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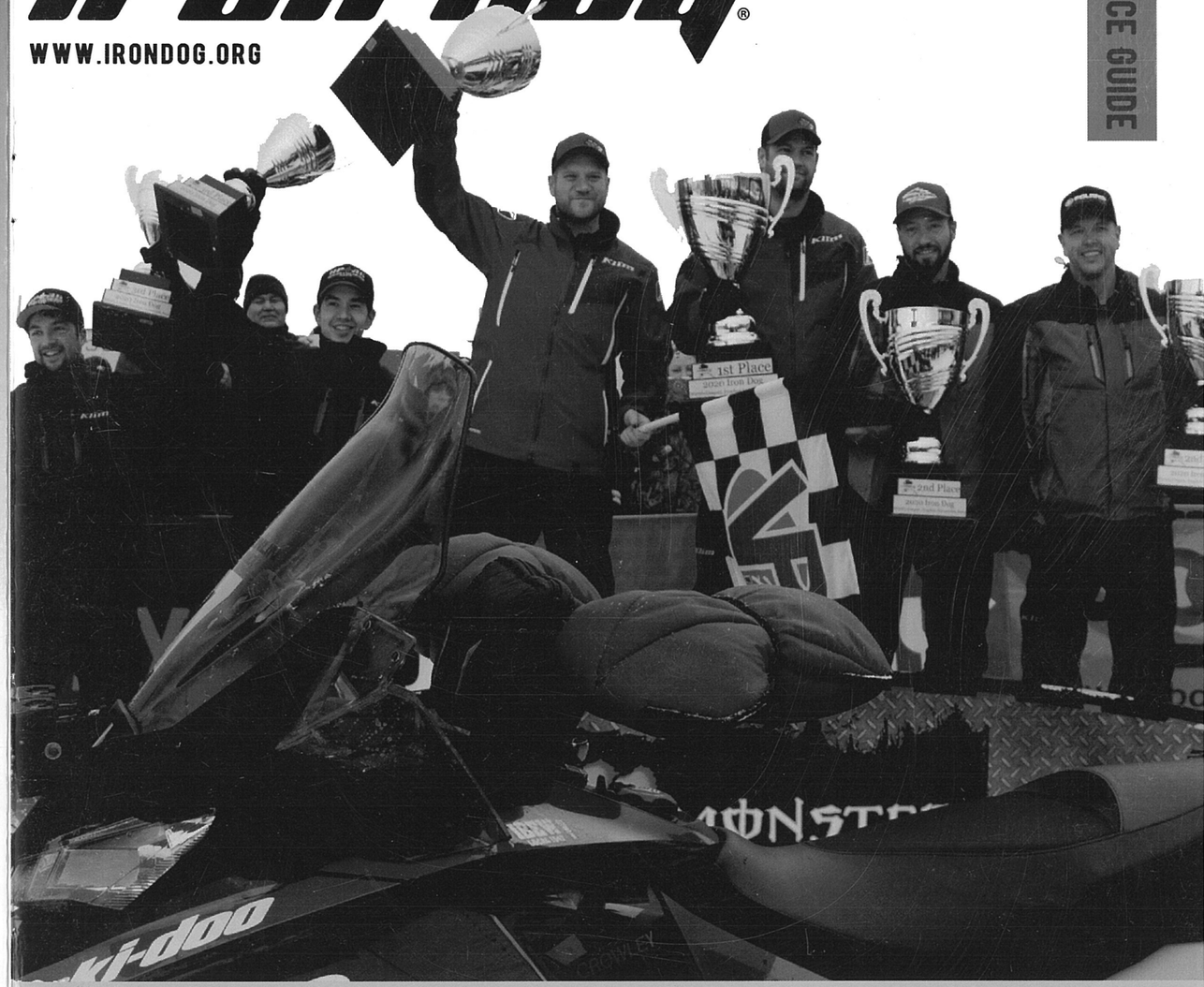
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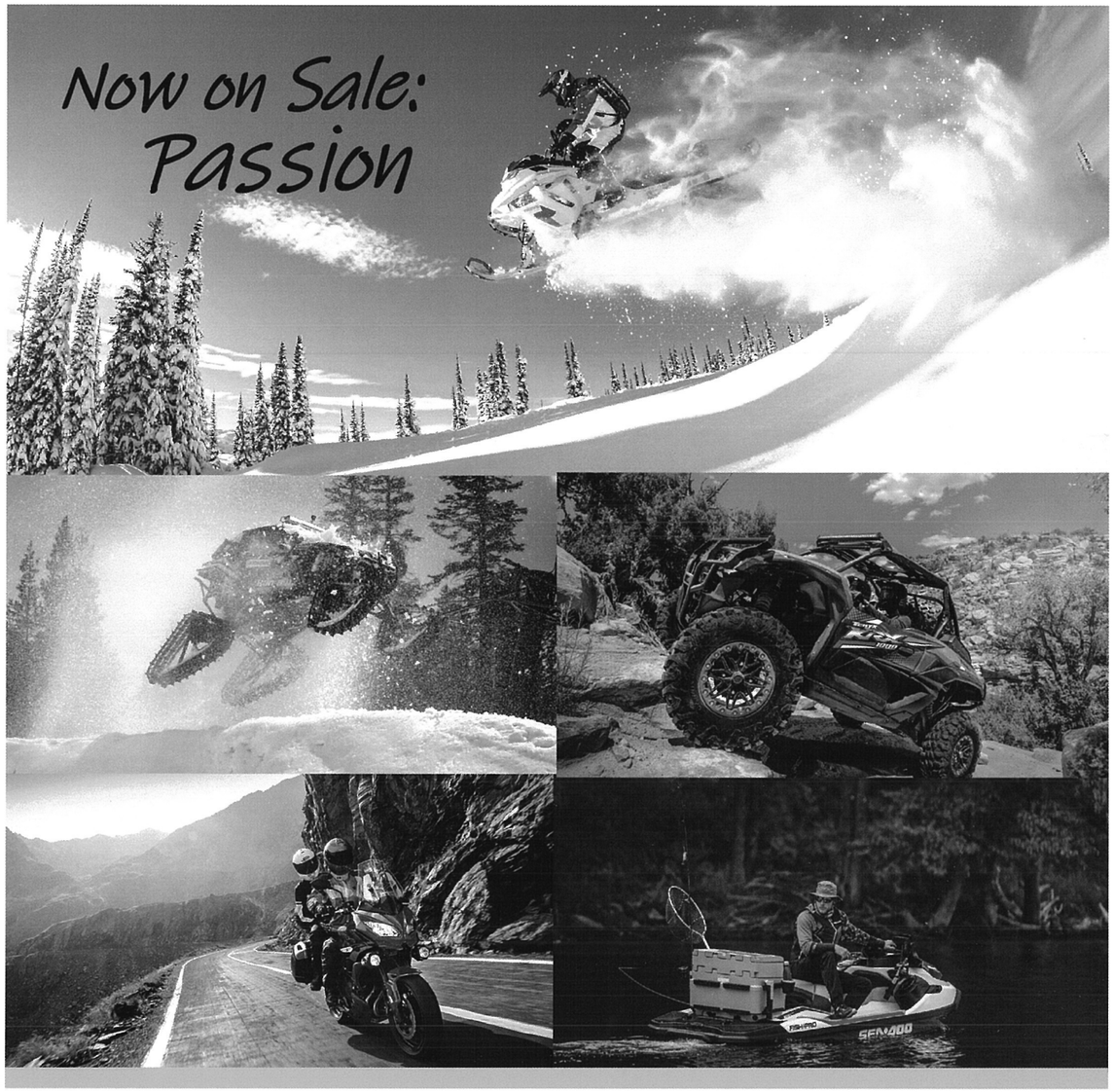
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Team 36, Daniel Stang and Tre West, depart the starting chute in Fairbanks during the 2020 race enroute to the fast Yukon River. **Photo / James Wicken**



Team 7, 2020 Iron Dog winners, arrive to fanfare at Big Lake. **Photo / Tom Stokes**



Racers' sleds thaw out and await tuneups at the garage in Nome during the 2020 race. **Photo / Lee Butterfield**

The IRON DOG tradition continues

As Iron Dog racers were making their way across the wilds of Alaska during the 2020 race, a worldwide pandemic was just surfacing and changing life as we know it. Once the race was over, and racers and their families back home, we entered a lockdown like no other. Almost a year later, Iron Dog officials were wondering: Would the race go on?

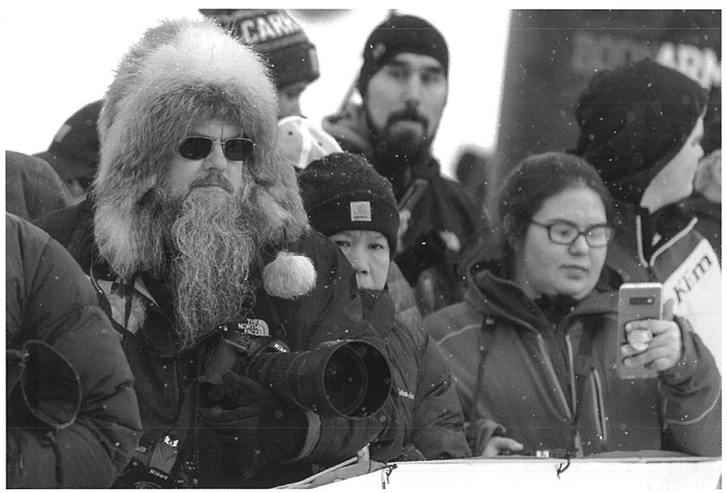
The answer is yes. Mike Vasser, once an Iron Dog racer himself and now interim executive director of Iron Dog sums it up best:

Iron Dog is a long-standing tradition — it is what makes us Alaskans. This race is a unique part of Alaska. It celebrates a sport so many of us love. It gives communities something to celebrate during a cold dark season. It brings so many people together at the start and during the race. It is part of what makes Alaska a special place to live. It's a hard race that not everyone can partake in, or even tolerate going outside to watch. It's tough, like Alaskans. To loose it, or other events like Fur Rondy, Iditarod, Arctic Man or the Mayor's Cup – events that are hard to pull off year after year – would be a shame. And my fear that if it didn't happen this year it would go away forever, led me to this role instead of getting out and riding as I'd have liked.

I am not the only one who feels this way – the board does, the volunteers do, the sponsors do, the racers do, the communities do and that is why the World's Longest Toughest Snowmobile race is happening during some of the toughest times our state, our country, the world have seen! PLUS there is the Iron Dog/Iditarod tie. ...the Nome Serum run. Someone needed to get to Nome during this pandemic and give that community something to celebrate — and maybe even cruise under the burled arch?!



Iron Dog interim executive director and race veteran Mike Vasser, doing what he loves. **Courtesy Iron Dog**





At left, Race fans wait for the 2020 teams to arrive at Big Lake. **Photo / Tom Stokes**
Above, Team 37 from Manitoba, Mark Fosty and Ben Hildebrand, stop for a photo with a race fan in Kotzebue. **Photo / Mary Westlake via Facebook**





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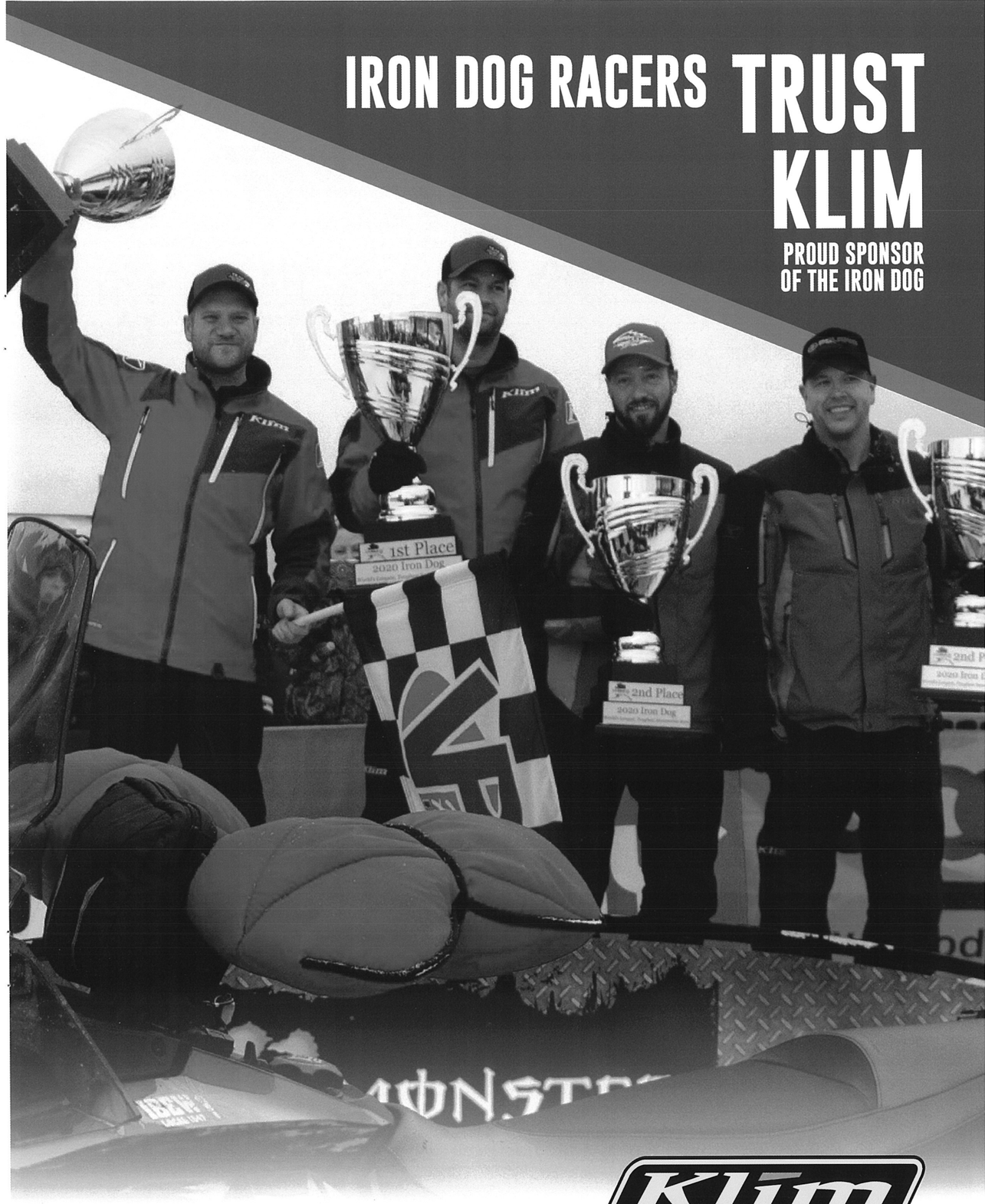
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Iron Dog racer Chris Olds, part of Team 10 with Mike Morgan, greets fans at the finish of Iron Dog 2020 at Big Lake. Team 10 finished in second place. Photo / Tom Stokes

On the cover: The Top-3 2020 teams celebrate at Big Lake: Third place, Team 5, Zack Weisz and Brett Lapham; champions, Team 7, Tyler Aklestad and Nick Olstad; second place, Team 10, Mike Morgan and Chris Olds. **Photo / Megan Rolinger**

Iron Dog 38: the official guide

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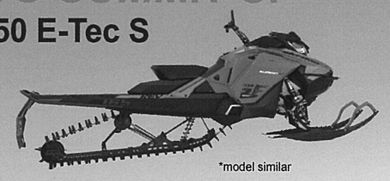
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The race is on!

Aklestad and Olstad claim victory in Iron Dog 2020, but who's the team to beat this year?

When Tyler Aklestad and Nick Olstad crossed the finish line in Big Lake last year to become the 2020 Iron Dog champions, the first thing they felt – after jubilation, of course – was relief. After nearly 2,400 miles on their sleds and more than 50 hours traveling through storm after winter storm, Team 7 said it was good to be home.

