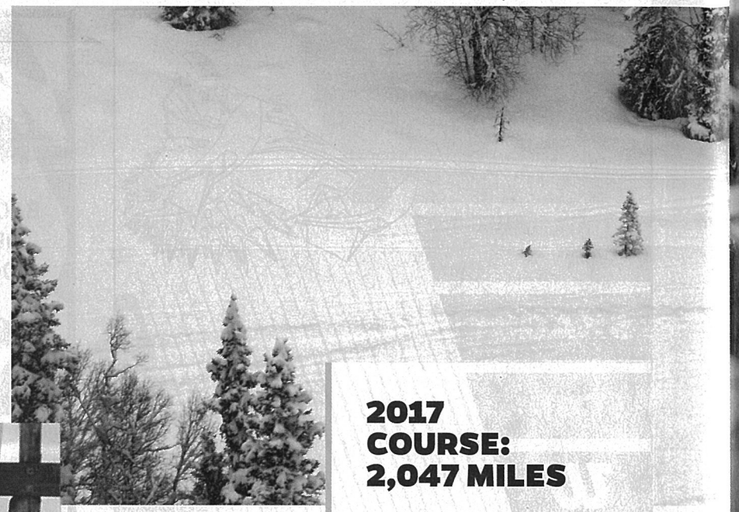
WINS BY BRAND

15 Wins on Polaris
10 Wins on Arctic Cat
4 Wins on Ski-Doo
3 Wins on Yamaha



RACE ROUTES OVER THE YEARS

Year	Route	Mileage
2015-present	Anchorage – Nome – North Pole/Fairbanks	2,047
2011-2014	Big Lake – Nome – North Pole/Fairbanks	2,031
2006-2010	Big Lake – Nome – Fairbanks	1,971
2005	Big Lake – Nome – Big Lake	2,000
1998-2004	Big Lake – Nome – Fairbanks	1,971
1993-1997	Big Lake – Nome – Big Lake	2,000
1984-1992	Big Lake – Nome	1,049



FIRST RACE

The inaugural Iron Dog was called the "Iditarod Iron Dog Classic." Due to warm weather, the race was from McGrath to Nome. Fifteen teams raced for a purse of $20,000. John Faeo and Rod Frank won (earning $8,500) and posted an average speed of 35 mph. *Turn the page for a list of all Iron Dog champions.*

2017 COURSE: 2,047 MILES

NORTHBOUND TO NOME

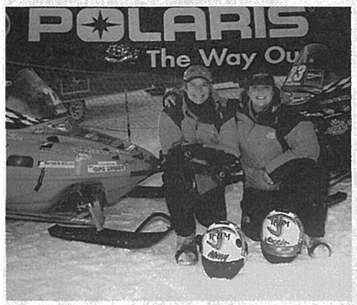
Anchorage to Eagle River	16
Big Lake to Skwentna	89
Skwentna to Shell Lake	17
Shell Lake to Puntilla	55
Puntilla to Rohn	75
Rohn to Nikolai	74
Nikolai to McGrath	52
McGrath to Ophir	63
Ophir to Poorman	99
Poorman to Ruby	72
Ruby to Galena	52
Galena to Kaltag	98
Kaltag to Unalakleet	95
Unalakleet to Shaktoolik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

SOUTHBOUND TO FAIRBANKS

Nome to White Mountain	75
White Mtn to Koyuk	94
Koyuk to Shaktoolik	57
Shaktoolik to Unalakleet	41
Unalakleet to Kaltag	95
Kaltag to Galena	98
Galena to Ruby	52
Ruby to Tanana	120
Tanana to Manley	69
Manley to Nenana	110
Nenana to North Pole	77
North Pole to Fairbanks	35
Southbound Mileage	**923**

TOTAL MILEAGE..... 2,047*

*16 miles of caution flag riding (Anchorage to Eagle River Northbound) equals 2,031 of racing miles.



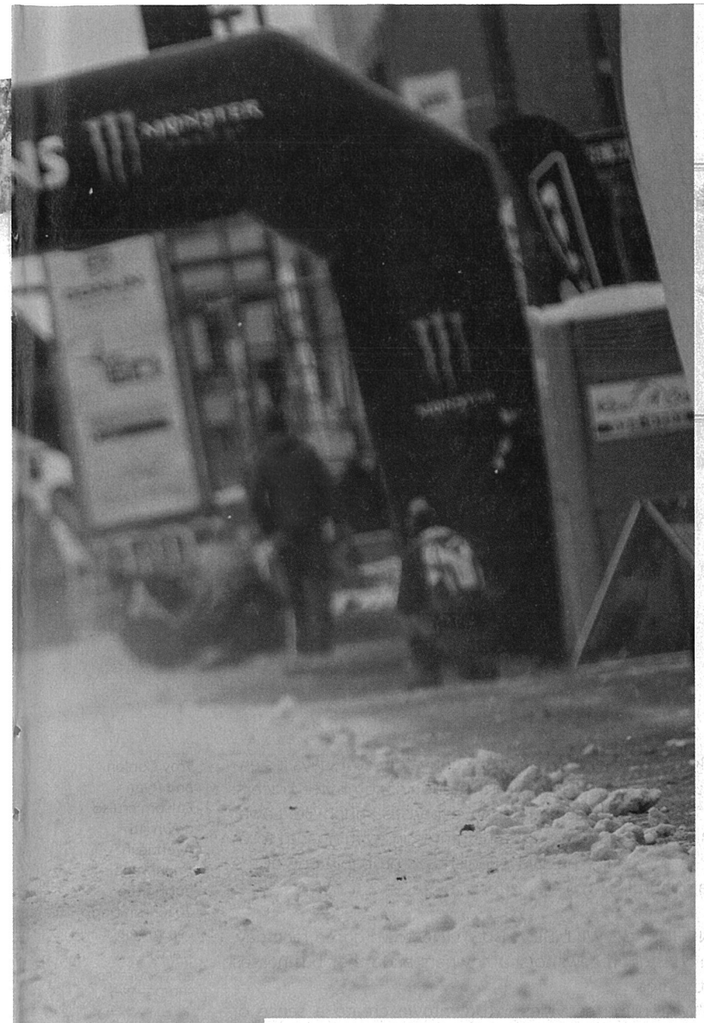
WOMEN RACE IRON DOG

2001: Missy McClurg and Jackie Page *(left)* placed 15th overall. To date, they are the only Pro-class, all-female team to make it to the Fairbanks finish.

1997: the first all female team enters, Lisa Luther and Laura Carr.

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

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



THE MOMENTUM THAT BEGAN in 2015, when Iron Dog added a ceremonial start in Anchorage, continues to build, as this year's race gets ready to kick off once again. The action all begins in downtown Anchorage, Saturday, Feb. 18 – although there are plenty of chances to meet the racers beforehand, such as at the Safety Expo on Wednesday, Feb. 15. This year's field includes 35 teams, including 42 veterans and 28 rookies. They represent most of the manufacturing field, with the largest percentage racing Ski-Doo, followed by Polaris, then Arctic Cat. This year, there are no racers competing on Yamaha sleds.

The racers themselves come from as close as the city streets of Anchorage to the far-flung Bush communities in Alaska and, in an ever-growing percentage, from the northern reaches of the Lower 48 states.

AND THEY'RE OFF!

DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE
SATURDAY, FEB. 18

9:30 A.M.

Vintage snowmachine Shine & Show and Iron Pup kids near the start line. 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 Shine & Show hosted by Everts Air Cargo.

11 A.M.

Closing of the pit area.

12:00 P.M.

Color Guard, National Anthem and announcements.

12:30 P.M.

First Green Flag drops for the first team

1:30 P.M.

AMMC's Iron Pup Kids Parade

2 P.M.

Second Flying Iron freestyle show at the EasyPark Coho parking lot (Third Avenue & E Street).

ACTIVE IN ANCHORAGE

After the race starts, take time to enjoy the city

IRON DOG NOT ONLY CELEBRATES the toughest snowmachine race in the world, but it also is the unofficial kickoff to three full weekends of fun. Following Iron Dog is the ever-popular Fur Rendezvous festival, and then comes the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race. These wintertime events give visitors a chance to experience truly Alaskan events, as well as check out the state's largest city.

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 at Rasmuson Center 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'

continued on page 26



Troy Conlon and Ryan Folsom cruise down 4th Avenue in Anchorage during the 2016 Iron Dog ceremonial start.

ROGER CLIFFORD PHOTOGRAPHY

Kevin Kastner, Iron Dog's executive director, says it's encouraging to see such a cross-section of committed racers.

"Rural riders have additional expenses, much like Lower 48 riders in getting the training time in, coming into town for events, etc.," he said. "Logistics is probably one of the major hurdles."

ANCHORAGE WILL BE A BUSTLING town come race day, which is good news to shop owners and other businesses in the area.

