



# IRON DOG®

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**OFFICIAL RACE GUIDE**  
FEBRUARY 14-21, 2026 • [IRONDOG.ORG](http://IRONDOG.ORG)



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# WELCOME TO IRON DOG 2026

## WE ARE EXTREMELY EXCITED TO KICK OFF THE 2026 RACE SEASON!

This year, we are proud to announce a change for the 2026 season, with the route now starting in Big Lake, running around the Red Dog Loop to Nome, and then heading to Fairbanks, Alaska, for a finish on the ice at Pike's Landing!



We have a stacked race this year, including past champions, Iron Dog legends, and up-and-coming rookies all looking to take the title. I would like to thank our sponsors, board, racers, volunteers, and our outstanding fans for their support in my first year as Executive Director. It has been

a whirlwind working on putting on the world's longest and toughest snowmobile race, and it is an honor to continue its tradition. I would also like to give a special thanks to the Iron Dog employees and business partners who work tirelessly behind the scenes to make the race happen.

We are also very proud of our continued community programs that make the Iron Dog so much more than just a race. Our Helmet Program and Make It Run Program have expanded this year, with plans to keep growing while finding new ways to support the wonderful communities across our great state.

Again, thank you to all the sponsors, fans, racers, volunteers, and everyone who makes this iconic Alaskan event happen. Good luck to all the racers—stay safe and get ready to join an elite group who can say they crossed the finish line to become an Iron Dog Veteran.

Rick Paquette, Iron Dog Executive Director



## RIDE SAFE AND TRAVEL WELL, IRON DOG CLASS OF 2026

### **The Iron Dog is real Alaska.**

It's built by racers, volunteers, families, and the communities along the trail who show up no matter the weather. It's cold, it's demanding, and it only works because people look out for each other. I'm grateful to everyone who puts in the time to make the Iron Dog happen and those who take responsibility for teaching young riders how to do it right.

— Governor Mike Dunleavy



### **For more than three decades, the Iron Dog has embodied the resolve and bravery that has long defined the Last**

**Frontier.** Covering thousands of miles across some of the most harsh terrain in the Northern Hemisphere, this race is the ultimate test of endurance. I applaud every racer, volunteer, and community who makes the Iron Dog a world-class event.



Thank you for the work you do. To this year's 2026 Iron Dog racers, I wish you a safe journey.

— Congressman Nick Begich

### **The Iron Dog Race embodies the spirit of the Last**

**Frontier—rugged, expansive, and majestic.** I'm hoping for a safe and spirited journey for all those participating in this quintessential Alaska tradition!

— U.S. Senator Lisa Murkowski



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# IronDog

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## Iron Dog Staff

Rick Paquette, Executive Director  
Rayshelle Blackwood and Zachary Morgan  
Operations and Logistics Managers  
Kelli Cherrier, Operations

## Volunteers

Dave McKibbon, Logistics Coordinator  
Dave Bathke, Tech Director  
Stan Brown, Head Race Marshal  
Savanha House, Race Marshal  
Dan Zipay, Race Marshal

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## The Official Guide, Iron Dog Race, Inc.