"There's a lot of physical fatigue, and that area up by Kotzebue, it gets some really bad winter weather," Aklestad said. "I've never seen anything like it."

To be home was the greatest reward of all. The first-time pair of Aklestad and Olstad dominated the 2020 race, leading almost from the start, ultimately winning with a time of 50 hours, 8 minutes and 3 seconds. Defending champions and Team 10 powerhouse Chris Olds and Mike Morgan were second, with a time of 52 hours, 49 minutes and 55 seconds. The two teams were part of a much-dwindled original field. Of the 29 teams that started the 2020 race, just 11 completed it.

Indeed the 2020 race was one that rewarded tenacity. The revamped route included, for the first time ever, an additional 375-mile loop that veered north at Koyuk and circled through Kotzebue before heading on to Nome. With winter weather raging and an unfamiliar race trail, the route tested the limits of even the most seasoned of riders. It also made the 2020 race the longest Iron Dog yet, at some 2,345 miles.

"After the 2018 and 2019 races, we had a lot of people commenting that we needed some updates and changes to the Iron Dog course," said Roger Brown, Iron Dog's Board of Directors president. "So we added the Kotzebue route, which is well established and well known. The villages up there are really hard core into racing and they were receptive and welcoming of us."

This year, the 2021 race will once again revisit what has come to be called the "Kotzebue Loop." The loop incorporates the Archie Ferguson/Willie Goodwin Memorial Snowmachine Race course, a long-established trail well known among racers in rural Alaska. While the trail is challenging and will likely test racers' abilities, the people of the region are psyched for the return, and their friendly welcomes last year make racers want to be there again.



Team 7, Nick Olstad and Tyler Aklestad, embrace at the finish line after winning Iron Dog 2020. Photo / Megan Rolinger

"I liked the extra (mileage) of the loop, and the people along the way," Olstad said. "I think a lot of them look forward to the race, and the welcome we get is amazing."

Due to COVID concerns, interactions between racers and spectators will be highly limited this year, so the one-on-one interaction won't be the same, Aklestad said.

"That's a shame because we make a lot of friendships," he said.

However, said Roger Brown, Iron Dog Board of Directors president, by the

CONTINGENCY PRIZES 2021

Fastest All-Rookie Team Course Time to Big Lake Finish - $500 credit	Rookies	Skwentna Roadhouse	$500
Fine Line Interior & Anchorage Sheetmetal "Red Lantern Award" to the last team arriving in Big Lake. $1000 credit ($500 fromn each business) toward Iron Dog-specific goods, and a trophy.	All Pro Class	Fine Line Interiors & Anchorage Sheetmetal	$1,000
First Team to McGrath "Checkpoint Klim," $750 credit each racer	All Pro Class	Klim	$1,500
SBS "Handyman" Award. Fastest All-Rookie Team to Poorman. Dewalt Power Tools	Rookies	Spenard Builders Supply	$500
First Team to Nome, $500 credit each racer	All Pro Class	Crowley Fuels	$1,000
Fastest Team to arrive in Nome $5,000 cash	All Pro Class	Nome / Bering Sea Lions	$5,000
Alaska Industrial Hardware First Team to Galena, $500 credit each racer	All Pro Class	Alaska Industrial Hardware	$1,000
First Place overall finish on Polaris	All Pro Class	Polaris	$10,000
First Place overall finish on Ski-Doo	All Pro Class	Ski-Doo	$10,000
Entry Fee for the Valdez Mayors Cup Snowmachine Race presented to six Iron Dog racers (Stay tuned for details)	All Pro Class	City of Valdez	$1,800
"Champions Purse" awarded to the last team arriving in Big Lake, courtesy of past champions (not participating in the 2021 race) and Den Mother	All Pro Class	Marc McKenna, Gary Eoff, Mark Torkelson (TORK Foundation), Tyson Johnson, John Faeo, Todd Minnick, Rod Frank, Tyler Huntington, Dusty VanMeter, Andy George, Tracey Brassard, Ryan Simons and Harriett Fenerty	$1,300
Fastest team to complete the Kotzebue Loop	All Pro Class	Nana Management Systems (NMS)	$3,000
If you or your business would like to contribute a contingency price to the 2021 Iron Dog race, please email director@irondog.org the details, and your prize description will be added to this list.			
Total Contingency Prizes for 2021			**$36,600**



Dan Regan
Age: 60
From: Anchorage
Status: Expedition Class Veteran 2011
Riding: Polaris Switchback Assault 146
Bio: I lived in Kotzebue 10 years and the last 30 in Anchorage. I enjoy the outdoors riding snowmachines and dirt bikes. I also like to tinker in the garage working on my GTO.
Personal Sponsors: None listed

TEAM 77 POLARIS



Wade Erickson
Age: 50
From: Wasilla
Status: Rookie
Riding: Polaris XC 136
Bio: Wade moved to Alaska in 2000 seeking adventure in the outdoors, with his No. 1 fan, beautiful wife, Heather. He has four boys, Willem, Torin, Haakon and Hans, and 20 years after starting Capstone Clinics, he is excited for this new adventure. He wants to use the race to raise awareness for living kidney donation as he donated his three years ago.
Personal Sponsors: Capstone Family Medicine, CovidSecure, Our Doctors Pharmacy, Valley Imaging, Covenant Youth of Alaska, Frontline Mission, Living Kidney Donors



Seth Kroenke
Age: 42
From: Shawano, Wis. / Palmer
Status:Rookie
Riding: Polaris XC 600
Bio: Seth is a farm boy, born and raised in central Wisconsin. Seth had the opportunity to move to Port Alsworth in 2002 to pursue hunting, fishing and all that Alaska has to offer, and has never looked back. Together with his wife, Jeelan, they have been blessed with four beautiful children. They enjoy a very active lifestyle that is focused mainly on exploring Alaska and beyond. Faith, aviation, family, and adventuring are all priorities for the Kroenkes. Seth is the president of Remote Alaska Solutions based in Palmer.
Personal Sponsors: None

TEAM 86 SKI-DOO



Joe Brady
Age: 29
From: Fairbanks
Status: Rookie
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ XRS
Bio: I want to give a huge shout out and thanks to my family, friends, and sponsors for all the support and helping me make this 15-years-in-the-works goal finally happen! Thank you!
Personal Sponsors: Fly Racing, Alpine Addicts, Darby's Performance, Black Oak LED, Maclaren River Lodge, McKinley Fabrication, Cold Forged Racing



Gage Schaack
Age: 27
From: Cold Bay / Wasilla
Status: Rookie
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ XRS
Bio: I'm a lifelong Alaskan. I was raised in Cold Bay and now live in Wasilla. I work for JJC Enterprises as a heavy equipment operator during the summer months and riding sleds as much as I can in the winter.
Personal Sponsors: Fly Racing, Alpine Addicts, Cold Forged Racing, Darby's Performance, Maclaren River Lodge, McKinley Fabrication, Black Oak LED

TEAM 88 POLARIS

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Brian Jurenka
Age: 38
From: Anchorage
Status: Pro Class Veteran
Riding: Polaris XCR
Bio: Brian is a 27-year resident of Alaska and a mechanic on the North Slope. When not working, Brian enjoys hunting, fishing, snowmachining, also spending time on his boat in the summer.
Racing Experience: 2013 Iron Dog pro class, DNF; 2015 Iron Dog pro class, 18th; GCI Arctic Man Classic 2014, men's adaptive ski, fourth place; 2013 men's adaptive ski, fourth place; 2005 men's snowboard, fifth place; AMMC semi-pro sno-cross series, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009. AMMC cross-country race series semi-pro 50-200 mile races, Top-10 finishes several years raced, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011, 2012, 2014. Valdez Mayor's Cup cross-country race semi-pro 150 miles, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2011 (sixth place), 2014 (seventh place), 2017 and 2018 (fourth place)
Personal Sponsors: Rob Cannon Snap-On tools, Carl Swenson, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Dick and Lena Renkins, Sleipner Transport LLC



Charlie Potter
Age: 37
From: Big Lake
Status: Veteran: Iron Dog pro class 2016, finished; pro class, 2017, DNF
Riding: Polaris XCR
Bio: I am a lifelong Alaskan who grew up in Big Lake and now currently live in Wasilla. In 2002, I joined the U.S. Army and in 2003 was tasked for a deployment. My unit got into Iraq in November of 2004, and on July 3, 2005, my convoy was hit. I took a RPG through my left arm and multiple grenades to my Humvee that I was a gunner in. After over a year in the hospital recovering, I was able to start my journey of Iron Dog in 2017 to show that no matter how hard you're put down you can do anything. So having a half fake arm that was reconstructed, Iron Dog was my place to prove this. This year I have started an outreach and hope program to help my fellow service members in need – it's called Battle Buddies Outdoors and we will be running the Expedition Class, spreading word throughout this beautiful state in hopes of helping veterans get the information they need to get what they deserve. It is our mission to make a difference for those who have been willing to stand on front lines for us.
Racing Experience: Raced all around the state with multiple Top-3 finishes and multiple first-place wins in events like Arctic Man, Mayor's Cup, and the Hoodoo 150.
Personal Sponsors: Jessica Jones, Big Lake Arctic Cat, Brian Jurenka, James Hastings, MSG Fulmar, friends and family, Jason Folmar, Veterans Realty Group



Mike Telkamp
Age: 51
From: Hoffman, Minn.
Status: Veteran: Iron Dog expedition class 2014-15, finished; pro class 2016, DNF; pro class 2017, finished
Riding: Arctic Cat ZRXC
Bio: Born and raised in Hoffman, Minn., I have owned and operated my family farm for 31 years. I've been married to my wife, Kris, since 1992 and we have two sons, Trevor and wife Madison, and granddaughter Cassidy; and Trenton and Bridget. When the farming gives us some time off you will find the family fishing, hunting, skiing or snowmobiling. In 2014, I decided to participate in a new challenge the Iron Dog Trail Class (typically you find me in the mountains snowmobiling) and I was excited to see Alaska for the first time. Since then, I've made many great friends and been back multiple times. In 2015, I did the trail class, 2016 rode the pro class with Dieter Strobel, but due to motor trouble, we scratched in Nome. Then in 2017, I finished the pro class with my partner Paul Johnson. Alaska has been a part of my life since then and it's been a great experience with many new friends
Personal Sponsors: Thank you to my wife, Kris as well as my family and friends for all the support. Thanks, too, to Klim and Arctic Cat. Thank you to everyone else for the encouragement and support that helps make this possible.



Team 7, Tyler Aklestad and Nick Olstad, celebrate their 2020 Iron Dog victory as they arrive to fans on Big Lake. Photo / Megan Rolinger

time racers reach the Kotzebue Loop on the return route, they will have already undergone at least three COVID tests. By then, riders also will have been naturally isolated, meaning restrictions may be eased a bit. It will all depend on day-to-day monitoring of the virus, and constant communication with the villages, he said.

"I think it means so much to the people there," Brown said. "It's hard on them every year; it's dark and cold, it's long. This year especially, they've been on lockdown."

Holding the race, he said, felt like the right thing to do.

"It would have been so much easier to cancel this," he continued. "You talk about the 'easy button'? Gosh, it would have been so much easier to just cancel. But we wanted to do everything we could possibly do to put on this race. In the end, it's going to pay off and people will be that much more appreciative to have this event that they look forward to every year."

Also changed this year – but not new – is that the race will end in Big Lake as well. The last time the race started and ended in Big Lake was 2005, and that's the year Nick Olstad and his then-partner Marc McKenna won the race.

Big Lake is an easy choice. A popular hub of snowmachining and where a large population of snowmachine supporters and sponsors are based, it also offers convenient access and a central location for racers and spectators to converge.

"After feedback from racers and sponsors, and considering cost, this is the way we decided to go," Brown said. "I'm from Fairbanks and I'd love to have it here, but the majority of people want it there. Maybe we can alternate, we will see. But starting and finishing at Big Lake is a lot less travel for the racers and the families; it's cheaper for them and easier for Iron Dog."

Aklestad and Olstad agree. They said they loved racing in Fairbanks, especially when they hit the fast Yukon River at the end of the race rather than at the beginning, but they are looking forward to the 2021 course.

"This is mostly where we practice anyway," Olstad said.

"I think Nick and I are both suited really well for the interior of Alaska," Aklestad continued. "It's rougher, it's physically demanding and we have a riding style where we stay calm and collected. I'm actually looking forward to this course."

Iron Dog teams to watch

Team 7, Tyler Aklestad and Nick Olstad, has the bulls-eye on them after winning Iron Dog 2020, but with a 22-team field of mostly veterans, Iron Dog 2021 is anyone's race to win.

Team 10, Chris Olds and Mike Morgan, are hungry for another win after capturing the 2018 and 2019 titles. Team 5, Brett Lapham and Zack Weisz, are inching up in the standings. The Kleewein brothers are back (Team 12), and other longtime racers such as Brad George and Robby Schachle, and Todd Palin and Bob Gilman, are also in the hunt. Palin, a four-time champion, and Gilman, a three-time champion and Iron Dog Hall of Famer, have a combined 114 years of outdoor experience between them.

"In years past, there's always been four or five teams that are really favored and then there's a group of maybe 10 who could be Top 5," said Roger Brown, president of Iron Dog's Board of Directors. "This year, there are a couple of teams out there that people aren't paying attention to. It's anybody's race."

The key, Brown said, is having a clean race, because anyone who follows Iron Dog knows that one missed, one breakdown, one injury can sideline even the best of teams.

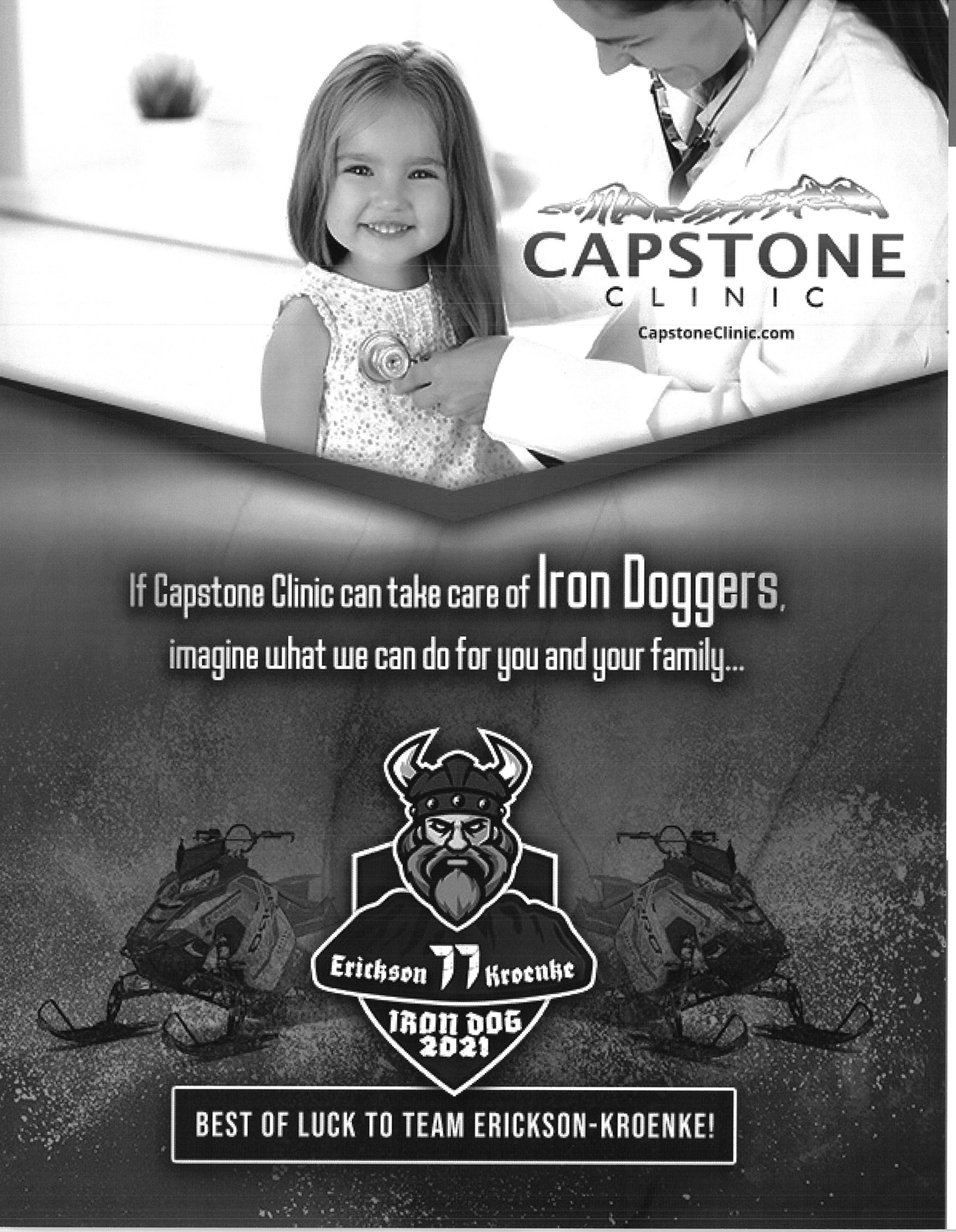
"There were three teams that scratched at the end last year who really could have had a chance," Brown said. "We all know the situation can change in a second."