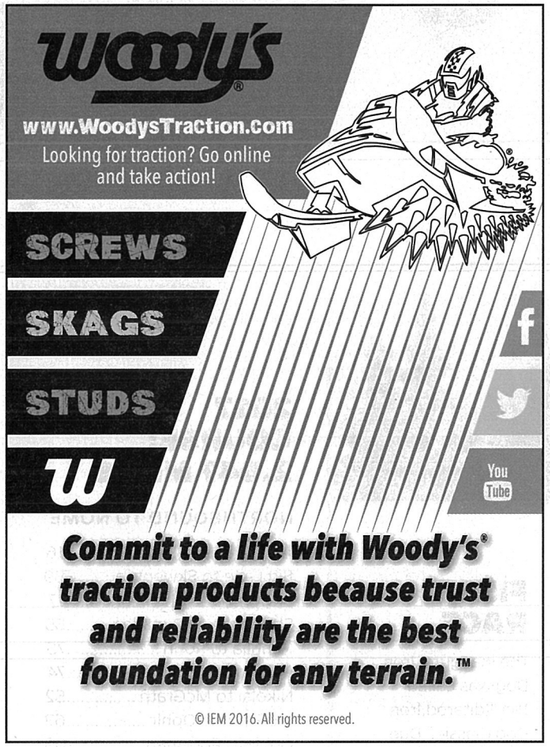
"Wintertime activities in Downtown create a sense of excitement and help folks get over that winter sludge," said Penny Smythe, marketing director of the Anchorage Downtown Partnership, which works closely with Iron Dog to help pull off the big day. "Our goal is to bring vitality to Downtown Anchorage and certainly Iron Dog succeeds at that. From our perspective, we support any and every organization that brings people to the town ... because not only does it help bring excitement to the area, but it also helps the businesses as well."

Whether grabbing a coffee or a bite to eat at a café, or browsing the local shops, Smythe said Iron Dog helps kick off the beginning of a series of special events, including the Fur Rendezvous Festival and the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

"It starts creating this buzz, and people see the snow being brought in too," Smythe said. "It just keeps growing and getting bigger and bigger, and we love that."

Kastner agreed that the partnerships with Downtown businesses and organizations help the race operate smoothly and injects a much-needed population boost to the Downtown area during an otherwise sleepy time of year.

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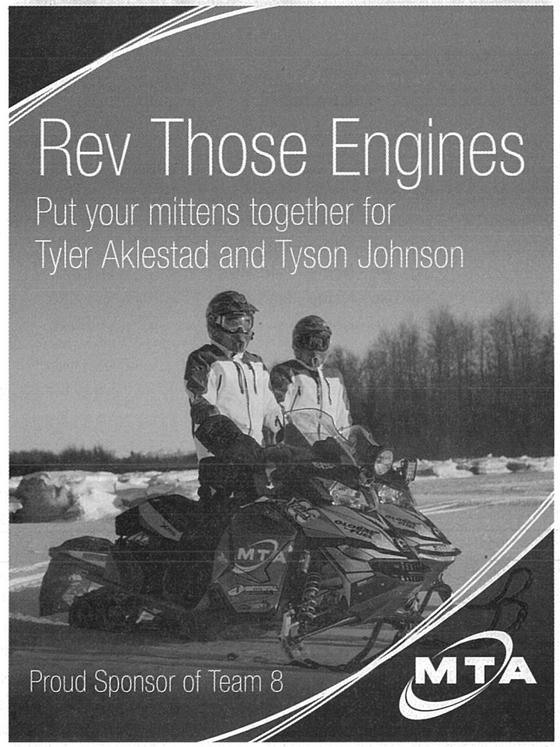




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Fans of Team 3, Steven Boney from Bethel and Oliver Unruh from Anchorage, cheer on the racers at the Anchorage start of the 2016 Iron Dog race.
MATT WALISZEK / ORZEL PHOTO

PARKING IS EASY

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 connect 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.

BEST VIEWING AREAS

Watch the ceremonial start in Anchorage

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

ANCHORAGE
things to do in the city

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

continued on page 28



Families enjoying the evening Flying Iron freestyle show prior to the 2016 Iron Dog.
MATT WALISZEK / ORZEL PHOTO

"Partners like Monster Energy, GCI, Williwaw, Odom Corporation, Bailey's Rent All, NC Machinery and many others make it financially possible," Kastner said. "The real success comes from having the best volunteers in the world. While the partners and supporters like JBER, Anchorage Municipality and the Alaska Railroad functionally make it happen—it's our volunteers who enable us to pull off such a huge logistical endeavor."

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

ANCHORAGE MAP

Turn to page 38 for a map of Iron Dog's Anchorage events.

Kastner, from his end, says the Iron Dog is anyone's race to win. He has long since stopped predicting winners, because there are so many variables—weather, mechanical issues and even pure luck—that play into the final results. Still he offered a bit of insight:

"My prediction is that we may have a 'cold' year for a change and that has the potential to reset the assumptions of both local racers and especially Lower 48 racers who have been involved for the last five-six years," he said. "We haven't seen a really cold year in a while, and there's a good chance we may see more teams drop out due to extreme temperatures.

"Outside of the cold, I suspect we'll have a very competitive field and some possible comebacks for veterans who haven't podium finished in a couple of years. As always, it's Iron Dog... and anything can, and usually does, happen."

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," said Lt. Col. Eric Barlow, commander of the Alaska Army National Guard recruiting and retention battalion. "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."

KASTNER SAID HE HOPES that Iron Dog is getting the word out that it is a team player. What it benefits from volunteers and sponsors is invaluable and in exchange, he wants Iron Dog to be equally invaluable to the state.

"It's difficult to quantify all the impact," Kastner said, "but it's estimated that the economic multiplier of Iron Dog exceeds $3 million in generated activity from Anchorage to Nome and on to Fairbanks, as we touch 23 communities, and racers and the organization spend hundreds of thousands of dollars in fuel, food and lodging."

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

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

IRON DOG HAS ASSEMBLED THE VERY BEST OF ALASKA'S LOGISTICS SPONSORS

Other big partners include Hatcher Pass Polaris for increasing its support—including donating the second-place raffle prize; Klim and Ski-Doo for renewed support from major manufacturers, and Donlin Gold, for its continued strong and engaged partnership, particularly with the Safety Expo.

"Alaska Directional came on as a new sponsor to reach out to western Alaska communities," Kastner added, a welcome addition to help represent the remote racers who work so hard to get to the starting line.

"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."

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TEAM EFFORT

Volunteers and sponsors help make a successful Iron Dog race

WHEN PUTTING ON A RACE that travels through some of the most rugged and remote country in the state, one of the biggest challenges that organizers face is logistics. How do you get supplies into tiny villages, often weathered in by brutal Alaska snowstorms? How do you transport injured racers or damaged sleds in the event of emergency? How do you manage communications in places where communications seem to be the remotest of possibilities?

All of these challenges are met, said Kevin Kastner, Iron Dog's executive director, with the help of volunteers, sponsors and supporters across the state.

"Without the local and national partners who provide cash or in-kind services, it's very unlikely that Iron Dog would exist as it does today," Kastner said. "The sheer level of logistics and transportation costs alone would increase registration costs by at least three to four times, if they weren't provided by partners like Northern Air Cargo, Everts Air Cargo, Ravn, Lynden and other carriers across the state. The rest of the sponsors make it possible for us to provide great prizes for the racers, from $10,000 halfway prizes from Donlin Gold to $1,000 contingency prizes. It all adds up, thanks to these sponsors."

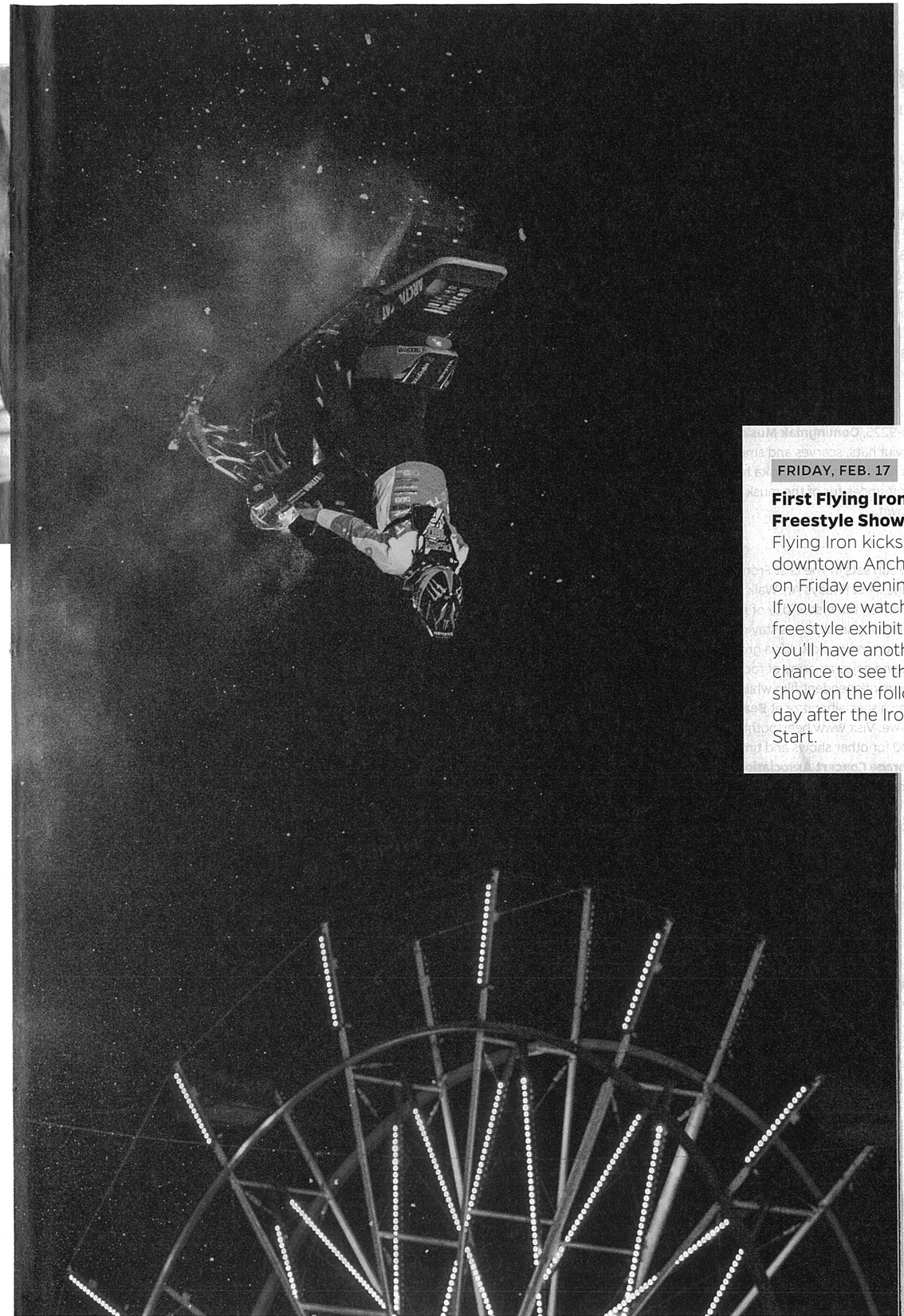
Whether private, corporate or governmental agencies, sponsors ensure Iron Dog can foot the bill to present such an enormous race, tackle logistical concerns and provide racers with a big enough race purse to make all their hard work and risks worthwhile.