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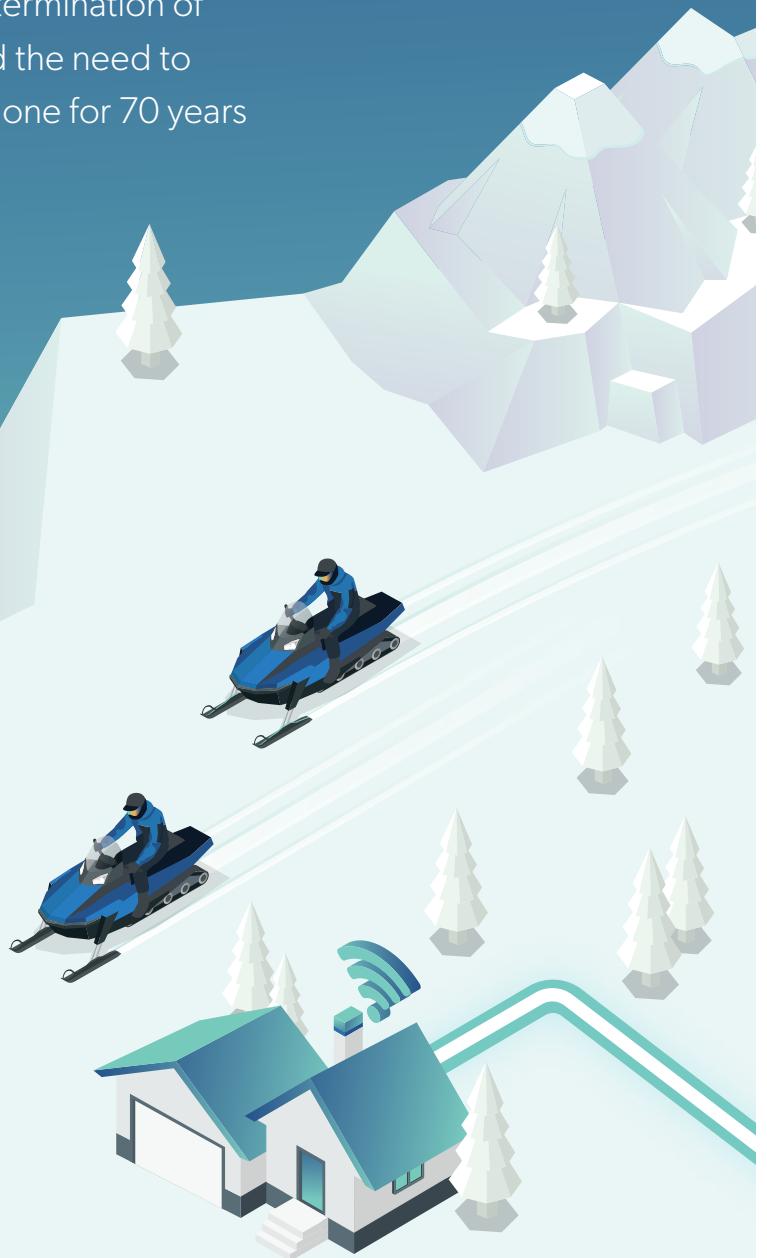
## Proud Sponsors of Iron Dog 2026 and Team 7

MTA applauds the dedication and determination of Iron Dog competitors. We understand the need to adapt and pioneer — it's what we've done for 70 years to keep our members connected.

We wish all the riders a safe and amazing race, especially our very own Tyler Aklestad!



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We know it takes great teamwork to fly through air or snow. Good luck to all Iron Dog teams.



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AIRLINES

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# SCHEDULE OF EVENTS • 2026

## FEBRUARY 7, 2026

### RACER DRAW BANQUET / HALL OF FAME AWARDS

**Time:** 5:00 PM – 10:00 PM  
**Location:** Hilton Downtown - Alaska Ballroom  
500 W 3rd Ave, Anchorage AK  
**Details:** Dinner / Hall of Fame Induction / Racer Draw / Live Auction & Calcutta. 5:00 PM Cocktail Hour; 6:00 PM Dinner Served; 7:00 PM Event starts.

## FEBRUARY 10, 2026

### RACER MEET AND GREET EXPO

**Time:** 2:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
**Location:** 1001 S Clapp, Wasilla AK  
**Details:** Join us for a chance to meet Iron Dog racers and Expedition Class riders! Connect with the athletes, snap photos, and hear about their upcoming journey. A great opportunity for fans, families, and the community to celebrate the race together.

## FEBRUARY 12, 2026

### AMBASSADOR TEAM & EXPEDITION CLASS START

**Time:** 11:00 AM  
**Location:** Susitna Brewing Co (On Ice)  
5120 Big Lake Rd, Big Lake AK  
**Details:** Ambassador Teams and Expedition Class depart on their journey across Alaska. Teams released at two-minute intervals.