Aklestad and Oldstad are well aware of that, and credit a steady, controlled pace for their victory. After getting out of the bottleneck at the beginning of the race on the Yukon River, they were able to create some distance and be super careful in the more tricky parts of the trail.

"If you're going to win the race this year, you have to have a clean race, Tyler Aklestad said. "You have to be clean and smart. You have to keep that in your mind all the time, too."

Not such an easy feat, Aklestad said, when fatigue sets in.

"You're going to get stuck, you're going to get lost, you're going to break down," Brown said. "The common misconception people see is what's on Facebook, the guy going 100mph. But that is such a small portion of the race. Ninety-percent of the race is singletrack through the trees; it's rough. You're going to break something."



IRON DOG EXPEDITION CLASS 2021

TEAM 51 POLARIS

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Jason Bergeron

Age: 17
From: Dublin, N.H.
Status: Rookie
Riding: Polaris Switchback Assault 146
Bio: I've been planning to run this race with my father since I was 11. I am looking forward to the adventure!
Personal Sponsors: Hatcher Pass Polaris Bergeron Mechanical Systems KEBRT LEASING, LLC



Kim Bergeron

Age: 51
From: Dublin, N.H.
Status: Expedition Class Veteran
Riding: Polaris Switchback Assault 146
Bio: Small business owner that volunteers at local, state and international level to protect our rights to ride. Avid wheeled enthusiast ... races hare scrambles. Proud to be a future Alaska resident!
Personal Sponsors: Bergeron Mechanical Systems Hatcher Pass Polaris KEBRT Leasing, LLC

TEAM 52 POLARIS

Sponsors: Hatcher Pass Polaris, K.E. Bergeron Mechanical Systems



Jean-Pierre Bernier

Age: 49
From: Hancock, N.H.
Status: Rookie
Riding: Polaris Switchback Assault
Bio: Wilderness adventures were not a part of my early years; I was a city kid. After moving to northern New England, I began rock and ice climbing and mountaineering in my early 20s, traveling extensively for months at a time throughout North America to climb and hang from any mountain or cliff in my path. I developed my passion for motorsports a little later in life, in my late 30s. I am now an avid enduro dirt bike rider/racer who loves both the competition and the opportunity for time in the woods with friends. My wife would tell you that riding is a big part of what defines me. Most of my snowmachine riding to date has been in the backcountry of Maine, but I am excited for the opportunity to be riding again in Alaska! I am a proud father of two teenage boys. Our oldest son, Oscar (18), is currently in AmeriCorps' City Year program, doing volunteer work for under-served elementary schools in San Jose, Calif. My son Harrison (16), is a high school sophomore and is deeply involved in soccer and wrestling. My wife and I each own small businesses. I am the owner/operator of a business providing logistical support for Amazon-based retailers. My brilliant wife of 21 years, Kristen, is a brand development consultant and executive coach. We both love our life together in the woods of New England.
Personal Sponsors: KEBRT Leasing, Klim, Red Barn Logistics



Glenn Britton

Age: 53
From: Surry, N.H.
Status: Rookie
Riding: Polaris Switchback Assault
Bio: Born in Vermont and raised in New Hampshire, I have two children — my son, Glenn, daughter, Morgan, and two grandchildren, Skylar and Noah. I have been in the powersports business since 1984 and currently own a small powersports repair business. In my free time, I enjoy riding/racing dirtbikes, both on mx tracks and in the woods. My snowmachine riding started in 2000 in the northeast, mostly trail riding. This will be my second time snowmachining in Alaska, but my first time doing something like this!
Personal Sponsors: I would like to thank everyone who makes this event happen; and thanks to my teammate J.P. Bernier, and my friend Kim Bergeron and his son Jason for making this happen.

TEAM 53 POLARIS



Randy Bedard

Age: 58
From: Willow
Status: Expedition Class Veteran
Riding: Polaris 650 Switchback Assault 146
Bio: Adventure and snowmachines are my passion. This is my ninth Iron Dog Trail adventure. This year I am just trying to make it to the start line in good health. Since my last Iron Dog in 2018 I have been challenged with prostate cancer and have signed up to physically and mentally challenge myself and say "Thank You" to my family, friends, employer, health care providers and my lovely girlfriend, Dianne.
Racing Experience: I raced my first XC race in 1981. First snow cross in 1982. My first Iron Dog Trail Class ride 1989. I served as an Iron Dog Board Member in 1990 and 1991. I participated in the 1994 Iron Dog Snowmobile Congress ride. I raced the 2014 I-500 XC Veteran Vintage on a 1981 Polaris 340 TXL and took second place. Some of my best life memories were racing with my brother Mike back in the day and all eight trips up the Iron Dog Trail.
Personal Sponsors: Thank you to all the Iron Dog volunteers at the start line, along the trail, and at the finish line! Special thanks to Hatcher Pass Polaris, Klim and Bergeron Mechanical. Thank you family, friends, team members and my lovely girlfriend Dianne for all their love, encouragement and support.



Jim Huttemier

Age: 50
From: Stillwater, Minn.
Status: Rookie
Riding: Polaris Switchback Assault 146
Bio: I grew up in Northern Minnesota with my hobbies focused on the outdoors. I have logged many miles riding snowmobiles in Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Alaska. I am rookie to this race but have many good friends who have completed the Iron Dog multiple times. I am looking forward to the adventure. I currently live in Minnesota with my wife, Carolle.
Personal Sponsors: Carolle, Bedard Bros Racing, KEBERT Leasing, LLC, Randy Bedard

TEAM 54 POLARIS



Robert Bloom

Age: 65
From: Anchorage
Status: Expedition Class Veteran, 2011-12
Riding: Polaris Switchback Assault 146
Bio: I'm a lifelong motorhead.
Personal Sponsors: Myself

TEAM 42 SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Donlin Gold



Amos Cruise

Age: 31
From: McGrath
Status: Veteran
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
Iron Dog Race History: 2016: DNF, 2019: fifth place, 2020: DNF
Bio: I'm a lifelong Alaskan and a longtime volunteer for the Iron Dog checkpoints of McGrath and Rohn. I have three crazy boys, Rohn, Hayden and Wesley, and two dogs Homie and Loki. I love everything about Alaska and the outdoors. I can't thank all my family, friends and sponsors enough for all the continued support
Other Racing Experience: Raced the Nome-Golovin 200 11 times, and the Archie Ferguson four times.
Personal Sponsors: Ryan and Jessica Tonseth, Chris Cruise, Jordan and Chelsea Miller, Charley and Jennifer Reader, Freda Beasley, Perry Burass, Tony Ferreira, JohnJohn Schaeffer, Trever Miller, Jerry Miller, Jarvis Miller, Damon Schaeffer, Shy and Thor Lie, Rick Lie, Pooky Shocks, Randy Kangas, and all the Iron Dog volunteers and staff – thanks.



Barney Anselment

Age: 45
From: Fairbanks
Status: Veteran
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ-X-RS
Iron Dog Race History: 2016: DNF, 2017: 10th place, 2018: Finished, 2019-20: DNF
Bio: Raised in Interior Alaska, this will be my sixth Iron Dog race this year. Thanks to my wife, Moriah, my kids and parents for all their support.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: Donlin Gold, Dr. James Hoges, Randy Walton, Dock Masters

TEAM 49 POLARIS

Sponsors: Polaris Racing, Anchorage Well and Pump Service, Gorilla Fireworks, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, Special Events Alaska, Alyeska Pipeline Service Company, Shaklee Resource Center, FXR Racing, Doug's Machining, SonsOfThunder Racing, Pioneer Peak Orthopedic Surgery, JD Steel Company, Rulien + Associates, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Woody's Traction Products, Rugged Radios, Trail Tech, Arctic Fox Steel Buildings, Mat-Su Miners, Alaska Fireplace & Accessories, Inc., FV Tillken, Walker Manufacturing, David P. Eller, CFP-Edward Jones, Walker Evans Racing, Summit Coffee Co.



Andrew Gumley

Age: 40
From: Wasilla
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2019: seventh place, 2020: sixth place
Bio: Andrew lives in Wasilla with his wife, Anne-Renee, and two children, Kailee and Jamison. The Gumley family owns a small business in Wasilla and they are grateful to be part of a growing community. Andrew endeavors to do his best in all that he does as for our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is his hope that Christ will demonstrate and extend grace to others through his effort and participation in this great race.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: My Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. My amazing wife and kids along with family and friends – thank you for your continued prayer and support! Special thanks to the team at Walker Manufacturing, Pioneer Peak Orthopedics, Rulien + Associates, Edward Jones, Larry Levine, Jon Melot, and Thomas Causa.



Klinton VanWingerden

Age: 40
From: Big Lake
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2015-2016: Finished, 2017: fourth place, 2018: Finished, 2019: seventh place, 2020: sixth place
Bio: I do my best to live my life on purpose, committed to my beautiful bride, Calli, my daughter Reese, my son Miles, family and friends, my job, but most importantly my Savior Jesus Christ. It is my desire to do my best in all I do as if doing it unto my Lord, Jesus Christ. It is a daily battle but I strive to stay focused on what I believe to be the most important matters in life: Remember the life Jesus Christ lived and demonstrated on earth, as documented in the bible, and strive hard to model my life after his example. It is my hope Christ will extend his grace through this team, 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 SonsofThunder! Please connect with us on Facebook: Iron Dog Team #49, Instagram: @sonsofthunderracing, or mewe.
Other Racing Experience: second place, Larry Heal Memorial, 2014 Iron Dog Rec Class finisher
Personal Sponsors: My beautiful wife and best friend, Calli; my awesome kids: Reese and Miles that push me to be better; family and friends, for your continued prayers and support!

THAT'S THE IRON DOG Facts

Longest supporter

NORTHERN AIR CARGO has been providing continuous support to Iron Dog since the beginning. That's now 38 years of service!

An ever-changing race route

THE FIRST IRON DOG EVENT started in 1984 and followed the Northern Route of the Historic Iditarod Trail to Nome. Since then it has had multiple incarnations ranging from 1,049 miles in 1984 to 2,409 miles in 2020.

Today's Iron Dog course distance is more than 2,600 miles, starting in Big Lake, with a halfway stop in Nome, then around the Kotzebue Loop, before returning to Big Lake.

2020 IRON DOG TOP 10

PLACE	NAME	BRAND	TRAIL TIME
1st	Tyler Aklestad & Nick Olstad	Ski-Doo	50:08:03
2nd	Chris Olds & Mike Morgan	Polaris	52:49:55
3rd	Brett Lapham & Zack Weisz	Polaris	54:38:34
4th	Kenneth Kleewein & Kruz Kleewein	Polaris	56:59:17
5th	Troy Conlon & Todd Palin	Polaris	61:28:39
6th	Andrew Gumley & Klinton VanWingerden	Polaris	61:54:07
7th	Kazimir & Zachary Cizmowski	Polaris	62:26:10
8th	Chad Gueco & Andrew Zwink	Ski-Doo	70:10:59
9th	Konrad Schruf & Luke Schruf	Polaris	75:49:42
10th	Jonathan Egrass & Tyler Samuelson	Polaris	75:51:21

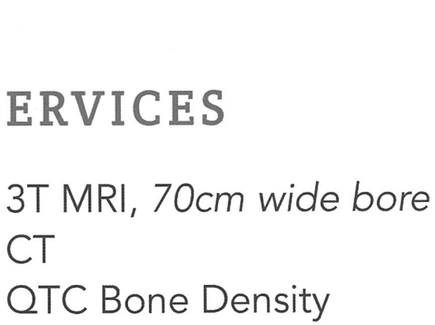
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TEAM 37 POLARIS

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Mark Fosty

Age: 35
From: Thalberg, Manitoba
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2020: Finished
Bio: I was born in rural Manitoba on our family grain and oilseed farm. Our main entertainment was motor sports of any kind. I grew up racing motocross and fishing in the summer when we weren't busy, playing hockey, hunting and snowmobiling in the winter. We still enjoy all these things today. My wife of six years, Kandace, and I have two boys, Maxton, 5, and Logan, 2-1/2. We currently own and operate our own grain and oilseed farm in Thalberg.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: I would first like to thank my wife Kandace for all her help and support with fundraising and selling the hats and touqes. Maxton and Logan for helping out in the the shop and letting me take time away from them to train. My Mom and Sisters, Brother in laws Nieces and Nephews for all the support. All the ID guys who were there to help us get things set up. You know who you are.



Ben Hildebrand

Age: 34
From: Stead, Manitoba
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2020: Finished
Bio: Born and raised in rural Manitoba I run our family's sod farm with my two brothers and have a passion for fabricating and wrenching in general. As 2020 has left many people feeling hard done by it was one of the most memorable years of my life starting by becoming a veteran of the Iron Dog race and followed by a record year on the farm, and to top it all off meeting a beautiful young lady who needed no convincing to join me in Alaska for another go at it. Snowmobile racing may be new to me but I have spent a few years racing ice bikes at our local cptc track.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: None listed

TEAM 39 POLARIS

Sponsors: Polaris Racing, Aurora Drilling and Consulting, Klim, Hatcher Pass Polaris , Studboy, Walker Evans Racing, Team Industries, Northern Energy Services, Darby's Performance Machine, Tri-Jet Precision Cutting LLC, Delta Powersports, Summit Coffee Co., 139 Designs, Auto Trim Design, Interior Mobile Welding, Taylor Fire Protection, Valley Imaging Center, Alaska Air Balancing



Troy Conlon

Age: 30
From: Fairbanks
Status: Veteran
Iron Dog Race History: 2016: Finished, 2017: ninth place, 2019: DNF, 2020: fifth place
Riding: Polaris XCR
Bio: I was born and raised in Fairbanks, where I work as a welder/machinist for Fort Knox Gold Mine. I have been riding snowmachines since I was 2, in the mountains most of my life until 2013 when I entered my first race. What started out as a hobby has grown into a full-out passion, which someday I'd like to share with my son, Carver. I enjoy hunting, fishing, hiking, hockey, and boating in my free time. My wife, Chloe, and I have been married for six years and are looking forward to welcoming the newest additions to our family, twins due in February.
Other Racing Experience: Kotzebue: first place; Mayor's Cup: first place, second place, third place, fifth place, 10th place; Mayor's Cup semi-pro: first place, third place; Tanana 140: first place; Motor Madness XC: third place, fifth place; Nome/Golovin: eighth place; Multiple Arctic Man finishes; Hillclimb, Hillcross podiums
Personal Sponsors: Chloe and Carver Conlon, Jerry Conlon and Shannon Winner, Ron Johnson and Chelsea Stanya, Shane and Tammy Barber, Tanner Conlon, Ben Boswood



Cody Barber

Age: 26
From: Wasilla
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2015: fifth place, 2016: Finished, 2019: ninth place, 2020: DNF
Bio: I grew up in Willow riding snowmachines and enjoying the outdoors any chance that I had. I now do this with four little kids and my beautiful wife.
Other Racing Experience: 2011 X-Country semi-pro state champion; 2011, first place, Valdez Mayor's Cup semi-pro; 2012, second place, Valdez Mayor's Cup pro-class; 2019, third place, Valdez Mayor's Cup pro-class.
Personal Sponsors: My Iron Dog partner, Troy Conlon, for putting in the extra time and effort and going above others' expectations to make this happen; my wife, Brandi Barber, all of my kiddos, Mom and Dad, Shana and Evan, Grandpa Mike, Grandpa Jack, and the rest of my family.