And in return, Iron Dog does its part to give back to the community as a thank-you. One of its most successful programs is the Urban Rural Student Exchange, designed to engage high school students in meaningful learning experiences and cultural exchanges surrounding the events, locations and activities associated with the Iron Dog race. Students from remote communities come to the city, while the kids in more urban areas travel by plane to the Bush areas. All students record their experiences and share what they learned in the process. The Alaska National Guard participates in the program and the teamwork between Iron Dog and National Guard makes for a hugely successful program.

"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

Participants in the Iron Dog Urban Rural Student Exchange gathered at the finish line in Fairbanks in 2016.
MATT WALISZEK / ORZEL PHOTO



FRIDAY, FEB. 17

First Flying Iron Freestyle Show, 7 p.m.
Flying Iron kicks off in downtown Anchorage on Friday evening. If you love watching freestyle exhibitions you'll have another chance to see the show on the following day after the Iron Dog Start.

ANCHORAGE
things to do in the city

entering the door; the sweet aromas of the teas and coffees, the tasty sweets and gift items are reminiscent of days long past.

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

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

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

ARTS

As the sun sets in The Last Frontier, the fun begins in Anchorage. First Fridays Art Walk takes the walking tour to a new level. On the first Friday of every month, local art galleries and many 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.

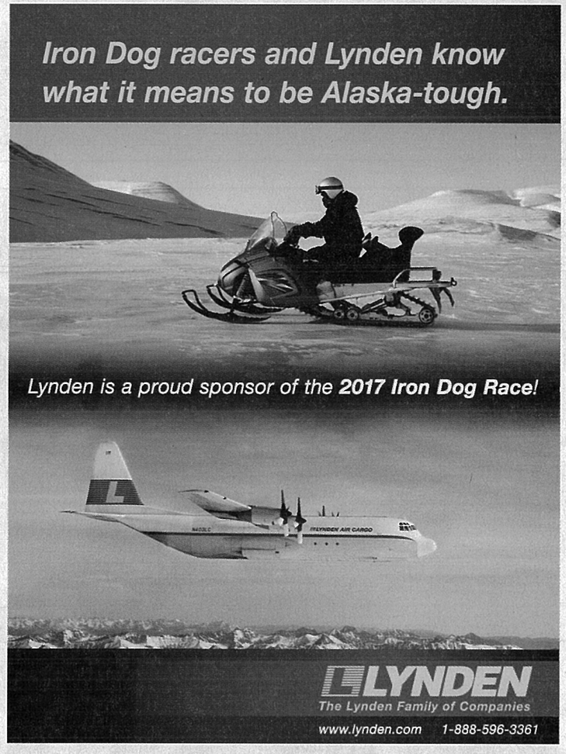
SPORTS

Ten days of parading, community games, carnival and an abundance of festive fun kicks off on Feb. 24 with **Fur Rondy**: www.furrondy.net. The **Iditarod** sled dogs and mushers depart Anchorage on March 4 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 5. For details visit: www.tourofanchorage.com.

In the evenings, hockey fans can have a chance to see Alaska's professional sports franchise — the **Alaska Aces** — play. Their games are Feb. 17-19 against the Colorado Eagles, at the Sullivan Arena. Check out ticket pricing at www.alaskaaces.com.

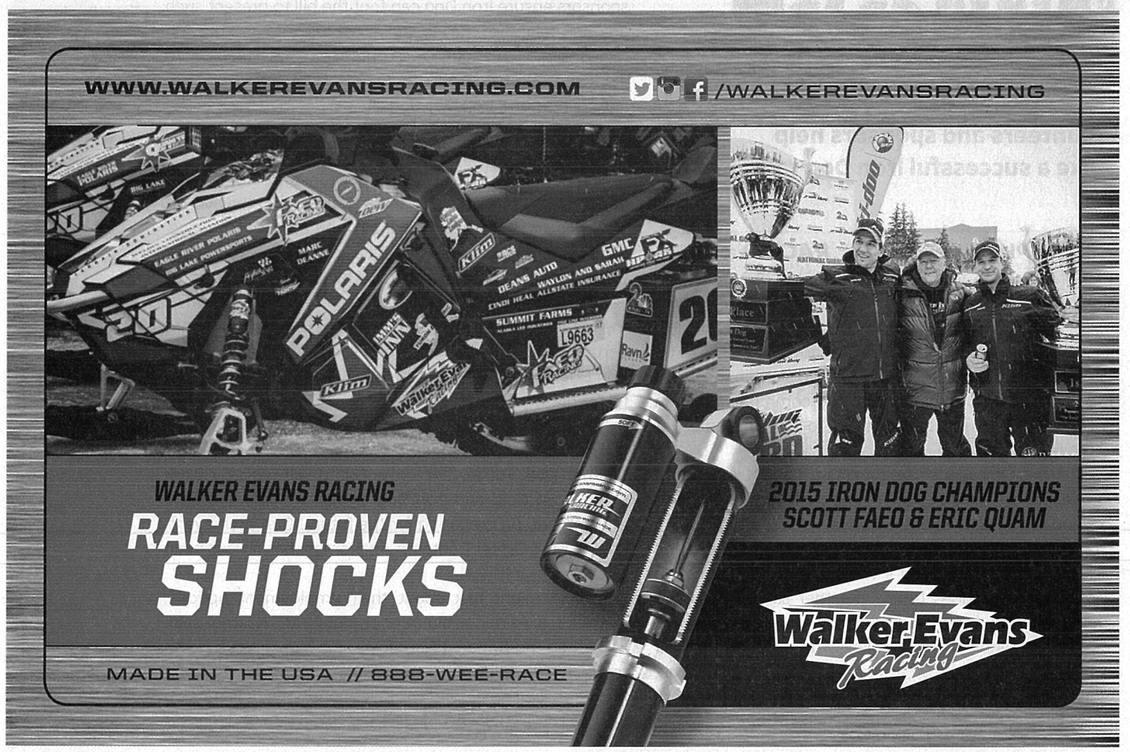
For boxing enthusiasts, **Thursday Night at the Fights** at

continued on page 30









VALDEZ WINTER EVENTS 2017

Valdez ALASKA



march

Annual Mayors' Cup Snowmachine Race

A 200-mile cross country race.

Wounded Warrior Poker Run

A 13-mile snowmachine race on a groomed course. This event is open to everyone including families, kids and beginners.



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

april

The 27th Annual Mountain Man Hillclimb

A snowmobile event held in Thompson Pass, this is a qualifying event for the Snowmobile Hill Climb World Championships.

Visit www.valdezsnowmachineclub.com for more info.

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

like us on facebook

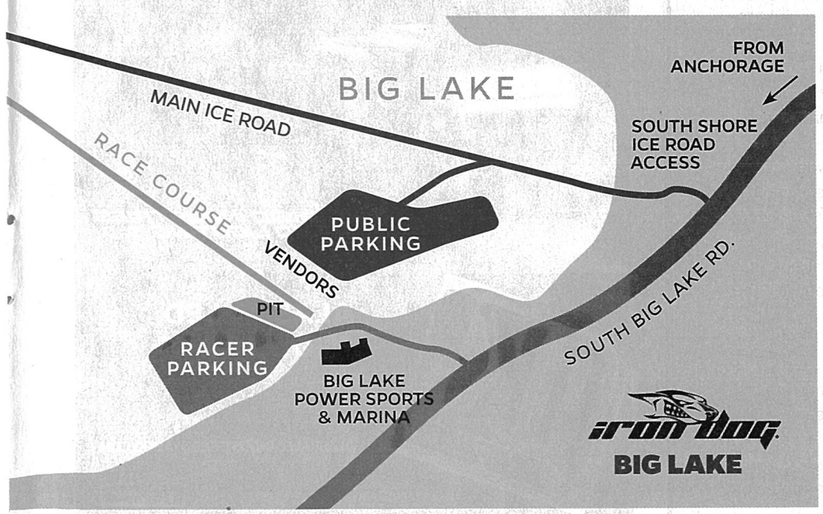


RACE RESTART IN BIG LAKE

The Iron Dog gets underway on Big Lake in 2015. ROGER CLIFFORD PHOTO.