## FEBRUARY 14, 2026

### PRO CLASS START

**Time:** 10:00 AM  
**Location:** Susitna Brewing Co (On Ice)  
5120 Big Lake Rd, Big Lake AK  
**Details:** Pro Class teams depart at two-minute intervals on the 2000+ mile journey to Kotzebue, Nome, and Fairbanks.

## FEBRUARY 16, 2026

### PRO CLASS MANDATORY LAYOVER IN KOTZEBUE

**Time:** 2:00 PM  
**Location:** Kotzebue  
**Details:** Pro Class racers arrive in Kotzebue for a mandatory overnight layover. Teams will be released Tuesday morning.

## FEBRUARY 17, 2026

### PRO CLASS RELEASED FROM KOTZEBUE

**Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Location:** Kotzebue  
**Details:** Pro Class teams depart Kotzebue heading to Nome.

### WRENCH DAY OPENS - PRO CLASS

**Time:** 1:00 PM – 10:00 PM  
**Location:** Nome City Garage  
Front Street, Nome AK  
**Details:** Teams begin arriving in Nome and perform maintenance and repairs on their machines at the halfway point.

## FEBRUARY 18, 2026

### WRENCH DAY - PRO CLASS

**Time:** 8:00 AM – 10:00 PM  
**Location:** Nome City Garage  
Front Street, Nome AK  
**Details:** Teams perform maintenance and repairs on their machines at the halfway point. Watch the live stream for live action. 4pm-7pm racers will break for the Halfway Ceremonies & Banquet.

### NOME HALFWAY BANQUET

**Time:** 5:00 PM – 7:00 PM  
**Location:** Nome Mini Convention Center  
102 Division St, Nome AK  
**Details:** Celebration at the halfway point in Nome. Meet the racers and celebrate their journey so far. Open to the public!

## FEBRUARY 19, 2026

### PRO CLASS RESTART FROM NOME

**Time:** 9:00 AM  
**Location:** Nome City Garage  
Front Street, Nome AK  
**Details:** Pro Class teams depart Nome heading south toward the finish line in Fairbanks.

## FEBRUARY 21, 2026

### RACE FINISH

**Time:** 12:30 PM  
**Location:** Pikes Waterfront Lodge (On Ice)  
1850 Hoselton Rd, Fairbanks AK  
**Details:** First Pro Class racer anticipated around 12:30pm. Watch teams cross the finish line!

### AWARDS PRESENTATION

**Time:** 4:00 PM  
**Location:** Pikes Waterfront Lodge (On Ice)  
1850 Hoselton Rd, Fairbanks AK  
**Details:** Awards ceremony celebrating the 2026 Iron Dog champions near the Iron Dog Arch on ice.

### RAFFLE DRAW

**Time:** 4:00 PM  
**Location:** Pikes Waterfront Lodge (On Ice)  
1850 Hoselton Rd, Fairbanks AK  
**Details:** Iron Dog Raffle drawing following the awards ceremony.

# GOOD LUCK TO ALL IRON DOG RACERS



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# THE TRAIL CALLS AGAIN



## 42nd running of the Iron Dog brings champions, rising talent, and family teams to the trail

Get ready for an incredible lineup of racers taking on the World's Longest, Toughest Snowmobile Race. The 2026 Iron Dog is shaping up to be a powerful mix of experience and new energy, with 31 teams gearing up for the challenge, including five past champions and a wave of fresh talent ready to make their mark on the trail.

This year's field spans the major manufacturers, with 13 teams on Polaris, 14 on Ski-Doo, 2 on Arctic Cat, and 2 on Lynx. Across the 28 checkpoints that shape the course, Iron Dog continues to represent communities statewide, with racers from places like Nome, Kotzebue, Noorvik, Kaltag, and McGrath.



Father-Daughter Team Spotlight: Team 39 features Shane Barber and Shana Lapham of Willow, Alaska, on Polaris snowmachines.