TEAM 40 SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Team CC, Klim, Alaska Dental Care, GoPro, Stud Boy Traction Products, Ride208, Build Construction, Notatek, GSH Geotechnical



Mark Nelson

Age: 37
From: Kaysville, Utah
Status: Rookie
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ XR-S
Bio: Mark is a Utah native who grew up skiing and dirt biking, leading him to love anything outdoors. He has raced dirt bikes for years and looks forward to his debut Iron Dog racing experience. In recent years Mark has developed a love for endurance events and challenges himself with running 50K and 50-mile foot races. He can't wait to test his endurance at a whole new level racing the Iron Dog. Mark lives life to the fullest with his wife, Laura, and four children, Jace, Anabelle, Brooklyn and Emily. His ultimate goal is to show his children that they can do hard things.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: None listed



Daniel Thomas

Age: 39
From: Salt Lake City
Status: Rookie
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
Bio: Mama said things only get better with time, so here I am a 40-year-old bald man finally ready to conquer the world's longest, toughest snowmobile race. I am delightfully married to my bride of 17 years. I figured raising four daughters has been a breeze so why not give Iron Dog a shot. The Thomas Tribe lives in Salt Lake City with our immature Akita, one undersized bunny and two snakes (the fish died). I tell people how to dig ditches and stack bricks for a living. I just might be the only Iron Dog racer this year who has no idea what lies beyond the drop of the green flag. See you at the starting line but don't wait up too long at the finish line.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: I couldn't ride without the support of the hottest Iron Dog wife and the four maidens. I think I ride with the endorsement of the Creator of Alaska but I guess I'll find out February 13th who He is backing.

THAT'S THE IRON DOG Facts

There are now two second-generation family names with a championship title: the Faeos and Davises. Scott Faeo won the race with Eric Quam in 2015, and Cory Davis and Ryan Simons took the 2017 title. Scott's father, John Faeo, and Cory's father, Scott Davis, are tied with the most victories at seven each.

TEAM 23 SKI-DOO

Sponsor: Q Trucking, IBEW Local 1547, Team CC Ski-Doo, Klim, Wilderness Ski-Doo, Gueco Racing, Wrenchers Equipment Rental, Terry's Therapeutic Massage, Ryan Air Cargo, Northern Powerline Constructors, Lone Pine Fabrication, Rugged Radio, Alaska Safety, Mary Reader, Jerry Miller, Jane Miller Tongen, John Tongen, Barb Amarok, Harriet Hamilton Fenerty, Ryan Air, Mary Straub, Cussy Kauer



Jarvis Miller

Age: 29
From: Nome
Status: Veteran
Riding: Ski-Doo Renegade
Iron Dog Race History: 2019: fifth place, Rookie of the Year
Bio: I was born and raised in Nome, where I reside with my girlfriend, Hattie, and our two daughters, Kaia and Lexi. I enjoy spending time with my family and everything the outdoors has to offer, including fishing, hunting, boating and racing snowmachines. I work for Q Trucking Company as a heavy equipment operator.
Other Racing Experience: First place 2018 Nome-Golovin 200; second place 2019 Nome-Golovin 200; second place 2018 Kotzebue Archie Ferguson Willie Goodwin Memorial Race; third place 2015 Nome-Golovin 200; second place 2013 Kotzebue Archie Ferguson Willie Goodwin Memorial Race; first place open class 2011 Nome-Golovin 200 and Rookie of the Year; third place 2010 Nome-Golovin 200; 2011, second place, Elim-Koyuk Race.
Personal Sponsors: Joe and Terry Miller; Hattie Keller; Q Trucking, Charley and Jennifer Reader; Wilderness Ski-Doo, Johnny Bahnke III; Klim; Gueco Racing, Danny Gueco; Team CC Ski-Doo; Chelsea Miller; Wrenchers Equipment Rental, Geoff Hubert; Kenny Brunette; and all the volunteers and checkers along the way who help make this race possible.



Jordan Miller

Age: 31
From: Nome
Status: Rookie
Riding: Ski-Doo Renegade X
Bio: I have lived in Alaska my entire life, bouncing back and forth between Nome and Anchorage. I work construction as an electrician for the IBEW Local 1547. I enjoy anything with a motor or that has to do with the outdoors. Hunting and fishing with my beautiful wife, Chelsea, is something we look forward to each year. After helping friends and family with numerous races, I jumped at the opportunity to run with my little brother.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: Joe and Terry Miller, Charley and Jennifer Reader, Chelsea Miller, Jarvis and Hattie, Obsessive Lighting, Klim, Danny Gueco, Team CC Ski-Doo, Wilderness Ski-Doo, Alaska Safety, Robert Mansey Magnuson, Kenny Brunette, Tanner Baker; and all of the volunteers and checkers along the trail.

TEAM 30 POLARIS

Sponsors: Buck Wilder & Associates, RMG Real Estate Network-Keller Williams, Big Boys Toys Storage, AK Aggregrate Products, First Rate Financial, Karis Integrative Medicine, Cruz Construction, Ritala Custom Services, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Klim, Vision X Racing Lights, Rip-N-Grip Racing, Lone Pine Fabrication, 139 Designs, Zugger Shocks, Kody Worly, Tri Jet



Kyle Conner

Age: 30
From: Willow
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2014-15: Finished, 2016: 10th place, 2017: DNF, 2019: eighth place
Bio: Kyle 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. He now resides in Palmer with his beautiful wife, Molly, and their three kids Sage, Clark and Grace. Kyle enjoys spending time in the boat and on snowmachines with his kids and wife.
Other Racing Experience: Kyle raced Arctic Man for the last five years and a few XC races.
Personal Sponsors: Molly, Sage, Clark and Grace Conner, the Lamborn family, the Conner family, Stonegate Storage, Drifterz Paradise



Blake Elder

Age: 31
From: Wasilla
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2019: eighth place
Bio: I love all the adventures that Alaska has to offer. My wife, Natalie, and I have two beautiful daughters, and a new baby on the way! As a family we love to go riding and adventuring. I raced sno-cross in high school and have recently enjoyed getting back into the racing world and am looking forward to the Iron Dog this year. I completed the race with Kyle Conner in 2019 and we are looking forward to a great year!
Other Racing Experience: 2019 Mayor's Cup semi-pro, third place
Personal Sponsors: Natalie Elder, Chris & Elizabeth Elder, Amy Elder, Kevin & Janet Goard, Mona Saupe, Reed & Rebekah Moore, Jared & Annie Bjerkestrand. Thanks!

TEAM 32 POLARIS

Sponsors: Fly Racing, Woody's Traction, HPAK Polaris, Tri Jet, Darby's Performance Machine, Northern Power Sports, Compeau's, Automotive Concepts, Sause Family Transmission, Diode Dynamics



George Mountain

Age: 32
From: Nulato
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2019: Finished
Bio: I've been a fan of Iron Dog as long as I could remember and am just glad to be here again. I'd like to thank my wife and kids for pushing me to race again. A big shoutout to all our Sponsors that continuously take chances on us and to all of our family, friends, and fans of the sport that support us.
"HAS ANYBODY SEEN TROY CONLON?"
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: Doug Patsy, John Schaeffer, Randy and Chad Kangas, Brad Kishbaugh, Bobby Menne, Kyle, Anesna and Devin Krause, Floyd Demoski, George Demoski, Ron Kendall Vanessa, Braelyn and JR, "Pooky", Ivar Carlson, Rob Masson, Todd Palin, Bob Gilman, Ashley Wallace, Earl and Joyce Sommer, Hania Sommer



Kelly Sommer

Age: 33
From: Nulato
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy
Iron Dog Race History: 2012: Finished, 2019: Finished
Bio: I like to race snowmachines. I grew up in Nulato and I have lived in Galena and Fairbanks. I had a lot of fun racing last year, and this will be my fourth Iron Dog.
Other Racing Experience: 2018 Tanana 140, fifth place; Kotz AF/WG, finished; 2019 Mayor's Cup, finished; Fort Yukon, second place.
Personal Sponsors: Thanks to Randy Kangas, Brad Mountain, Marvin Mountain, and George Demoski for help in the garage; and Cozzy Mountain, Earl and Joyce Sommer

THAT'S THE IRON DOG Facts

Wins by Brand:

- 17 Wins on Polaris
- 11 Wins on Arctic Cat
- 5 Wins on Ski-Doo
- 3 Wins on Yamaha

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TEAM 19 POLARIS

Sponsors: None listed



Jimmy Gattenby

Age: 28
From: Soldotna
Status: Rookie
Riding: Polaris Indy XC
Bio: I was born and raised on the tracks and trails of the Kenai Peninsula as well as all over the state. I've been on sleds since before I could walk. I've got a moto and snoX background. Although I am newer to racing cross-country events it has always been my favorite type of riding. Iron Dog is a dream of mine. I am eager to get my name out there. This wouldn't be possible without the support from my family.
Other Racing Experience: Arctic Man Hillcross, first place; 2020 Valdez Mayor's Cup, third place
Personal Sponsors: IPA Alaska, Duck Inn Lounge, Rock Bottom Enterprises, Steelhead Industrial, All American Oilfield, SLP Alaska, Peninsula Power Sports, Yellow Jacket Oilfield Services, KCR, Klim, Walker Evans, Denali Dispensaries, KCR, Mike & Kelly Lewis, Renegade Custom Cycles



Travis Temple

Age: 32
From: Soldotna
Status: Rookie
Riding: Polaris Indy XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2019: DNF, 2020: DNF
Bio: I was born and raised in Soldotna, and enjoy hunting, fishing, riding sleds and dirt biking. It has always been a dream of mine, as a little kid, to race the Iron Dog. I love spending time with my wife, Crystal, and my son, Riley.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: IPA Alaska, Davis Block All American Oilfield, Steelhead Industrial, SLP, Peninsula Power Sports, Powermadd, Yellow Jacket, Klim, Walker Evans

TEAM 20 SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Pioneer Peak Orthopedics, Valley Imaging Center, Diversified Tire, Team CC, Beckmann Co. LLC



Stan James

Age: 44
From: Palmer
Status: Veteran
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ
Iron Dog Race History: 2017: DNF, 2018: Finished
Bio: I'm pretty good at Connect Four, I enjoy long walks on the beach, Kenny G and romantic movies.
Other Racing Experience: I outran a cop once on Badger Road in North Pole on my snowmachine . . . seemed like a race to me.
Personal Sponsors: Klim, Stud Boy, Valley Imaging Center, Alaska Foot & Ankle Specialists, Pioneer Peak Orthopedics, Alaska Imaging, Harold and Heidi Cable, Northern Lights Imaging, Diversified Tire, AFOC, Visa, MasterCard



Gregory Strohmeyer

Age: 36
From: Wasilla
Status: Rookie
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
Bio: I was born and raised in Alaska. I enjoy hunting, fishing, flying, and spending time with my wife Cindy and our children Carter, Andy, and Riley.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: Beckmann Company LLC, Klim, Pioneer Peak Orthopedics, and my wife, Cindy.

TEAM 21 SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Alaska Toy Rentals, H Construction LLC, Tom Germany with TRI-State Disposal Inc., Dave Hausbeck with DHT Trucking, Noisy Goose Café, Delta Powersports, White Spruce Trailers, DC 907 Diesel, Hales Technical Service, Trijet Manufacturing, Valley Block & Concrete, Northern Air Cargo, Magic Metals Inc., Pioneer Peak Orthopedics, Capstone Family Medicine, A2D Sledworks, Alaska Knotty Pine B&B, HoneyDo Landscaping & Handyman Services, Greatland Welding



Israel Hale

Age: 34
From: Palmer
Status: Rookie
Riding: Ski-Doo Renegade X
Bio: I first want to give credit to my lovely wife, Cori whom I've been married to for the past eight years. She is a huge supporter and the love of my life. My daughter, Greta is 6, and my son, Levi, is 3 and loves to do everything Daddy does. In 2012, on a trip through Anchorage, I had a collapsed trailer spring and found myself broke down on the side of the road. While working on it, I was hit at 50 mph by a car driven by a young girl. My body was slammed into the back of my trailer, instantly severing both of my legs. Five days later I woke up in Seattle where I learned that both of my legs were missing but I was alive. It was a daunting prospect, faced with months of healing, physical therapy, an insecure job future, and learning to live again with a disability. But I was determined to walk and to work again. I regained my mobility and found new strength through my disability. Skilled at small motor repair, I started Alaska Tool Doctor and built the business from the ground up. I started renting out four-wheelers, side-by-sides, and snowmachines, eventually buying the business Alaska Toy Rentals. It was during this time that I took up snowmachining seriously, even though as a double-leg amputee riding can be pretty challenging. While I didn't place in the first race I entered, the 2018 Mayors Cup in Valdez, I finished and learned valuable racing lessons. Last year, I sampled the Iron Dog as a Recreational class rider, and my brother Joseph and I were the first team to reach Nome. This year, I want to push myself further, and become the first disabled person to finish the Iron Dog Pro race. I know it won't be easy, but so much of life hasn't been. The only difference is that this time, it is a challenge I'm choosing for myself.
Other Racing Experience: Mayor's Cup, Valdez, 2018: Finished
Personal Sponsors: Tom Germany, David Hausbeck and Owen the little hockey player



Joseph Hale

Age: 43
From: Palmer
Status: Rookie
Riding: Ski-Doo Renegade X
Bio: I've lived in Alaska for 22 years, and I am excited about running the 2021 Iron Dog Pro Class for the first time with my younger brother (who is a double amputee). Last year we were the first team to make it to Nome in the 2020 Iron Dog Expedition Class. My handicapped brother Israel is definitely tougher than me - the question isn't whether he will make it to the finish line, but if he will kill me trying to get me there! We both feel that we have a good chance at being competitive in the 2021 Iron Dog Pro Class. Our goal is to be the first handicapped team to ever successfully cross the finish line. Oh, and that we're not both handicapped when we get there! I'm also a local business owner here in Palmer, and am blessed to have a wife and six boys who will be supporting us on our ride.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: Tom Germany, David Hausbeck, Owen

THAT'S THE IRON DOG Facts

Jackie Page (Robertson) and Missy McClurg (Thibodeau) remain the only all-female team to have successfully finished the Iron Dog race. In February, 2001, they became the first women's team to finish the Pro-Class race, placing 15th in 60 hours and 23 minutes. This year marks the 20th anniversary of that accomplishment.