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. 19, next to the Southport Marina in Big Lake; look for the ice road entrance right onto 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
SUNDAY, FEB. 19

8:30 A.M.

Teams must be parked on the ice and start unloading. (Don't be late!)

9:30 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.

1:30 P.M.

End of the restart. (Time to pack up for Nome and Fairbanks.)

ANCHORAGE
things to do in the city

the Egan Center is a must-see. Their scheduled fight is Feb. 16 and ticket information is available at www.thursdaynight-fights.com/schedule.htm.

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

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.

Kinley's Restaurant and Bar offer great steaks and seafood in a setting that is always mellow – the perfect choice for those who don't like frantic crowds but want an upscale meal. 3230 Seward Hwy.; 907-644-8953.

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.

The Rustic Goat is the unsung hero of Anchorage eateries, with hand-crafted meals that range from casual sandwiches to hearty soups and pastas, and local beers on tap. The location itself is worth the trip – the restaurant was built with reclaimed lumber and is all windows and cheer. 2800 Turnagain St.; 907-334-8100.

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.

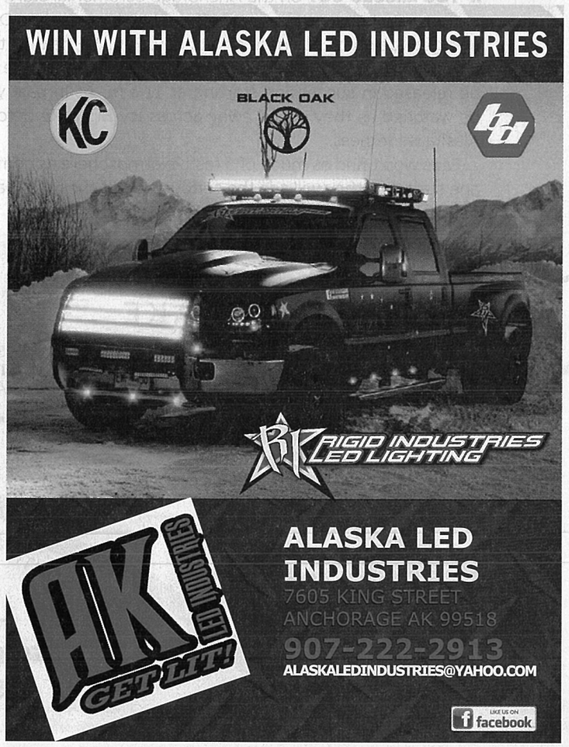
Suite 100 is located near Dimond Center so you can do a little mall shopping and then get a bit to eat, a mixed drink or delicious dessert. It's perfect for an evening out. 1000 E. Dimond Blvd., Suite 100; 907-341-1000.

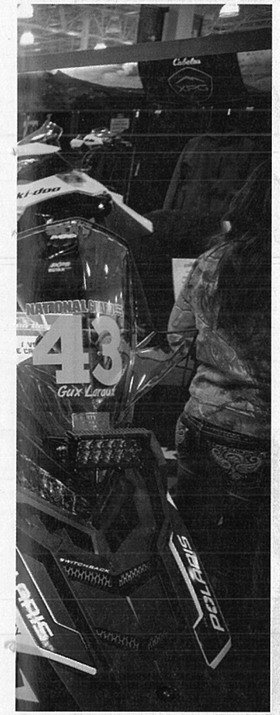
SPORTS AND RECREATION

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







SAFETY IS A CORE TENET OF THE IRON DOG ORGANIZATION

— KEVIN KASTNER

stolen this list as we make our backcountry plans. No matter what sport you participate in, the full-blown race events influence the downstream activities for all of us wannabes."

The safety message is indeed universal, said Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner, and Iron Doggers, above all others, should set an example for positive backcountry preparedness.

"Safety is a core tenet of the Iron Dog organization," Kastner said. "We go to great lengths to build awareness, rules and behavior with a safety focus across every aspect of our race and events. There's considerable risk in what we do, so it's imperative to press for awareness and guidelines to help everyone involved have fun while staying safe from injury".

WHILE SAFETY IS THE OVERRIDING THEME of the Expo—in fact two years ago, Iron Dog also added a rule in which racers are required to have First Aid and CPR training to further improve their preparedness—it also is meant to be a prerace celebration of the days to come. To add to the festivities, organizers highlight their 2017 Passport Game. Participants can enter to win door prizes by visiting vendor booths.

Iron Dog Raffle tickets (drawings to be held Feb. 25 at the end of the awards ceremony in Fairbanks) will be on sale, too. Win the grand prize of a 2016 Toyota Tundra 4x4 SR Double Cab from Kendall Toyota. Or maybe that raffle ticket is worth the second-place prize—a 2015 Polaris Indy Voyager 600 from Hatcher Pass Polaris, 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 USO Alaska, the chosen beneficiary of Iron Dog's 2017 race. Last year, Iron Dog's beneficiary, The Alaska Veterans Museum, received nearly $47,000 from proceeds of the raffle sales.

Throughout all of this, fans can not only talk to teams and wish them luck, but they can 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 by visiting with one of the many vendors who will be set up throughout the day.

"It's an energetic event with many fans, family and sponsors coming to meet their favorite racers/teams," Kastner said. "Cabela's is a fantastic host who will also have some promotions going on to sweeten the visit."

Hite, with ASSA, said the Expo is a must-do for any snowmachinine fan and a unique learning opportunity.

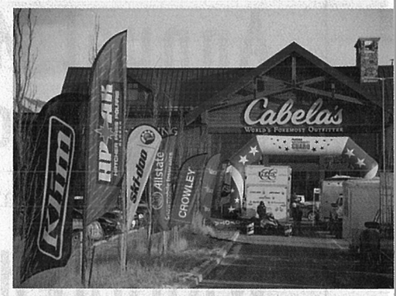
"The Expo is the main avenue that nonracers have where they can talk with and compare his/her preparations to those of professional race teams," he said. "It showcases the care, planning and precision that each of these teams place on the preparation for traveling over some of the most desolate country in Alaska, and doing it at speeds approaching that of aircraft covering the race.

The excitement, he added, is palpable.

"The Expo gives enthusiasts the same feeling as wandering around the pits at a NASCAR event. Every trip to the Iron Dog Safety Expo is an opportunity to elevate your prep and knowledge. Take advantage of it."

SAFETY EXPO VENDORS

Donlin Gold
Alaska National Guard
Kendall Toyota
Alaska Spine Institute
Team CC
Guardian Flight
KLIM
And more!



MATT WALISZEK / ORZEL PHOTO

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.

SAFE RACE

Iron Dog Safety Expo is a chance to meet-and-greet the racers and win prizes



DONLIN GOLD IRON DOG SAFETY EXPO

WED., FEB. 15

WHEN: 1-8 p.m.,
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.
RAFFLE TICKETS: Raffle tickets are $60 and up to half the proceeds benefit the USO Alaska. Call 907-306-7472 for tickets or go to www.irondog.org/raffle-ticket-locations/ for ticket locations.

THE IRON DOG SNOWMACHINE RACE is an unforgiving challenge for even the toughest of riders. But those who have crossed that finish line – or have been beaten back and now can't resist the challenge of chasing that dream – it's a race that is a bit addictive, too.

That's why race organizers stress – beyond winning, money, name recognition or any other prize – safety. It's one thing that all of the sponsors of Iron Dog reiterate, said the race's executive director Kevin Kastner. Yes, spectators want an exciting race, but not at the expense of the health of the racers.

That's why each year the Donlin Gold Safety Expo is such a highlighted event. 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—and the Safety Expo helps reiterate the ways in which they can stay safe.

"A great part of the Iron Dog story is the fact that while traveling over 2,000 miles at speeds that are inconceivable to the average snowmobiler, there has never been a fatality or really a (life-threatening) injury," said Kevin Hite, president of the Alaska State Snowmobile Association, which promotes snowmachine safety throughout the state. "There have been broken bones, frostbite that has been exacerbated by the cold, but it remains at first look a miracle.

"Looking deeper into the program itself, it is evident that the Iron Dog rules that address minimal safety gear have proven to be an integral part of the preparation of this event," he added. "The first three pages of the checklist are exclusively focused on safety/survival gear. As recreational riders, we have liberally

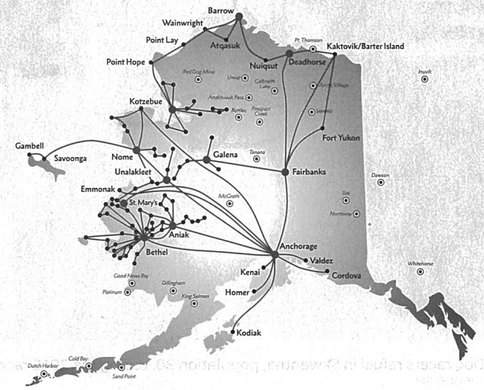
Team 43, Vincent Salzbrun and Gux Laraux, both of Bethel, show off their machines at the 2016 Donlin Gold Safety Expo.
MATT WALISZEK / ORZEL PHOTO

Ravn ALASKA

DAILY PASSENGER, CHARTER & CARGO SERVICE

Ravn Alaska is a proud supporter of the 2017 Irondog Race.