Family stories are a big part of what makes Iron Dog special, and one of the standout storylines heading into 2026 comes from the Barber family. Shane Barber (Team 39) returns for his 20th Iron Dog, and for the first time he will race alongside his daughter Shana Lapham, making her Iron Dog debut. Shane's son Evan Barber is also on the trail this year with Team 3, continuing the family's deep ties to the race. With the Barbers involved since the first Iron Dog in 1984, Shana and Evan represent the third generation to take on the trail. The family's recent success adds even more weight to the moment, as Cody Barber and Brett Lapham captured the 2024 Iron Dog championship together.

**Looking back at 2025**, Iron Dog again delivered the kind of race where nothing comes easy. Trail and weather conditions forced teams to adapt mile after mile, and the week brought tough breaks, including limited snow in sections, hard riding, and withdrawals due to injuries or mechanical setbacks. Veteran Daniel Thomas (Team 8) said the biggest challenge is what many racers underestimate: "the variation of trail and weather conditions you experience over the week of racing." Even with experience, he noted the approach keeps evolving. "They may call it a 'race', but that for sure doesn't mean 'as fast as you can at all times.' It is a very long race that takes extreme pacing and control to get to the finish."

**2025 was also a reminder** of what makes Iron Dog more than a competition. From start to finish, the race depends on the communities, checkpoints, and volunteers who keep teams moving forward across Alaska.

**Looking ahead to 2026**, teams know preparation and decision-making will matter just as much as speed. Two-time champion Mike Morgan says the focus is simple: "Consistency is what wins the race," which means keeping mistakes and mechanical issues to a minimum across the full course. He added, "There's a fine line between pushing a hard pace and riding recklessly. The goal is to ride as fast as you can consistently while in full control." Four-time champion Tyler Aklestad echoed that mindset, emphasizing mental toughness when things do not go as planned: "You have to know things are going to happen unexpectedly, and you'll just have to utilize some grit to get through those tough situations."

As the 2026 season unfolds, fans can expect a tight field, unforgettable storylines, and the same Iron Dog truth that never changes: you do not win this race in the first miles, you earn it by staying steady through every mile after.

*The trail will decide the rest.*



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# UPDATES FROM THE OFFICE

The Iron Dog office has seen many changes over the past 12 months, including hiring a new Executive Director, Rick Paquette, bringing back former “retired” employee Kelli Cherrier, and adding Zachary Morgan in Operations and Logistics, alongside current Operations and Logistics employee Rayshelle Blackwood.

Rick previously worked in commercial aviation for over 17 years, serving as a Director and General Manager for United Airlines with Pegasus Aviation Services. Kelli brings years of previous Iron Dog experience and is an invaluable asset to the team, with her extensive knowledge of the history of the race and what it takes to put on a successful event. Rayshelle has been with Iron Dog for over a year and works tirelessly behind the scenes to make sure our race is a successful one. If you have ever called the office, you have probably spoken with her and know her positive, can-do attitude toward every challenge she is presented with.

Zachary is new to Iron Dog and our latest hire. Coming on board in late November, he quickly picked up on all things Iron Dog and has been a wonderful addition to the team. Zac’s experience from years in logistics, from

Antarctica to the ice fields of Juneau, has proven to be a natural transition into his role helping put on the world’s longest and toughest snowmobile race. Dave McKibben is also back from “retirement” to help with logistics and wherever else he is needed. Dave’s incredible experience and dedication to the race is the reason he is also in the Iron Dog Hall of Fame.



## HOW TO WATCH THE RACE

Thanks to assistance from the South Anchorage High School Media Team, Iron Dog has some classy coverage of our 2026 Iron Dog race. Add to that the professional help of KTUU and our live GPS tracking of racers on our website, and you practically don’t need to leave your couch! We are even on social media. Here are the ways to watch and follow:



**South Anchorage live stream link**  
[www.irondog.org/race/watch](http://www.irondog.org/race/watch)

**Iron Dog Instagram**  
[www.instagram.com/irondograce](http://www.instagram.com/irondograce)

**Iron Dog Facebook**  
Up-to-date “live action,” director and race marshal interviews, and as-they-happen split time updates are here: [www.facebook.com/IronDogSnowmobileRace](http://www.facebook.com/IronDogSnowmobileRace)

It is not just the office staff who make this event happen. Back to handle race timing and GPS tracking this year are our own Board of Directors member Jake Goodall, along with Brice Willbanks of Starfish Enterprises and volunteer Emily Fine. The tracking team has worked extensively in the off-season to streamline the system and reduce the number of keystrokes required for each entry by utilizing updated technology available over the past year. This saves tens of thousands of keystrokes, significantly cutting the time needed to make entries and translating into faster, more accurate timekeeping.