TEAM 12 POLARIS

Sponsors: Northern Powerline Constructors, Inc., Polaris Racing, Polaris Engineered Lubricants, NPC Energy Services LLC, Taylor Fire Protection Services, Robinson Millwork, Pollen Environmental, LLC, Frontier Dental Care, Law Offices of Royce & Brain, Electric Power Constructors (EPC), DuClos Orthodontics, Charter College, Distinctive Ride, Valley Auto Body, B Original Signs, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Klim Technical Riding Gear, Walker Evans Racing, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, Woody's Traction Products, Taylor Designs, Randy Jones and Sara Jansen, Capstone Family Medicine, Tri-Jet Manufacturing Services LLC, Polaris Industries, Upangle



Kenneth Kleewein

Age: 30
From: Willow
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2018: Finished, 2019: sixth place, 2020: fourth place
Bio: Kenneth (Kenny) Kleewein II is a lifelong Alaskan, raised in Willow. Kenny has spent most of his life riding anything with a motor. Racing has been a huge part of his life growing up racing four-wheelers and then racing snowmachines with Alaska Motor Mushers Club (AMMC). He is a second -generation racer after his dad, Kenny Kleewein. Kenny loves spending family time with his beautiful wife, Kirsten, son Kenny III, and daughter Bellamy.
Other Racing Experience: AMMC semi-pro triple crown: 2015, first place; AMMC pro class champion: 2016; AMMC Big Lake 500: 2017, third place; AMMC Mat-Su Resort 100: 2018, second place; AMMC Larry Heal Memorial Race 500: 2018, first place; Iron Dog: 2018, 13th place
Personal Sponsors: Special thank-you to my amazing wife, Kirsten; son, Kenny; and daughter, Bellamy for giving me the opportunity to pursue this dream. Kirsten, thank you for supporting our family during the long nights and weekends preparing for this great race. Also, a special thank-you goes to my mom and my dad for not only being very supportive, but also helping with preparations. I am very grateful for my dad and his wealth of knowledge of the Iron Dog.



Kruz Kleewein

Age: 25
From: Willow
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2018: Finished, 2019: sixth place, 2020: fourth place
Bio: Kruz is a born and raised Alaskan from Willow. He has always shared a love with anything with a motor such as snowmachines, stand-up jet skis, dirt bikes and four-wheelers. He's a big fan of any kind of racing, and loves being outdoors, going fishing, playing basketball, hockey and golf. Kruz works as an apprentice power lineman for the IBEW.
Other Racing Experience: Big Lake 150: 2013, first place; AMMC championship: 2016, third place overall; Big Lake 500: 2017, third place; 2018 Iron Dog, 13th place.
Personal Sponsors: I'd like to thank my mom and dad for all their support; the whole Taylor family for everything they do, and my fiancè, Amanda, for all her love and support. Also, thanks to all my friends and family.

TEAM 14 POLARIS

Sponsors: Polaris Racing, Fly Racing, AK Frost



Casey Boylan

Age: 26
From: Anchorage
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy XC
Iron Dog Race History: 2017: sixth place, 2018: fifth place, 2019: third place
Bio: Casey Boylan was born and raised in Anchorage. He has been racing snowmachines for 15 years, five of those years out of state at a national level.
Other Racing Experience: 2010 ISOC National Sport Super Stock: first, second and third place finishes; 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; 2017 Mayor's Cup, third place pro class; 2017 Skwentna 200, second place, 2018 Mayor's Cup, first place.
Personal Sponsors: Polaris Racing, AK Frost, Walker Evans Racing, A2D Motorsport, Anchorage Yamaha/Polaris, Hatcher Pass Polaris, General Constructors, Value Liquor, Big Dream Transport, Rebound Sports Physical Therapy, Bill Bishop, Boylan Boyz Racing, Leslie Racing, C&A Pro Skis, Stud Boy, Bailey's Rental



Bryan Leslie

Age: 27
From: Wasilla
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy XC
Iron Dog Race History: 2017: sixth place, 2018: fifth place, 2019: third place
Bio: I love to ride or be in or 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.
Other Racing Experience: 2015 AMMC semi-pro champ; 2015 Larry Heal, first place; 2015 Arctic Man Ice-X, first place
Personal Sponsors: Polaris, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Anchorage Yamaha and Polaris, AK Frost, Walker Evans Shocks, Klim, Stan James, Statewide Door and Glass, Carlile, Big State Concrete Coating LLC, Lonepine Fabricators, New Horizons Telecom, IBEW 1547, A2D Sledworks, Alaska Snowmobile Salvage, Alaska LED, Alaska House of Yamaha, Boehmer Services, JJ's Lounge, Boylan Boyz Racing, Leslie Racing, Jon McDonald, Bill Bishop, Ben Cruz, Eric Wansor, friends and family

TEAM 17 SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Team CC Ski Doo, Team Ski-Doo Racing, Wilderness Ski-Doo, Klim, Stud Boy Traction, Tracks USA, Anchorage Drag Bike, Acutek Geomatics LLC, Gold Buyers of Alaska, Speedwerx, Ice Age Performance



Bob Gilman

Age: 58
From: Wasilla
Status: Veteran
Riding: Ski-Doo XRS
Iron Dog Race History: 1990: first place, 1991: first place, 1996: first place
Bio: I am supported in this venture by my daughters, Kris and Albie, son Garrett, now seven grandchildren with the addition of Liam, and my fiancè, Sarah. My hobbies include mountaineering and world travel to more than 60 countries. I look forward to making it to the Kobuk region this year and riding a lot of miles pre-race through this great part of our country with Todd and visiting our many friends along the way. I also look forward to our best possible finish utilizing our combined 114 years of outdoor experience!
Other Racing Experience: I am honored to be included in the Iron Dog Hall of Fame. I've enjoyed many years racing in Northwest Alaska.
Personal Sponsors: Chris Collins, Kotzebue; Mansie Magnuson, Pro-West Leasing LLC, Coho Contractors, LLC



Todd Palin

Age: 56
From: Wasilla
Status: Veteran
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
Iron Dog Race History: 1993: Finished, 1995: first place, 1997: fourth-place, 1998: Finished, 2000: first place, 2001: Finished, 2002: first place, 2004: second place, 2005: second place, 2006: second place, 2007: first place, 2008: fourth place, 2009: sixth place, 2011: second place, 2012: fifth place, 2013: fifth place, 2015: Finished, 2018: ninth place, 2020: fifth place
Bio: This is Todd's 27th Iron Dog! He's enjoyed four victories, four runner-ups and several Top-10 finishes. Todd is a lifelong Alaskan, a commercial fisherman, former BP Alaska employee, and is Alaska's first First Gentleman. Todd's heart is for those in rural Alaska who work hard, respect God's creation, love the Last Frontier, and assist the Iron Dog! Todd and Sarah are the proud parents of five great kids, and seven perfect grandkids: Track, Bristol, Willow, Piper Indi Grace, Trig, Tripp, Kyla Grace, Sailor Grace, Charlie, Atlee Bay, Blaise Indi, and Banks. The family enjoys fishing, hunting, flying, Baja Razor riding, snowmachines, and commercial fishing in Bristol Bay.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: CC Ski Doo, Stud Boy, Tracks USA, Zugger Shocks

2021 Iron Dog
Schedule of events

Wednesday, February 10
Expedition COVID-19 PCR Testing
All Day
Any Capstone Clinic location. Visit capstoneclinic.com for locations.
Please contact director@irondog.org for more information.

Wednesday, February 10
Pro & Expedition Class Tech Inspection and Race Draw
8 a.m.-6 p.m.
2400 E. Parks Highway (Old Arctic Cat)
Pro Class Draw will take place during the inspection and will be posted on www.irondog.org in the evening.

Thursday, February 11
Expedition Class Departure to Nome
10 a.m.
Burkeshore Marina, Big Lake

Friday, February 12
Pro Class COVID-19 PCR Testing
8- a.m. 1 p.m.
Any Capstone Clinic location. Visit capstoneclinic.com for locations.
Please contact director@irondog.org for more information.

Saturday, February 13
Start of the Pro Class Race
8:30 a.m.: Racer Check In
10 a.m.: Race Marshals Meeting
11 a.m.: Racers depart in two-minute intervals.
Burkeshore Marina, Big Lake

Parking will not be available to the public. Fans are encouraged to watch the race "on the trail" or via live stream. Fans are encouraged to limit group size, practice social distancing and wear masks.
- Live stream coverage will begin at 10 a.m.
- For the latest news, follow Iron Dog on:
  Facebook, @IronDogSnowmobileRace
  Iron Dog website, https://www.irondog.org/race/

Tuesday, February 16
Pro Class Nome Garage "Work Day"
All Day
Nome
The Garage will not be open to the public. Only racers and race officials will be admitted.



Racers look over their sleds during the 2020 Tech Inspection. This year's event will take place Feb. 10, but will not be open to the public. **Photo: James Wicken**

Saturday, February 20
Pro Class Finish
Top teams expected to arrive aron 12 noon
Burkeshore Marina, Big Lake

Fans are encouraged to watch the race "on the trail" or via live stream. Fans are encouraged to limit group size, practice social distancing and wear masks.
- Live stream coverage will begin at 10 a.m.
- For the latest news, follow Iron Dog on:
  Facebook, @IronDogSnowmobileRace
  Iron Dog website, https://www.irondog.org/race/news



Pro class Team 6, Tyson Johnson and Brad George, takes off at the start of the 2020 Iron Dog, which was held in Fairbanks. This year, the start will take place at Burkeshore Marina in Big Lake, minus the fanfare, in order to adhere to social distancing guidelines. At right, Team 7 racer Tyler Aklestad positions himself at the start, not knowing at that moment that he and teammate Nick Olstad would win the race. **Photos: James Wicken**

2021 Race Day Schedule

Expedition Class race-day details

WHEN: Thursday, February 11
WHERE: Burkeshore Marina, 3610 N. Burkeshore Drive, Big Lake
10 a.m.: Expedition Class riders depart for the trail to Nome. They will leave in two-minute intervals.

Pro Class race-day details

WHEN: Saturday, February 13
WHERE: Burkeshore Marina, 3610 N. Burkeshore Drive, Big Lake
- 8:30 a.m.: Racers check in
- 10 a.m.: Race Marshal meeting
- 11 a.m.: Teams leave in two-minute intervals.

PLEASE NOTE: Parking will not be available to the public. Fans are encouraged to watch the race "on the trail" or via live stream. Fans are encouraged to limit group size, practice social distancing and wear masks.

- Live stream coverage will begin at 10 a.m.
- For the latest news, follow Iron Dog on:
  Facebook, @IronDogSnowmobileRace
  Iron Dog website, https://www.irondog.org/race/news

TEAM 8 SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Team CC Ski-Doo, Fox Shocks, Ski-Doo, Klim, PowerMadd, Studd Boy, Rugged Radios, Grip-N-Rip Racing



Chad Gueco

Age: 36
From: Wasilla
Status: Veteran
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
Iron Dog Race History: 2012: sixth place, 2015: sixth place, 2016: sixth place, 2017: second place, 2020: eighth place
Bio: I am a lifelong Alaskan who loves everything our state has to offer. I spend every chance I get traveling, riding, hunting, fishing and anything that involves a good time! I am a father of three children: Allie (13), Ella (10), and Haiden (7) with my beautiful wife Jayme Gueco. This will be my ninth Iron Dog, which will be nothing short of another great competitive experience.
Other Racing Experience: 2013 Alyeska Motor Madness XC: first place; 2013 Valdez Mayor's Cup XC: third place; 2012 Eureka 100 XC: first 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 places; 2007 Eagle River World Championship: first place
Personal Sponsors: ASRC Arctic Slope Resource Corp., Alaska Spine Institute, Bills Distributing, Projekt 907, Klim, Fox Shox, Trail Tank, Well Solutions, Inc., Stud Boy Traction, Gueco Racing, Rip-N-Grip Racing, FineLine Interiors, RPM Composites, Independent Lift Truck, Rain Proof Roofing and my Family. A special thanks to Korey Cronquist and a big shout-out to my father, Danny Gueco: It would not be possible without any of you!



Cody Moen

Age: 36
From: Cle Elum, Wash. & Nome
Status: Rookie
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
Iron Dog Race History: 2020: DNF
Bio: I grew up in Washington State, and I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, being in the outdoors, hunting, fishing and boating. I came to Nome 10 years ago to be a gold miner, where I still work in offshore mining. I spent my younger years racing motocross.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: Gold Buyers of Alaska, Arctic Sea Mining, Northwest Gold Diggers, The Christine Rose, Shawn Pomrenke, Dave Young, Danny Gueco and Gueco Racing, Sound Trench, Bill Moen Construction, J&M Construction, and my beautiful girlfriend, Audrey.

TEAM 10 POLARIS

Sponsors: Polaris Industries, Klim, Walker Evans Racing, Eagle River Polaris/AC, Stan Morgan, Polaris Engineered Lubricants, Northern Air Cargo, Q-Trucking, Bering Air, Northern Powerline Constructors, Stud Boy Traction Products, Alaska Industrial X-Ray, Rugged Radios, Total Truck & Accessories, Able Body Shop, UA Local 367 Plumbers & Pipefitters Union, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Northern Solutions LLC, Alaska Spine Institute, Tri-jet Manufacturing Services LLC, Anchorage Drag Bike, Fine Line Interiors, PowerMadd, Starting Line Products, Velocity Sled Performance, United Rentals, Morgan Enterprises, Hale's Technical Services-VP Racing Fuels, Nitro Trailers, Arctic FX Graphics, Thunder Products Clutching LLC, Micah Straughn, Ginny Emmons, Jeremy Hanson, Christine Olds, Christy Hedrick, Manzy Magnuson and Sweetpea in McGrath, Butch and Elizabeth Captain in Ruby, Tyler Huntington and family in Galena, Aggie Katongan in Unalakleet, Tami and Andy Baker and family in Kotzebue, Tom McCoy and family in Selawik



Mike Morgan

Age: 35
From: Nome
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy XC 137
Iron Dog Race History: 2009: fifth place, 2012: fourth place, 2013: third place, 2014: third place, 2015: Finished, 2016: fifth place, 2018: first place, 2019: first place, 2020: second place
Bio: I was born and raised in Nome and currently reside in Anchorage, having spent all of my 35 years in Alaska. I enjoy hiking, hunting, fishing, traveling, biking, riding and racing snowmachines and hanging out with friends and family. I work construction as a welder out of the UA Local 367 Plumbers & Pipefitters Union. This will be my 12th Iron Dog race and 10th with current teammate Chris Olds.
Other Racing Experience: Four Nome-Golovin wins including a win in 2018; four Kotzebue race wins; eight Top-5s in Iron Dog
Personal Sponsors: Dad Stan and Ruby Morgan, Mom Ginny and Carl Emmons, Emmons Mechanical, Ice Age Performance, Auto Armor of Alaska, Kannady Chiropractic, Alaska Hand-Elbow-Shoulder, Alaska Mechanical, Inc., Taylor and Almond Joy!



Chris Olds

Age: 49
From: Eagle River
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy XC 137
Iron Dog Race History: 2000: Finished, 2001: Finished, 2002: Finished, 2006: Finished, 2007: fourth place, 2008: fifth place, 2009: 10th place, 2010: first place, 2011: first place, 2012: fourth place, 2013: third place, 2014: third place, 2015: Finished, 2016: fifth place, 2018: first place, 2019: first place, 2020: second place
Bio: I am a 38-year Alaskan married to Christine with two children, Haley and Mya. I work for Spernak & Son as a project manager. I enjoy hunting, fishing, four-wheeling, dirt bikes, mountain bikes and hanging with family. I have been racing snowmachines since 1998.
Other Racing Experience: K-400: first place; numerous Top-3 finishes in Hillclimb, Hillcross, Cross Country and Snowcross; 17 Top-10 and 15 Top-5 finishes in the Iron Dog.
Personal Sponsors: Mom and Dad, my wife, Christine, and two children, Haley and Mya.