Ravn Alaska Reservations: 1-800-866-8394.
Go to www.flyravn.com for online reservations.



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Earn 10 FlyAway Rewards points for every Ravn Alaska flight segment flown. You can earn a free one-way trip for as few as 50 points! See additional information at www.flyravn.com.



ANCHORAGE
things to do in the city

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** was Iron Dog's 2016 recipient of support, and the race continues to sing its praises. 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 at Rasmuson Center has a permanent collection with thousands of years of Alaska's history. It also features current traveling exhibits and other installations. Open Tuesdays through Sundays. 625 C St., 907-929-9200.

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. Suite 200; 907-279-3911.

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

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

Alaska Native Heritage Center introduces visitors to Alaska's indigenous peoples, through cultural displays, performances, history and more. 8800 Heritage Center Drive.; 907-330-8000.



Iron Dog racers refuel in Skwentna, population 38, during the 2016 race.
JOHN WOODBURY

COMMUNITIES AND CHECKPOINTS

Iron Dog's Larger Communities

ANCHORAGE

Downtown Anchorage hosts Iron Dog's ceremonial start while other facilities in the Anchorage area including Spenard Builder Supply, Cabela's and Hotel Captain Cook of Anchorage 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.

continued on page 35



SCOTT MCMURREN, CREATIVE COMMONS ATTRIBUTION 2.0 GENERIC

It's all part of the Wedgewood Resort, 212 Wedgewood Drive (907) 450-2100

Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitor Center offers a view of all the things to do and see in Interior Alaska, as well as world-class exhibits that depict life in the region year-round. There also is Native art, music, stories and dance. Conveniently, this is where Iron Dog ends, so it's an easy visit. 101 Dunkel St., (907) 459-3700

The **Fairbanks Ice Museum** is unique to the area. In the winter, there are morning and evening Aurora shows, as well as plenty of ice art to see. Walk through rooms filled with sculptures made out of ice. 500 Second Ave. (907) 451-8222

CITY SAMPLER

Act like a local for the day and try the locals' favorites places during the summer months. Browse through the independent bookstores or go try fresh, sweet-tasting vegetables at the farmer's market.

Gulliver's Books is an independent new and used bookstore. It is stocked with many Alaska featured authors and books, and a great place to duck in from the cold and browse or buy. 3525 College Road (907) 474-9574

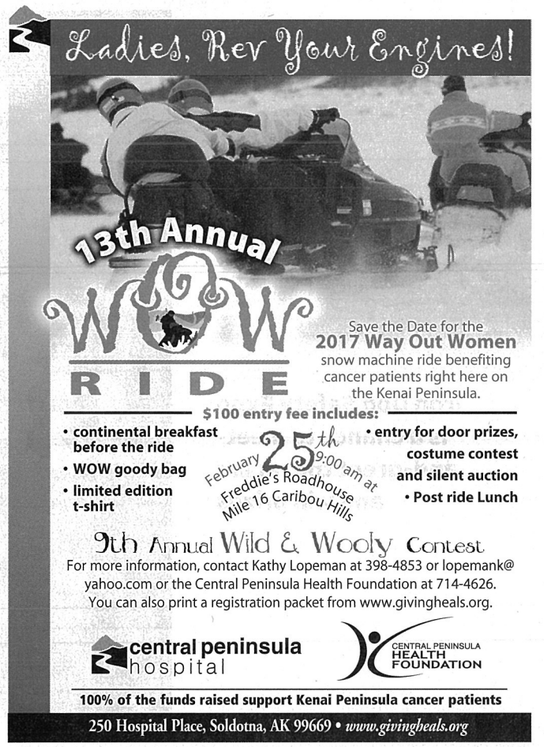
Co-op Plaza is a small area that houses a diner, gift store, and a small museum. Check out their shops or sit back and enjoy a cup of joe while people watching. 535 Second Ave. Fairbanks

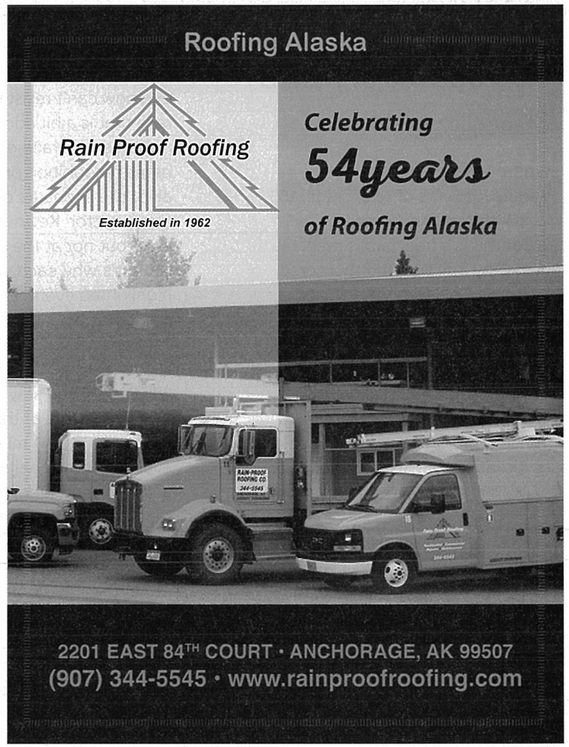
ARTS AND SHOPPING

Alaska House Art is inside a historic log house with beautiful pieces of Alaska Native Art. 1003 Cushman St. (907) 456-6449

2 Street Gallery, LLC has more contemporary artwork filled with local artists' works. This gallery, along with other art exhibits around the city, comes alive during First Friday, a monthly event showcasing local artwork and music. 535 Second Ave., Suite 102 (907) 455-4070

If you are in need for some outdoor gear, **Big Ray's** is a great place to start. This Alaska company has been dedicated to gearing up men, women and children with whatever adventure they are seeking. 507 Second Ave. (907) 452-3458.





RYAN AIR

SINCE 1953

FUELED BY EXPERIENCE.

AIR CARGO

PASSENGER/ FREIGHT COMBO

FLIGHT CHARTERS

DIRECT CHARTERS THROUGHOUT THE STATE



SCHEDULED PASSENGER FLIGHTS OUT OF ANIAK TO:

- Anvik
- Grayling
- Holy Cross
- Kalskag
- Russian Mission
- Shageluk





In 1953 Wilfred Ryan Sr. began regular charter flights across Alaska. With assistance from his wife, Eva, their business prospered. In 1977 Wilfred P. Ryan Jr. "Boyuck" took over the family business.

907 562 2227 | www.ryanalaska.com

FUN IN FAIRBANKS

When the race is finished, you're not finished with Fairbanks

SURE, WINTER IN FAIRBANKS can be overwhelmingly cold. And double-digit minus-temperatures can make it tempting to dodge inside to get a slight reprieve from said frigidness. Still, there is something exciting about braving real Alaska conditions. So, as you wait on racers to complete their 2,000-mile journey, be sure to explore Fairbanks while you're there.

RESTAURANTS

Finding the best local eateries is a must when traveling. Fairbanks offers a variety of restaurants, from authentic to original places, all while capturing the heart of the city.

The Pump House is considered an iconic restaurant in Fairbanks. Located near the Chena River, they have both outdoor and indoor seating. 796 Chena Pump Road (907) 479-8452

Silver Gulch Brewhouse is for any beer lover, and this is one of Fairbank's most popular brewing companies. 2195 Old Steese Hwy. N, Fox (907) 452-2739

Hoodoo Brewing Co. is one of the quirkiest brewing companies in Alaska. With events such as Caturdays (drink beer with cats on Saturdays) and yoga on tap, you'll enjoy a good brewski and have an experience within itself. 1951 Fox Ave. (907) 459-2337

If you are looking to treat yourself, **Lavelle's Bistro** is the place to go. It offers American food with a twist, and is located at 575 First Ave. (907) 450-0555

Alaska Coffee Roasting Co. has been roasting its own coffee in Fairbanks since 1994. The shop also serves breakfast, pizza and baked goods. 4001 Geist Road (907) 457-5282

Sip some organic coffee at the **College Coffeehouse** while enjoying open mic night or listening to local musicians play. 3677 College Road No. 4. (907) 374-0468

Enjoy handmade food from **Lulu's Breads & Bagels**, which is a great spot to get a quick bite to eat before exploring Fairbanks. 388 Old Chena Pump Road. (907) 374-3804

Check out the many Thai food restaurants that are scattered throughout the city. One of the top rated places to go is **Thai House Restaurant**. 412 Fifth Ave. (907) 452-6123