TEAM 11 POLARIS

Sponsors: Polaris Racing, Klim, Eagle River Polaris and Arctic Cat, Oxbow Lights, Ibexx, Rigid Lights, Altitude Sickness, Abom Goggles, Rugged Radios, Ice Age, Woody's Traction Products, Fine Line Interiors, #LiveLarge



David Wagner

Age: 51
From: Arnold, Calif.
Status: Rookie
Riding: Polaris 2021
Iron Dog Race History: 2020: DNF
Bio: Born and raised in Kemmerer, Wyo., David grew up with a love for outdoor adventures and challenges. This passion stemmed from his own father's racing history. Papa Dave raised him surrounded by the racing culture of snowmachines and motorcycles. From the first time David climbed on a snowmachine, he knew he was hooked. As he grew in his passion, he met his wife, Melissa. They had two amazing children together. He is so grateful for both the support of his family and the support of so many great friends. He also enjoys hunting, fishing and helping others.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: California Custom Trailers and Power Sports, Action Realty, Dave and Mary Wagner, Melissa Wagner, Leland and Linda Payton



Eric Wellman

Age: 52
From: Wasilla
Status: Rookie
Riding: Polaris Indy XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2020: DNF
Bio: I live in Wasilla with my beautiful wife, Cindy, and enjoy everything Alaska has to offer. I competed in the 2020 Iron dog and scratched in Kaltag. I made it 500 miles and have unfinished business. I talked with Dave Wagner and decided to give it another shot. The communities, volunteers, racers, and everyone involved are awesome. It is truly a community event from building sleds to practicing to showing up in Galena at 0130 in the morning and having a hot meal ready and a place to rest, everyone is willing to give a helping hand when needed.
Other Racing Experience: None listed
Personal Sponsors: My amazing wife, Cindy, Steve and Stephan Jaronitzky, Jeff Jones, Thomas and Samantha Schott, Cindy Dickerson, Jessica Dickerson

TEAM 5 POLARIS

Sponsors: Polaris Racing, Three Bears Alaska Inc., Klim, Walker Evans Racing, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Alaska Directional LLC, Crowley Fuels, Prism Design & Construction, Unleashed HP, Coca-Cola of Alaska, Nodak Electric and Construction, Alaska Solar Supply, Glenn Marlin-State Farm, Mountain View Trucking, Rock Solid Pile Co., Jennifer Byers ANP LLC, Tri Jet Manufacturing, Palmer Dental Center, Vermeer Northwest, Stud Boy Traction, Viet and Viet CPAs, Lone Pine Fabrication



Brett Lapham

Age: 28
From: Willow
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris XCR
Iron Dog Race History: 2015: fifth place, 2016: Finished, 2019: fourth place, 2020: third place
Bio: I was born and raised in Alaska. Summer months are spent working for Alaska Directional as a drill operator, while winter is spent racing and riding snowmachines. I live in Willow with my wife, Shana, where we spend our free time enjoying the outdoors with friends and family. This will be my fifth Iron Dog race.
Other Racing Experience: Mayor's Cup: 2012, semi-pro first place; Mayor's Cup: 2014, pro fourth place; Mayor's Cup: 2019, pro fourth place; Willow XC: 2013, pro first place.
Personal Sponsors: My wife Shana, Weisz family, Barber family and all our other friends and family who support us.



Zack Weisz

Age: 27
From: Wasilla
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy XCR
Race History: 2018: Finished, 2019: fourth place, 2020: third place
Bio: Zack is a lifelong Alaskan living in Wasilla. He works for Three Bears Alaska and is a third-generation worker. Zack enjoys the vast outdoors Alaska has to offer. You can find him having fun with friends or enjoying time with family.
Other Racing Experience: Iron Dog 2018, Top Rookie Team; 2017 Big Lake 500, first place; 2015 AMMC, second place season points; 2015 Arctic Man XC, first place; 2014 Mayor's Cup, first place semi-pro; 2014 Alyeska Motor Madness XC, first place.
Personal Sponsors: Three Bears Alaska, Inc., Polaris Industries, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Innergy, Alaska Spiritwear, Barber family, and I would like to give a big thanks to my parents and all my friends and family.

TEAM 6 SKI-DOO

Sponsors: None listed



Brad George

Age: 26
From: Wasilla
Status: Veteran
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
Iron Dog Race History: 2013-2016: Finished
Bio: I was born and raised in Wasilla. My fiance, Chelsea, and I have two kids, Nelli and Oden. I'm a heavy equipment operator for Western Construction and Equipment. In the summer, if I'm not working, I'm on the river. In the winter, if I'm not working, I'm on my sled.
Other Racing Experience: K-150: 2013 & 2014, first place; Larry Heal: 2012 (second place), 2013 (second place), 2014 (first place); Nome-Golovin: 2013 (first place), 2014 (fourth place; Mayor's Cup: 2015, second place; Ice Cross: 2015, second place.

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 Roadhouse, Alaska Frontier Fabrication, Six Robblees, Kenny Hughes, Weld Air, Extreme 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, Klim, Snap-On, Tom Simpson, Ski-Doo, ACLS, Pacific Plumbing, Spenard Builders 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, Brett Keene, Tasha's Techniques, Team Schachle, Roger McCarty Sr. Hillside Highcrops, KGB Investment, Western Construction and Equipment, Paul Light and Alex Fuller



Robby Schachle

Age: 34
From: Big Lake
Status: Veteran
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ-XRS
Iron Dog Race History: 2016: third place, 2018: second place, 2019: Finished
Bio: I have an amazing wife and son who I love sharing the outdoors with. I've been racing competitively for 15 years. I currently work for Alaska Line Builders as an IBEW power lineman.
Other Racing Experience: Mayor's Cup, first place; Larry Heal, second place; I-500, triple crown
Personal Sponsors: Team CC Ski-Doo, Alaska Line Builders, IBEW, Penn Jersey Drilling, Perfect Start, the George family, Mom, Klim, N.E.S, Sign Works, CF and Hope, Veit and Viet, Workman Motorsports, Criterion, Alaska Pacific Rental, Road Side, Prism, Spenard Builders Supply, Wasilla Dental, Easy Rent, Steve Foster, IBEW Local 1547, A1 Signs, Schachle family, Chepos, 907 Diesel, Blue Sky Design, Hill Top Recycling, Alaska Cab, Weld Air, John Icher (Lone Pine Fab), Projekt, Wesco, Enderson Concrete, GMC, Long Branch Saloon, Cadescence Contracting, Frontier Frost, Stud Boy, Ben Cruz, NAPA, Snow Capped Gardens

TEAM 7 SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Cruz Construction, MTA, Team CC, Pioneer Peak Orthopedics, Stud Boy Traction Products, Klim, RPM Composites, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, Fineline Interiors, Specialty Truck & Auto, Ski-Doo, XPS Lubricants, Global Fuel, Valley Upright Imaging



Tyler Aklestad

Age: 35
From: Palmer
Status: Veteran
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
Iron Dog Race History: 2007: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2012-13: Finished, 2016: first place, 2017-19: Finished, 2020: first place
Bio: I was born and raised in Alaska and love the outdoors. I enjoy flying, fishing, hunting and dirt biking. I also enjoy spending time with my amazing wife, Erin, and sons Liam and Finn. I work for MTA as an OSP engineer.
Other Racing Experience: Arctic Man: 2014, first place; 2013, first place; 2012, first place; 2011, first place; 2008, first place
Personal Sponsors: My wife, Erin, kids, Liam and Finn, Korey and Barbara, Keith and Steve Spence, Marc McKenna, Jenny Duax, Willy Barickman, Mike Vasser, Russ Siepert



Nick Olstad

Age: 38
From: Wasilla
Status: Veteran
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS
Iron Dog Race History: 2005: first place, 2009: first place, 2011: Finished, 2014: first place, 2016-18: Finished, 2020: first place
Bio: Nick is a longtime Alaskan who enjoys the outdoors. When not working as a Marathon Construction lead, he's spending time with his wife, Brianne, daughter Kaia and son Jackson. Nick loves to be out riding his side-by-side in the summer, and snowmachines until the snow is gone. This will be Nick's 15th year racing Iron Dog.
Other Racing Experience: 2019 Kotzebue 220: first place, 2019 Nome Golovin: third place, 2005 and 2006 Mayor's Cup: first place, 2011 Mayor's Cup: third place, 2005 and 2006 K-150: first place
Personal Sponsors: Brianne, Kaia and Jackson Olstad

Pandemic preparedness

Race goes on, with proper social distancing measures in place

A YEAR AGO, NO ONE COULD HAVE PREDICTED THE IMPACT THAT THE COVID-19 virus would have not only on Alaska and the rest of the country, but also the world. The obscure infectious illness that was reported on in January of 2020 grew into the worst worldwide pandemic since the 1918 Spanish Flu epidemic.

Fortunately, relief – in the way of a vaccine to help curtail COVID-19 – is on the way, and life will hopefully be much more like normal by mid-year.

Amid this hopeful news, Iron Dog 2021 perseveres amid one of its biggest challenges yet. Iron Dog organizers believe a safe and eventful race can happen. With COVID-19 protocols in place and with the cooperation of racers, spectators and support personnel, Iron Dog 38 promises to be one for the record books.

"There was never a decision to make," said Iron Dog's interim executive director, Mike Vasser. "If the communities said 'yes' and we could build a way to race safely on some racecourse, Iron Dog was racing.

"The race is all about putting distance between yourself and others, with masks already on!," Vasser continued. "We have measures in place to maintain social distance and developed a comprehensive COVID plan with the help of Dr. Wade Erickson of Capstone Clinic, and Stan James from Valley Imaging Center to have a safe race for the racers and communities."

A COVID response letter sent to checkpoints along the race course was published on the Iron Dog website on Dec. 29, 2020, and Vasser said racers will all be briefed on specific expectations required of them before race day. A few of the most notable changes, include:

• Minimizing incoming volunteers from outlying communities. Instead, Iron Dog is endeavoring to use only volunteers from their own communities.

• Limiting air support: In the past, racers have independently arranged air support to bring in parts and other replacement gear. This year, racers will not be able to rely on air support for the majority of the race course. At the request of the communities involved in the race, planes will be allowed only between Big Lake to McGrath.

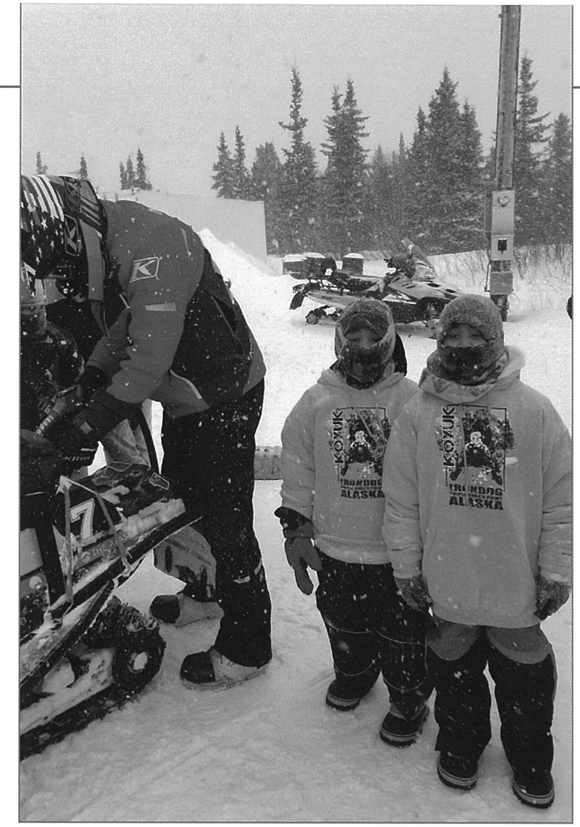
• Social distancing and testing of incoming volunteers is required

• Layover and fuel locations will be isolated outside of the center of any community.

Most notable, Vasser said, is the pre- and post-race hype that usually surrounds the race itself. Fan interaction will be eliminated – although online cheering is encouraged.

"We will not hold a traditional Drawing Banquet," Vasser said. "Racers will draw their start position after they complete tech inspection (which is also closed to the public this year)."

"There also will be no halfway banquet and no Open Garage in Nome. Racers will be required to do their own 'wrenching,' and no outside support will be allowed." Also, he added, friends, family and spectators will not be allowed in the garage to watch from a distance as they have in years past. It's an unfortunate reality this year, he said, but a tradeoff the Iron Dog Board of Directors was willing to make to keep the race alive.



Race fan Fannie Nassuk posted this photo last year of her 8-year-old grandson Chase Nickoli and her 8-year-old son Noah Nassuk watching Team 7 in Koyuk. This year, social distancing measures are in place to keep racers, fans and villages safe from COVID-19 exposure, but Nassuk said the boys, now 9, will still be cheering racers on, only from a safe distance.

Fannie Nassuk of Koyuk, said her son Noah, and his uncle, Chase Nickoli, look forward to Iron Dog every year, and they will still come out to celebrate and cheer on racers this year — only from a safe distance.

"We make signs every year and cheer them on up by the gas station," she said. "We even pull them out of school to go to the races."

Other changes this year include:

• Enhanced website coverage to encourage online viewing and following of the race.

Iron Dog has its own website, as well as its official Facebook page it posts to, and a Facebook Group page for fans to keep the chatter going. Iron Dog's Instagram page also will be active, with close to daily updates and photos.

• "We will not be plowing a parking pad for the start, and encourage fans to 'watch from the trail,' " Vasser said. Spreading out along the trail will add positive encouragement to racers and eliminate clusters of fans from gathering in one spot.

• Elimination of the printed program to encourage social distancing.

"This is to prevent the common request of using the program for collection of racer signatures," Vasser said. Instead, Iron Dog Is tentatively planning a signed commemorative poster to distributed as a collectible after the race is complete.

For more on Iron Dog's COVID-response plan, visit the Iron Dog site, or call the office at 907-563-4414.



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IRON DOG PRO CLASS 2021

TEAM 2 SKI-DOO

Sponsors: Ski-Doo, OFT Racing, Dohrn Trucking, Dahle Enterprises, Northland Dirt Werx, One:31 Racing, Curve Industries, Woody's Traction Products, Grip-N-Rip Racing Products, XPS Lubricants, FXR Racing



Jacob Dahle

Age: 32
From: Morristown, Minn.
Status: Rookie
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ
Bio: I'm a dirt track racer in the summer months, race on the snow in the winter, and enjoy flying my airplane whenever life permits. Life is about experiences and showing up to life's finish line with the best stories possible. Will racing the 2021 Iron Dog be a regret? Either way, it's going to be an adventure like no other.
Other Racing Experience: Ask me about my race history and I'll tell you about the shenanigans I've gotten myself into.
Personal Sponsors: Family, friends, the memory of the Bush Hog, and anyone who answers my texts and phone calls with questions!



Dustin Dohrn

Age: 25
From: Elgin, Minn.
Status: Rookie
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ
Bio: I'm a heavy equipment operator in the Local 49 IUOE. I like to hunt, fish, dirt bike and ride motorcycle.
Other Racing Experience: 2020: USXC semi-pro stock points champion and semi-pro improved points champion; 2017: semi-pro stock, second place in points championship and, semi-pro improved points champion; 2017: I-600m third place (semi-pro)
Personal Sponsors: My wife, Alyssa Dohrn; my dad, Rick Dohrn; and my brother Dillan Dohrn.