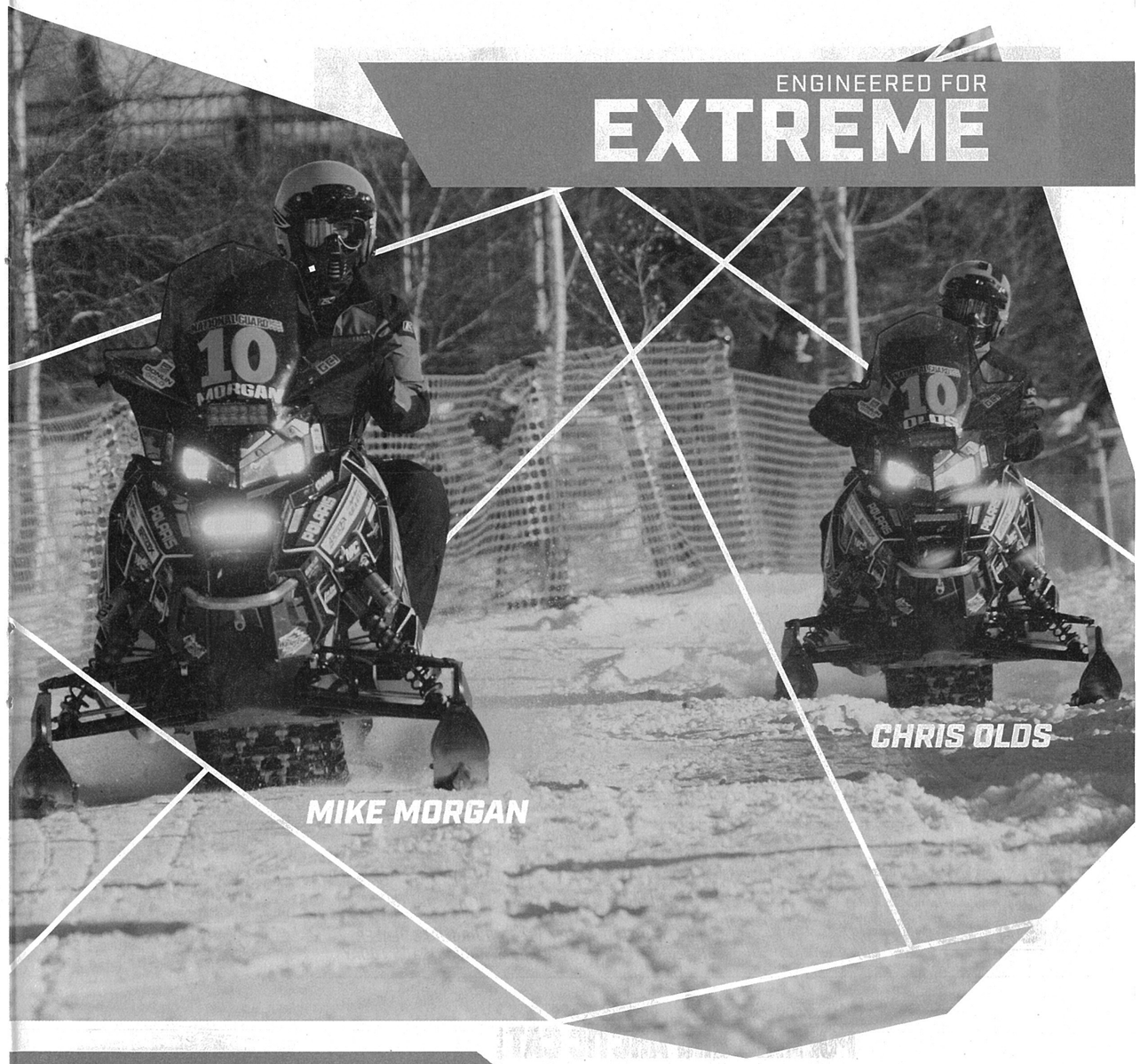
MUSEUMS

Fairbanks should be the official capital of museums in Alaska. With world-renowned exhibits and displays for every type of person, it's a must to see at least one museum while in the city.

The Museum of the North has over 2,000 year old artifacts that showcase Alaska Native culture, wildlife, and natural wonders. 907 Yukon Drive (907) 474-7505

Who would have thought that the Last Frontier holds a car collection that doesn't exist anywhere else in the world? **Fountainhead Antique Auto Museum** features not only a great car museum, but also vintage clothing and other antique items.

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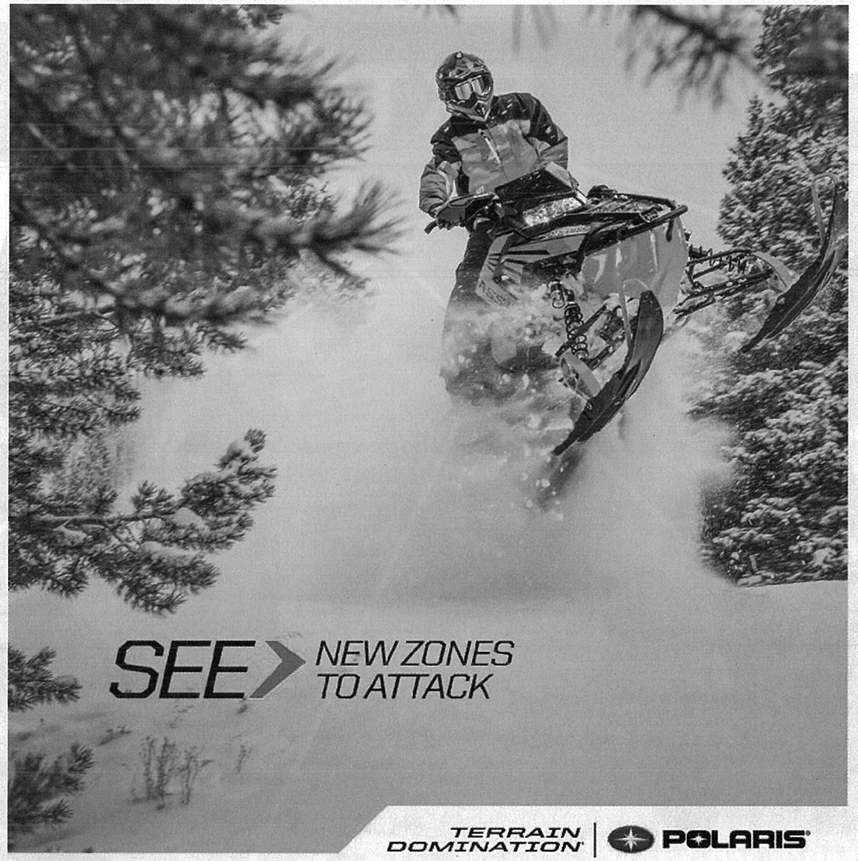
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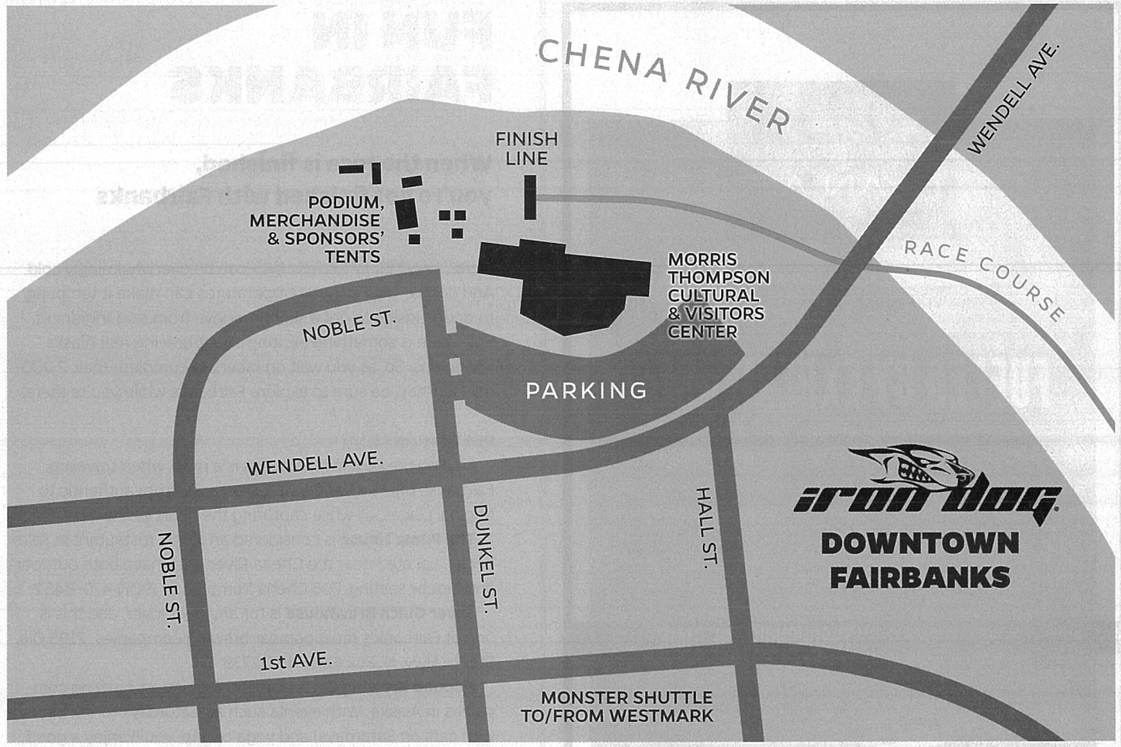
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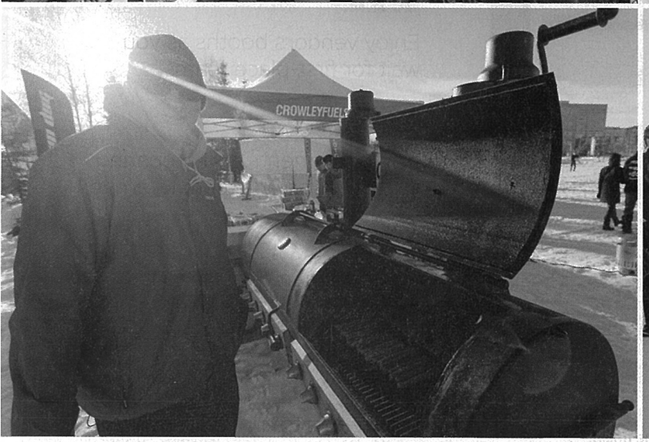
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TOP LEFT: Finish-line reunion for Team 49, Klinton and Kris VanWingerden. *TOP RIGHT:* 2016 Iron Dog winners Tyler Aklestad and Tyson Johnson celebrate with their win with second-place team Todd Minnick and Nick Olstad and third-place team Brad George and Robby Schachle. *ABOVE LEFT:* Sponsors—like Crowley Fuels—lay on the hospitality at the Iron Dog finish in Fairbanks. *ABOVE RIGHT:* The greeting party for Team 10, Mike Morgan and Chris Olds.
ALL MATT WALISZEK / ORZEL PHOTO

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 Tundra raffle truck.

"Sponsors and partners put up displays, give away warm drinks and hand out some swag to keep the event interesting and engaging," Kastner said. "Now that we finish at the Morrison Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center, if the weather is extremely cold we may have some hospitality inside to keep fans warm in between the arriving finishers."

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. 20-March 26), 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 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.

Iron Dog's Smaller Communities

SKWENTNA, population 38 (as of July 2015), is located on mostly flat land in Southcentral Alaska on the Skwentna River. It is 89 miles from the start.

SHELL LAKE is one of three express checkpoints in which racers must slow down so their time can be recorded and they can receive any instructions given by the checker.

PUNTILLA, population two (as of 2013), is located on a 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 near the windy coast of Norton Sound, is 746 miles from the start on the way to Nome and 1,470 miles from the start on the return route to Fairbanks.

UNALAKLEET, population 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.



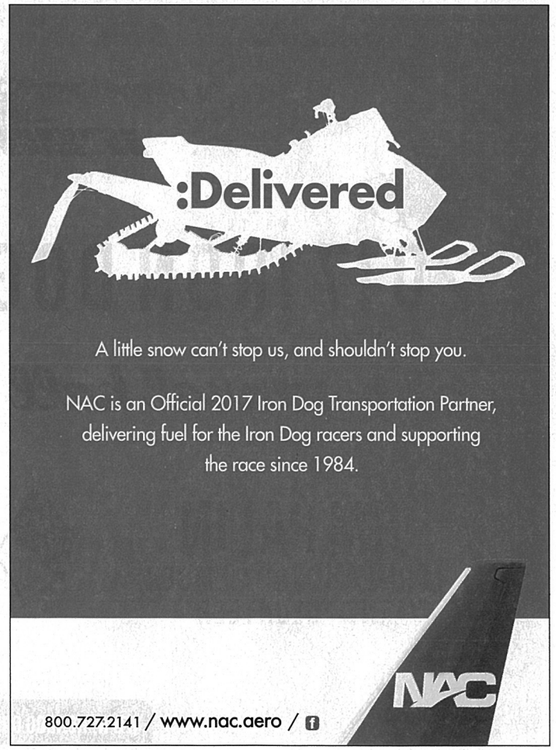
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TOP: Aklestad and Johnson pose with their sleds for photos at the finish.
ABOVE: Aklestad's wife, Erin, and son, Liam, await the finish.
BOTH MATT WALISZEK / ORZEL PHOTO

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, ending at the Morris Thompson Cultural & Visitors Center. 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 snowmachine 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 involvement in 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. 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

END OF THE TRAIL

DOWNTOWN FAIRBANKS
SATURDAY, FEB. 25

9:30 A.M.
Iron Dog Setup complete.

10 A.M.
Enjoy vendors booths as you wait for first-place teams.

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 at the finish line.

6 P.M.
Meet and Greet and cocktails at the Westmark Gold Room Ballroom.

7-9 P.M.
Awards Ceremonies, followed by revelry

FUN IN FAIRBANKS

Looking to explore Fairbanks while you're in town? Turn to page 48.

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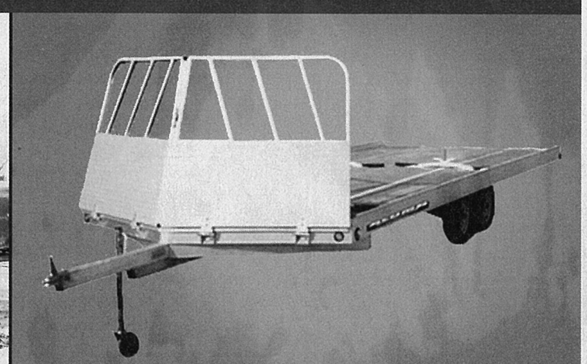
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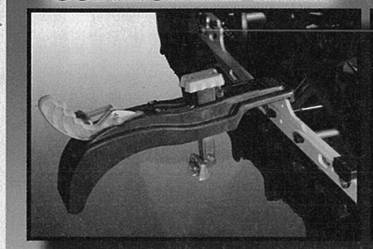


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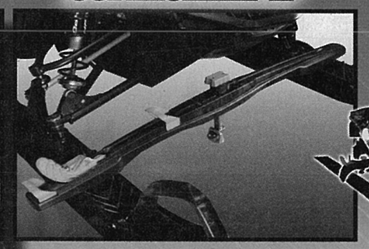


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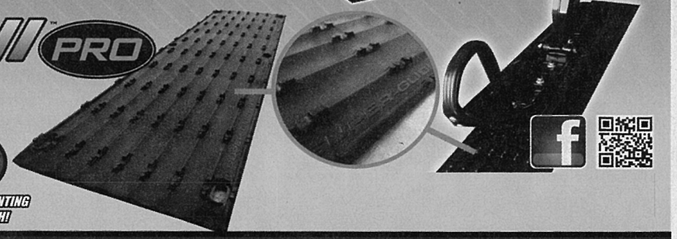
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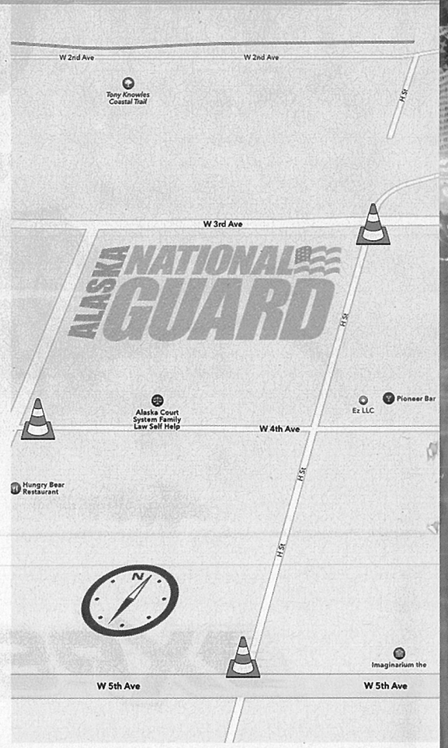
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2017 IRON DOG

DOWNTOWN ANCHORAGE

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 Aves.
IRON DOG START	In front of 4th Avenue Theater
VINTAGE SLEDS & 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





Off the throttle, racers can now celebrate the accomplishment

FINISHING FAST IN FAIRBANKS

BY HAVING IRON DOG END in the state's second-largest city, after starting in the largest, masses of spectators are able to enjoy the race. The real racing battle is done in the wilderness, where viewing options—unless you have your own personal plane to follow overhead—are quite limited. In fact, 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.

In Fairbanks, crowds will be able to line the finish chute, cheering their riders across the finish line so they can celebrate the end to the brutal and impressive challenge that is Iron Dog. Racers are expected to start showing up in Fairbanks sometime on Saturday, Feb. 25.

"The vibe in Fairbanks is one of expectation and excitement as friends, spouses and race fans mingle with our sponsors and other racers in anticipation of their favorite teams," said Iron Dog executive director Kevin Kastner. "Once the first teams start to arrive, we put all the finishers on display so fans can meet them and hear tales from the trail and check out the snowmachines that just made it more than 2,000 miles to the finish line."