TEAM 3 POLARIS

Sponsors: Aurora Drilling and Consulting, Walker Evans Racing, Hatcher Pass Polaris, Spain Excavating



Evan Barber

Age: 16
From: Willow
Status: Rookie
Riding: Polaris XCR
Bio: I was born and raised in Willow. I am a student at Mat-Su Middle College and my home school is Houston High School. I spend most of my free time hunting, fishing and riding anything with a motor. During the summer, I race dirt bikes, and in the winter I race snowmachines. This will be my first year racing Iron Dog.
Other Racing Experience: 2017 AMMC ice cross series: second place in January and February races; 2018 AMMC ice cross series: first place in January and February races; 2017 Larry Heal: second place; 2019 Mayor's Cup semi-pro, fifth place; 2020 Mayor's Cup semi-pro, first place.
Personal Sponsors: Family



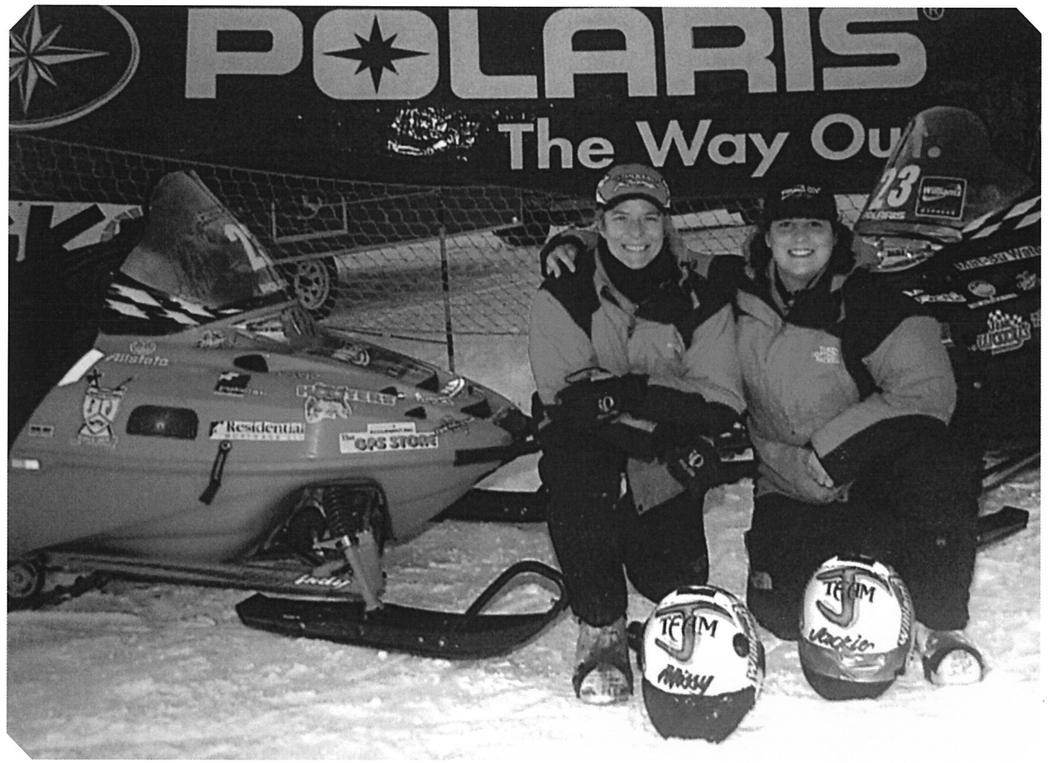
Shane Barber

Age: 46
From: Willow
Status: Veteran
Riding: Polaris Indy XC
Iron Dog Race History: 2000: Finished, 2004: Finished, 2006-07: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2014-15: Finished, 2018-19: Finished
Bio: I am a born and raised Alaskan. I live in Willow where my wife, Tammy, and I have raised a family and enjoy many aspects of what life has to offer. I enjoy the outdoors and spending time with my family and friends. I truly have been blessed and try not to take that for granted. I thank God for these things. God Bless (KN)
Other Racing Experience: Been racing a long time. It's been fun.
Personal Sponsors: First and foremost, I'd like to give credit to the man upstairs for blessing me with so many good things in my life, most of which were through grace. I would also like to thank my beautiful wife, Tammy, and our kids, Cody and Brandi, Brett and Shana, and Evan. I also thank my Spain family, Mom and Dad and the support from all my other friends and family.

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

THE 2020 IRON DOG was one like no other. In its first year making the "Kotzebue Loop," the route became even longer and tougher, adding more than 15 hours to an already grueling race. Tyler Aklestad and Nick Olstad's winning time of 50 hours, 8 minutes and 3 seconds sets the original bar.

YEAR	CHAMPIONS	BRAND	TRAIL TIME
2020	Tyler Aklestad & Nick Olstad	Ski-Doo	50:08:03
2019	Chris Olds & Mike Morgan	Polaris	34:27:31
2018	Chris Olds & Mike Morgan	Polaris	36:54:49
2017	Cory Davis & Ryan Simons	Arctic Cat	40:58:01
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



Missy McClurg Thibodeau and Jackie Page Robertson are shown here during their 2001 Iron Dog finish. They were the first all-female pro class team to complete the Iron Dog Race, and remain so today. This year markes 20 years since their accomplishment. **Iron Dog file photo**

Racers celebrate 20-year anniversary as first all-female Iron Dog finishers

When Jackie Page's Iron Dog race partner backed out less than three months befrore the 2001 race, she went to Missy McClurg and asked if she'd give it a go.

"I told Jackie she was freaking nuts, but I said yes," said McClurg, now Thibobeau.

The pair went on to make history. Laura Carr and Lisa Luther were the first all-female team to attempt the pro class race, in 1997, but they scratched, leaving the "finishing" accomplishment still on the table.

Page, now Robertson, and Thibodeau ticked that box, completing their race and cementing a place in Iron Dog history. They remain the only all-female team to finish this race.

"In 2001, the strategy, rules, gear, equipment, and temperament was much different," Robertson said. "This was prior to the Ski-Doo complete redesign, and the Edge Chasis from Polaris was just released. Not only have suspensions evolved, the required gear hadn't included GPS navigation either, so Missy and I truly accomplished something that may never be duplicated."

Robertson and Thibodeau are hopeful that one day their accomplishments *can* be duplicated, though, and even see an all-female team win the race. During their 2001 run, there were popular pink T-shirts seen around town that said "Alaska: Where men are men, and women win Iditarod." This was shortly after dog musher Susan Butcher's historic Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

Maybe one day, Iron Dog can have a similar T-shirt, Robertson joked.

"We know in our heart and souls what we accomplished," Robertson said. "The fact Missy said 'yes' less than three months before the race when my original partner backed out, and still pulled off what we did, says a lot about her incredible skills as a true trail blazer for women."

This year's Iron Dog has no female racers, nor women in the expedition class, a first in many years.

Continued congratulations go to Thibodeau and Robertson, though, for breaking barriers and showing that even Alaska women can handle the Longest, Toughest Snowmobile Race in the World.





Race fan Jessica Walker captured this poignant moment as Canadian racers Mark Fosty and Ben Hildebrand considered their next move after inadvertantly getting lost and backtracking to Kotzebue. The two said this was one of the low points of their race, when they seriously considered scratching. However, the encouragement of the community — and a good meal — perked them back up. They went on to successfully complete the Iron Dog race and are back again this year.

Lessons learned

Canadian sweetheart team returns after capturing Iron Dog hearts

When Iron Dog racers Ben Hildebrand and Mark Fosty got turned around on the trail last year and unwittingly backtracked to Kotzebue, losing critical time and energy, they came within minutes of calling it quits. It would have been much easier to pack it in and drive back to Manitoba.

"That was probably my lowest point," said Hildebrand, 34, who, with Fosty, is back again this year to tackle Iron Dog 38 – hopefully with better results. "We were tired, we were hungry, and we showed up in Kotzebue for the second time. It couldn't get any worse."

Fortunately for Team 37, it didn't get worse. In fact, it got much, much better. At that moment in the race, longtime Alaska race fans began to notice the two rookies, and chatter on the Iron Dog Facebook and Instagram pages picked up. A groundswell of support grew, and villagers in the communities along the way stepped up to provide critical emotional support. Images of Canadian flags popped up on race fan pages, and words of encouragement from strangers and friends alike blossomed.

"Class act guys," wrote fan Dave Hausbeck. "Keep going, guys, you're doing great, finish this, boys," wrote Dustin Doyle Podolsky. The messages kept coming, and the enthusiasm mounted. Social media became the platform upon which countries united and riders found strength they didn't know they had.

Back in Kotzebue, feeling defeated, Fosty and Hildebrand considered their next move. They'd been plagued with difficulties and wondered if this was the end to their Iron Dog dreams.



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"Every time we started gaining momentum, we would break down or get lost and then it would break down our sails," Fosty said.

However, race fans in Kotzebue wouldn't hear of it. They encouraged Fosty and Hildebrand to just take a break, come in out of the cold, enjoy some food and "don't worry about it."

So that's what they did. A big burger and cup of coffee later, and after listening to their fans' encouraging words, Hildebrand and Fosty said, "To hell with it – let's just keep going."

"That night ended up being one of the most memorable of the race," Hildebrand said. "It was nighttime and we were just flying on the ocean and it just felt so good to be out there. We were treated so well by the people up there, it just made everything doable."

Thankfully, Team 37 is back again this year, armed with additional knowledge and valuable experience that they hope will help them be better prepared and more competitive than they were during their rookie run last year. No matter how this year's race goes, though, they are excited for another Iron Dog experience.

"As far as last year, I think we were mentally prepared but our machines were not," Fosty said. "Until you do the Interior of Alaska, you can't know. It's windy, it's snowing, the vastness navigating that terrain – everything kind of looks the same. It's quite an eye opener."

Fosty said he and Hildebrand have been working for months fine-tuning their Polaris XCRs. One of the main things they learned, he said, is that racing Iron Dog requires specially outfitted machines.

"We pretty much slapped some auxiliary fuel tanks on stock sleds and drove up there last year," Fosty said. "We underestimated the amount of work it takes to have the right setup."

Roger Brown, Iron Dog's Board of Directors president, said he is happy the pair will be back to race again. Their Red Lantern finish last year invigorated fans who rallied around the pair, elevating the race from just a battle for the win to a goodwill partnership between neighboring countries. Brown knows all too well that things can go wrong on the trail in an instant, after his own race ended last year when his snowmachine caught fire, essentially ending his race.

"I've been in that position too, where I'm getting toward the end of a race and I just want to get home," he said. "But I'm absolutely excited about them coming back. I met them a couple days before the race last year, at the dealership here in Fairbanks. They are just super nice guys, always smiling, always in a good mood."



Team 37 arrives into Unalakleet during the 2020 race. The pair, from Manitoba, were last year's Iron Dog red lantern finishers, in 11th place. This year, with more Iron Dog experience under their belts, they are back, and hoping to fare better.

For their part, Fosty and Hildebrand said they are remaining hopeful but also staying realistic. Iron Dog is not a race for the faint of heart. All it takes is one misstep and Iron Dog dreams can go up in smoke.

"I can't say I'm feeling any pressure because I know guys who have raced way more than us and still have not finished," Hildebrand said. "I know how easy a scratch can come about, and we got lucky enough to finish it on the first time.

"It would be great to do better than last place, but just another finish would be pretty awesome, and to do it on sleds that cross the finish line in one piece would be even better," he added.

Fosty agrees.

"We just want to have a good, clean race," he said. We learned so much last year, it 100 percent makes sense to race again. It would be a waste of knowledge, information and time if we didn't."





At left, Iron Dog Team 37 rookies Mark Fosty and Ben Hildebrand leave the starting chute in Fairbanks Photo / Megan Rolinger. **Above,** Fosty and Hildebrand take a selfie with Justin Hadley in the village of Buckland, where Team 37 said they were treated with kindness and generosity.







Northern Air Cargo is the longest running supporter of Iron Dog, and one of its biggest sponsors. **Photo / James Wicken**

"Sure, they see the value Iron Dog can bring to grow their brand/business," he said. "But I think, also, sponsors have a passion for the sport and the tradition. Many are past racers who have acknowledged they aren't young guns but want to be a part of the race by supporting it."

This year's Iron Dog thanks its many sponsors, both large and small, for helping the race continue during trying times.

Also not to be overlooked, Vasser said, are the fans who look forward to the race each year. They were instrumental in convincing the Iron Dog Board of Directors not to cancel the 2021 race, Vasser said – especially those in the remote villages and communities who look forward to the racers coming through each year. Their pleas to have some type of normalcy amid a very abnormal year was the tipping point in making the decision.

"Alaskans love the race," he said. "It's like being part of a very large family. Even though the racers are competitors, the bottom line is they are all family."

iron dog
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- Thank you, **L&M Supplies** & **AMVETS Post 49** for your donations.
- **Dave** and **Penny McKibbon** and **Bill "Fish" Fisher** for your countless hours of dedication to this race!
- **Harriett Fenerty** for your donation and continued loyalty to celebrating the race and our traditions.
- **Chris Graeber, Johnny Dean** and **Stan Brown,** and many others for your coverage of the stats during race week: Thank you!
- **Nick** and crew at Burkeshore Marina for hosting our start and finish!
- The **Iron Dog Board** and your family and friends!
- To the **media**: Thank you in advance for your coverage — we thank you, our racers thank you , our sponsors thank you, and our manufacturers thank you!
- To our **sponsors**: During a time when we are all concered about the state of our economy when you could have said, "no," you said, "YES." Thank you for supporting our tradition. We value you.
- To our **volunteers** on and off the trail ,we cannot say enough. Thank you for the time you give.
- To our **fans**: Thank you for watching and thank you in advance for sharing your pictures, videos AND LIVE Feeds as we travel through your community!
- To the **racers**: This year unlike we've had some tough training! We appreciate your dedication to the race and your efforts to ensure we race in 2021 in a safe manner. Thank you for your patience, your voices and your leadership.
- And finally, to **Dr. Wade Erickson**, without your support and guidance there may not have been a 2021 Iron Dog. All of our racers and fans cannot thank you enough.

A united effort

Sponsors, volunteers and fans make Iron Dog race a reality





Above, Team CC, is one of Iron Dog' staunchest supporters and helps many a racer realize their dreams. **Photo / James Wicken**

At right, Monster, Inc., and many more sponsors, help Iron Dog become a reality each year. **Photo / Megan Rolinger**

Once Iron Dog racers get underway on race day, it's like opening the dam. The race is on and nothing will stop the flood. After all, Iron Dog did not get its moniker as the Longest, Toughest Snowmobile Race without merit.