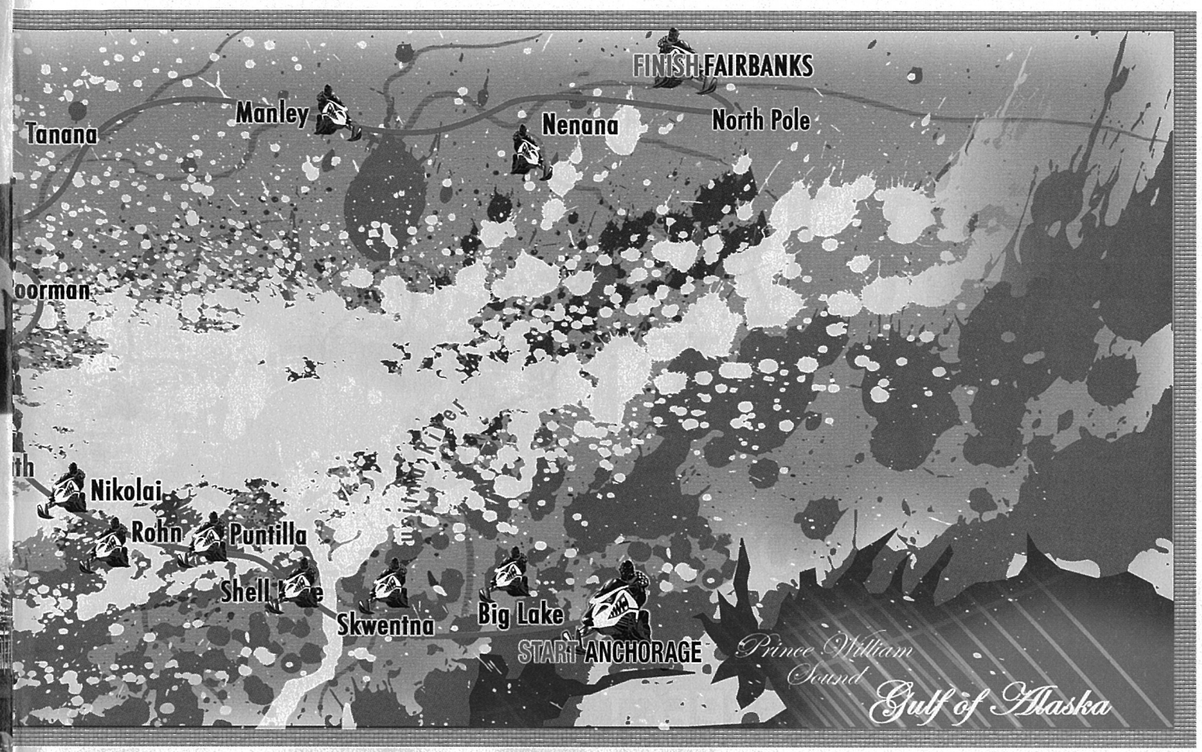
Indeed having the finish in Fairbanks affords fans one last opportunity to watch the racers – albeit they are a little more haggard, a little less chipper yet in celebratory mode after their long race is over. The

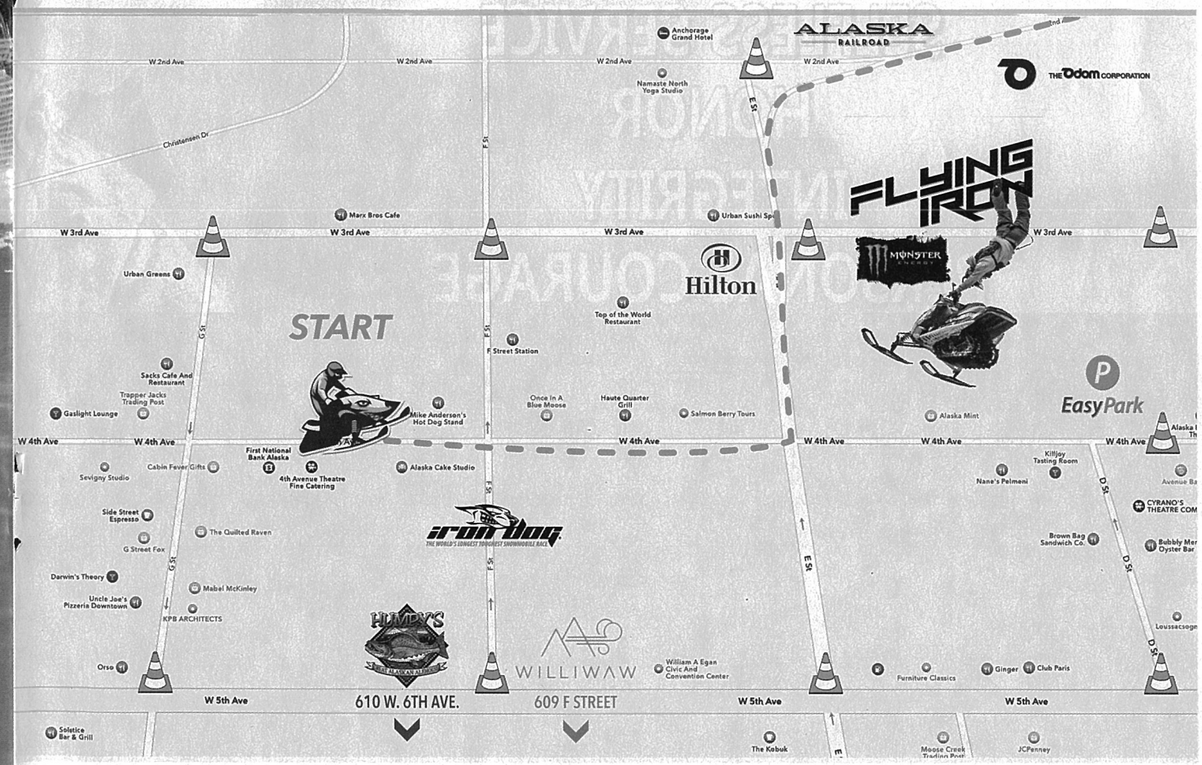
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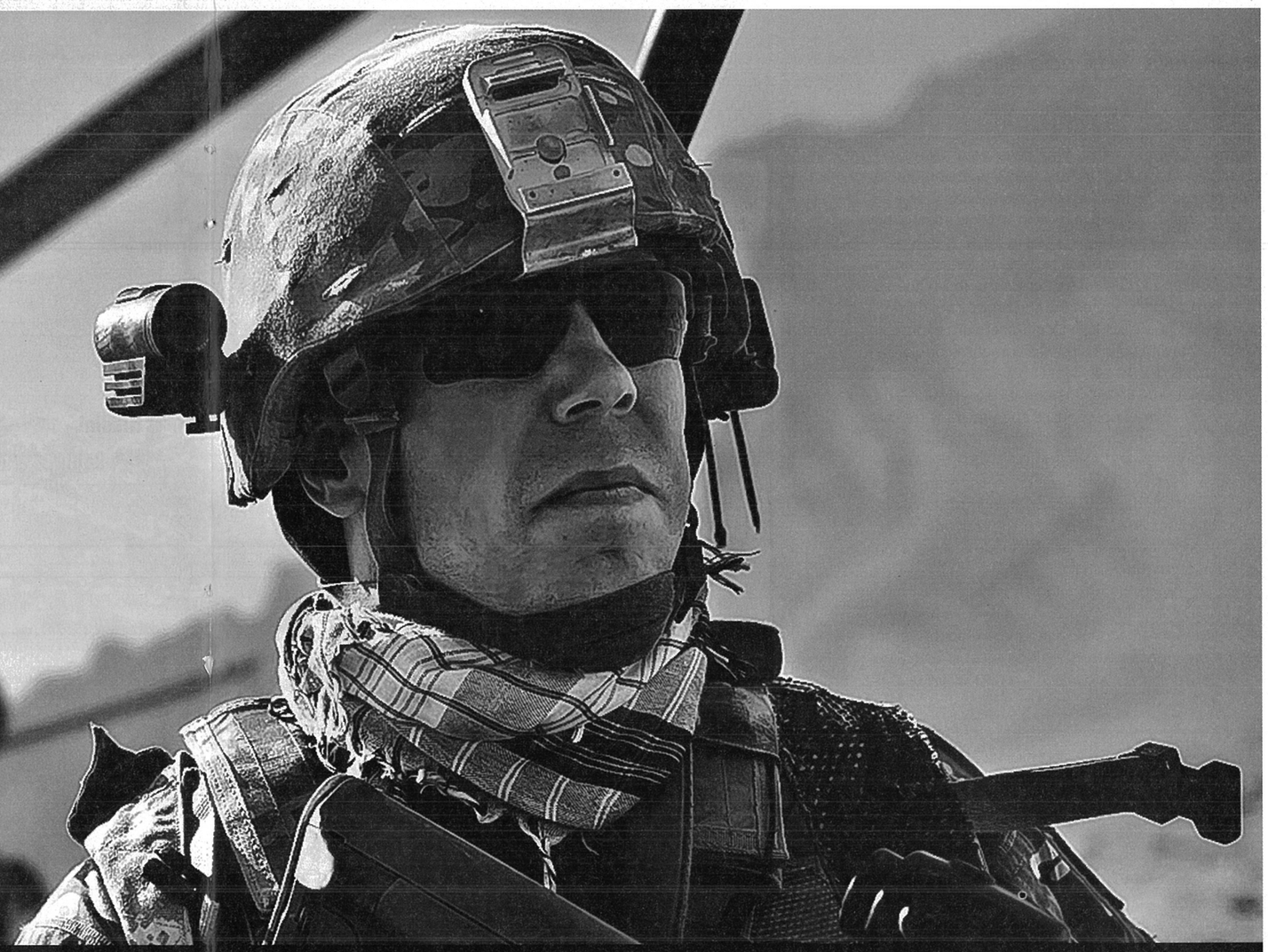
RIGHT: 2016 Iron Dog winners Tyler Aklestad and Tyson Johnson (Team 8) cross the finish line in Fairbanks.
BELOW: Family members frequently wave the checkered flag to welcome their racers to the finish.
BOTH MATT WALISZEK / ORZEL PHOTO





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