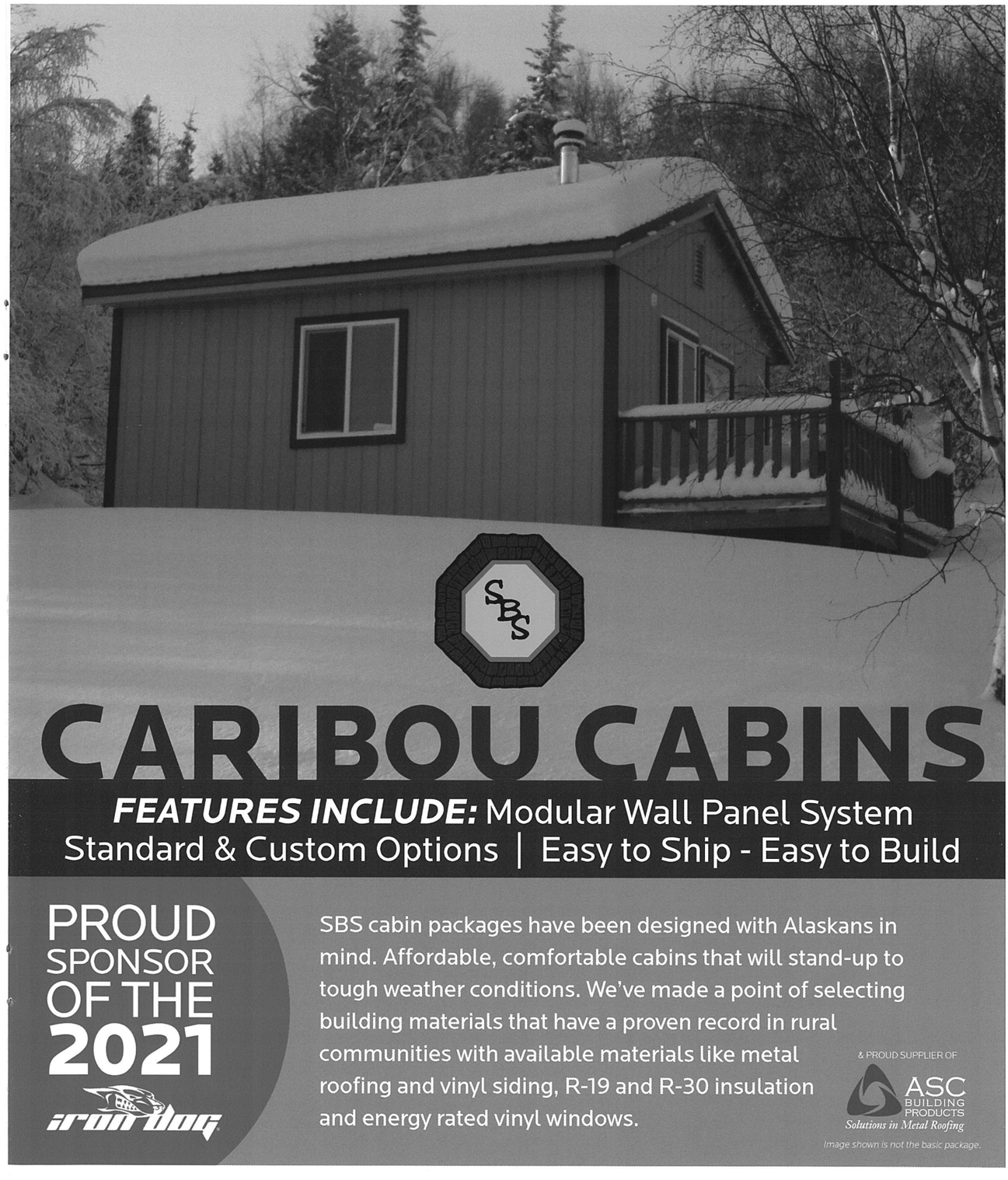
Putting on the race, though, is a long, slow and methodical process. Iron Dog is quite simply a massive undertaking. Covering more than 2,500 miles and traveling through 22 communities, the Iron Dog is the culmination of months of planning and countless hours by both volunteers and staff alike. Equally important are the sponsors that make the race happen. Without them, and without their support of the racers who train for the event, there would be no Iron Dog at all.

"Sponsors are crucial to the race and we are thankful for them all," said Mike Vasser, Iron Dog's interim executive director. "This year, however, the amount of volunteer support has been unmeasureable. It's taken all hands on deck to make this happen. So many have helped build the race, gather sponsors, update websites etc. This has truly been a year that everyone who loves Iron Dog has stepped up for."

With the COVID-19 pandemic still not in the rearview mirror, additional measures have been needed to keep the race going – and Vasser said that has taken even more planning than usual.

"We ask the volunteers to do whatever is needed from, and they do," Vasser said. "Gathering supplies, delivering snowmachines, working in the weather to prepare the event from start to finish, mailing packages, answering phones – the list goes on and on. They are the unsung heroes of this race."

Sponsors, too, have stepped up, Vasser said. Longtime contributors such as Northern Air Cargo, are on board, as are the smallest of business throughout the communities and villages along the race course. Whether the sponsorship is small or large, they are all part of a bigger contribution: keeping Iron Dog strong and thriving.



Communities and checkpoints

along the Iron Dog race course

BIG LAKE

The 2021 Iron Dog race starts and finishes this year in Big Lake, in front of the Burkeshore Marina. Big Lake is in the Mat-Su Borough and has a population of 2,678. Spectators are discouraged from meeting on the lake to see racers off. Instead, spread out along the trail to maintain social distance and cheer the racers on.

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, and this year the finish will be at Big Lake. 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 Expedition Riders finish, numerous support efforts and crews, lodging and banquets for riders and racers, and a race restart. This year, however, any social events, such as the halfway banquet and the action in the garage, will be eliminated to keep community members safe from COVID-19. Nome is on the coast of the Bering Sea, some of the most challenging racing on the course, due to ice shelves and open-water conditions. It has a population of approximately 3,850.

KOTZEBUE

Kotzebue has a population 3,287, is the seat of the Northwest Arctic Borough and an important transportation hub. 2021 marks the second year that the Iron Dog will pass through this snowmachine-loving community. This section of trail encompasses the 375-mile Archie Ferguson/Willie Goodwin Memorial snowmachine race course, a long-established trail well known among racers in rural Alaska.

Smaller communities and checkpoints

SKWENTNA, population 29, is located on mostly flat land in Southcentral Alaska on the Skwentna River. It is just 80 miles from the start/finish.

PUNTILLA, population 2, is located on Puntilla Lake near a breathtaking mountain pass. Puntilla is 148 miles away from the start/finish.

ROHN, population 0, is located at a small roadhouse where two rivers join, and is 213 miles away from the start/finish.

NIKOLAI, population 143, is 287 miles from the start/finish on the south fork of the Kuskokwim River.

McGRATH, population 304, is located on the Innoko River, and is 339 miles away from the start/finish.

OPHIR, population 0, is located on the west bank of the Innoko River at the mouth of Ophir Creek and was the site of a gold rush in 1906. It is 381 miles from the start/finish.

POORMAN, population 0, is the site of an abandoned gold mining town located about 480 miles from the start/finish.

RUBY, population 185, is located along the Yukon River. It is 535 from the start.

GALENA, population 495, is an Athabascan village in the Interior, and 587 miles from the start.

KALTAG, population 180, is on the west bank of the Yukon River at the head of the portage to Unalakleet and is 673 from the start/finish.

UNALAKLEET, population 707, on the coast of Norton Sound north of the Unalakleet River, is 758 miles away from start and just 256 miles away from Nome.

SHAKTOOLIK, population 302, is on a point jutting into Norton Sound, 799 miles away from the start.

KOYUK, population 291, is located on the north bank of the Koyuk River where it drains into Norton Bay. It is 854 miles from the start and has the honor as the only village that the racers will travel through three times.

WHITE MOUNTAIN, population 156, located in the mountains on the Fish River, is 70 miles from Nome.

BUCKLAND, population 675, is in the Northwest Arctic Borough along the Buckland River. It is 1,215 miles away from the finish. Racers pass through Buckland again after looping through Kotzebue and heading back to the main trail.

SELAWIK, the "place of sheefish," has a population of about 792. It is 1,153 miles from the finish of the race.

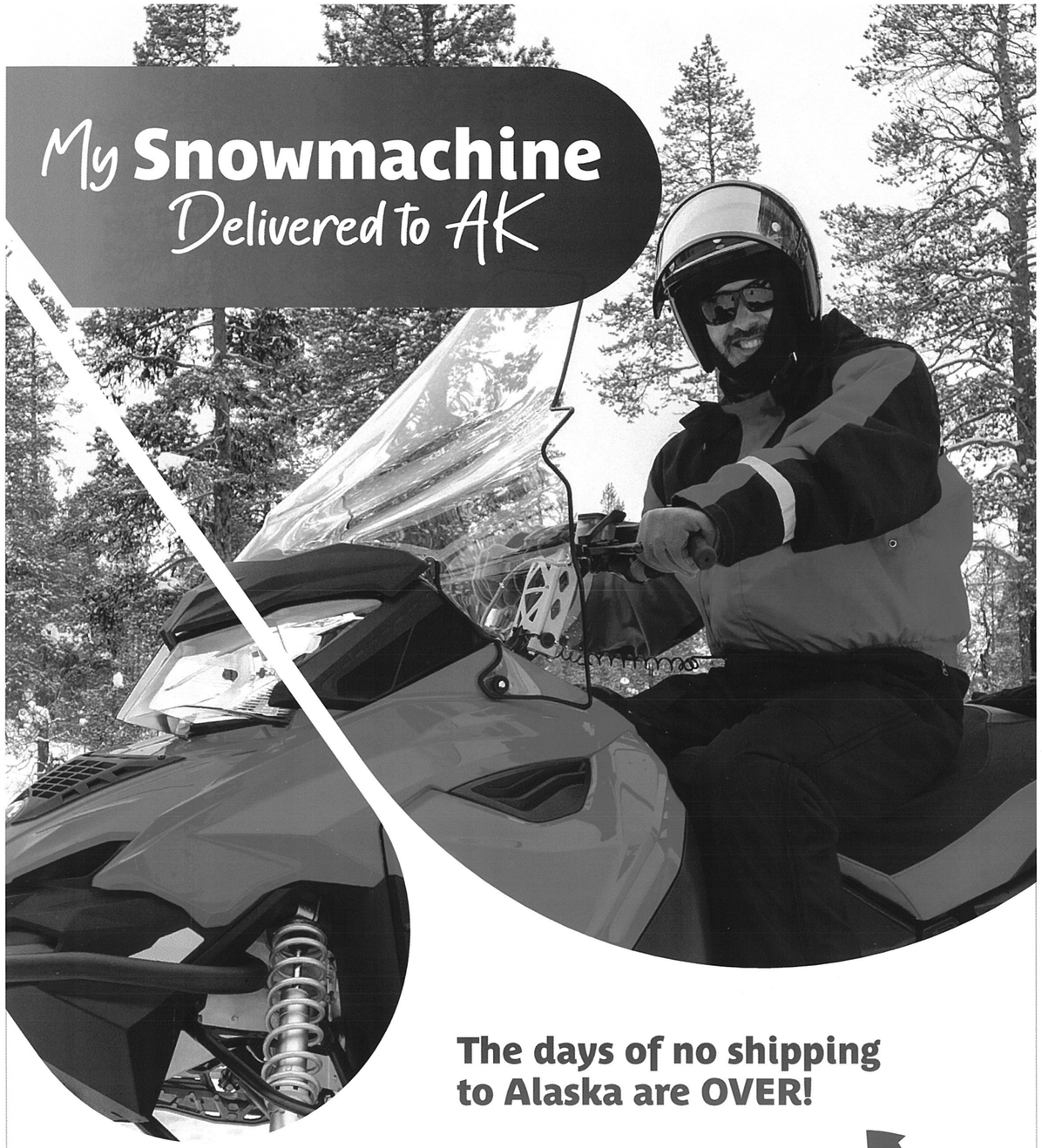
KIANA is a village of 339 residents located "where three rivers meet": the Squirrel River, Kobuk River, and big/small channel rivers. Kiana is 1,355 miles into the race.

NOORVIK has a population of about 623 residents. It is located on the right bank of the Nazuruk Channel of the Kobuk River and a short stop after Selawik and Kiana. It is 1,380 miles into the race.

Source: Population and location descriptions based on 2020 U.S. Census Bureau estimates and Iron Dog GPS data.



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Race fan Rose Helena posted this photo of Team 17, Troy Conlon and Todd Palin, leaving Kiana amid a crowd of well-wishers during the 2020 Iron Dog. The Iron Dog could not happen without the support of the villages and communities along the way.

Iron Dog
THE WORLD'S LONGEST TOUGHEST SNOWMOBILE RACE

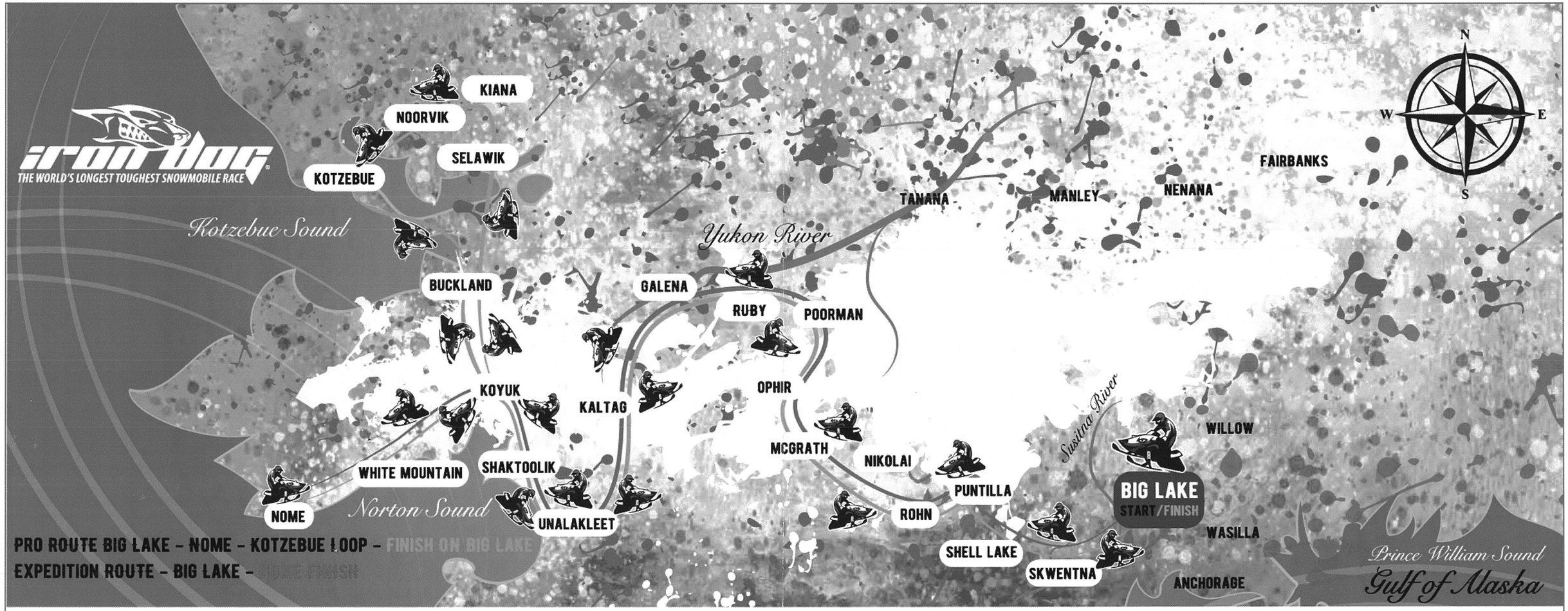
RACE COURSE MILEAGE

Northbound to Nome

Big Lake to Skwentna	80
Skwentna to Shell Lake	17
Shell Lake to Puntilla	51
Puntilla to Rohn	65
Rohn to Nikolai	74
Nikolai to McGrath	52
McGrath to Ophir	42
Ophir to Poorman	93
Poorman to Ruby	61
Ruby to Galena	52
Galena to Kaltag	86
Kaltag to Unalakleet	85
Unalakleet to Shaktoolik	41
Shaktoolik to Koyuk	55
Koyuk to White Mountain	90
White Mountain to Nome	70

Southbound to Big Lake

Nome to White Mountain	70
White Mtn to Koyuk	90
Koyuk to Buckland	85
Buckland to Selawik	62
Selawik to Kiana	34
Kiana to Norvik	25
Norvik to Kotzebue	60
Kotzebue to Buckland	95
Buckland to Koyuk	85
Koyuk to Shaktoolik	55
Shaktoolik to Unalakleet	41
Unalakleet to Kaltag	85
Kaltag to Galena	86
Galena to Ruby	52
Ruby to Poorman	61
Poorman to Ophir	93
Ophir to McGrath	42
McGrath to Nikolai	52
Nikolai to Rohn	74
Rohn to Puntilla	65
Puntilla to Shell Lake	51
Shell Lake to Skwentna	17
Skwentna to finish	80



START: FEBRUARY 13, 2021 ON BIG LAKE ▶ FINISH: FEBRUARY 20, 2021 IN BIG LAKE ▶ 2,645 MILES ▶ 22 COMMUNITIES

THANK YOU TO THESE DEALERSHIPS FOR CONTRIBUTING OIL

TEAM CC
ANCHORAGE YAMAHA POLARIS
HP AK HATCHER PASS POLARIS ALASKA
McKinley POLARIS
OUTPOST ALASKA 456-3265

HOW TO WATCH THE RACE

South Anchorage Wolverines
alaska COMMUNICATIONS
Klim
iron dog
ALASKA'S NEWS SOURCE
THE ALASKALIFE .COM