More data is also available to fans this year, including race flow, position changes, and split times compared to averages. This gives fans a clearer picture of how teams are performing and whether they have a shot at the podium.

We are extremely grateful for everyone’s efforts behind the scenes, the weekends lost, and the late nights that are put in to make this incredible event happen!

# CONTINGENCY PRIZES 2026

AIH	\$ 1,000	Two (2) \$500 gift cards to the fastest course time Pro Class to Galena	Any Pro Team
Alaska Airlines	\$ 5,000	Two (2) round-trip tickets to each racer on Champion Pro Team (4 total tickets)	Pro Champion
ASE & Bailey's Rent-All	\$ 1,500	Two (2) \$750 gift certificates to the first team to scratch	Any Pro Team
Bering Sea Lions Club	\$ 2,000	\$2,000 Pro Class overall team from Start to Nome	Any Pro Team
Bering Sea Lions Club	\$ 3,000	\$3,000 Pro Class fastest split time from White Mountain to Nome Northbound with 1 rookie	Pro Team with a minimum of 1 rookie
City of Nome	\$ 7,500	\$7,500 Pro Class fastest overall team from Start to Nome	Any Pro Team
City of Nome	\$ 2,500	\$2,500 fastest overall course time Pro Class team to Nome with 1 rookie	Pro Team with a minimum of 1 rookie
C&A Pro Ski	\$ 1,300	Two (2) sets of C&A Pro skis, 5th place Pro class team (finishing)	Any Pro Team
Iron Dog Race, Inc.	\$ 1,500	\$1,500 to Canonball Alaska Run (TBD) Class Award toward 2026 Pro Class Iron Dog Sign Up	TBD
Klim	\$ 1,500	Two (2) \$750 Klim gift certificates to 10th place Pro Team to arrive into Checkpoint Klim (McGrath) Northbound	Any Pro Team
Iron Dog Race, Inc.	\$ 1,500	TBD North bound	TBD
NOVA Minerals / U.S. GOLD	\$ 5,400	Two (2) .5 oz Gold Coins or cash eqv to the fastest pro team, w / at least one rookie, to the fastest team from Big Lake to Whiskey Bravo. (estimate value)	Pro Team with a minimum of 1 rookie
Iron Dog Race, Inc.	\$ 1,500	\$1,500 Nome Golovin (TBD) Class Award toward 2026 Pro Class Iron Dog Sign Up	TBD
Quintillion	\$ 500	\$500 to fastest split time Pro Team from Koyuk to Nome Northbound w / at least 1 rookie on the team	Pro Team with a minimum of 1 rookie
City of Nome	\$ 5,000	Collectible Gold Pan - 1 per Expedition Class rider	Any Expedition Rider who finishes in Nome
Teck Alaska Inc.	\$ 2,500	\$2,500 to team. "Red Dog Loop" prize for fastest Pro Team, with at least 1 rookie, from Buckland around the loop and back to Buckland.	Pro Team with a minimum of 1 rookie
Wilson Brothers	\$ 1,800	Six (6) entries into 2026 Mayor's Cup. Selected randomly from the 6th-place and below finishers of the 2026 race.	Any Pro Team
Liberty Products / Stud Boy	\$ 1,000	Two 2 (144) stud packages for 8th-place Pro Class team	Any Pro Team
Iron Dog Race, Inc.	\$ 1,500	\$1,500 Archie Ferguson (TBD) Class Award toward 2026 Pro Class Iron Dog Sign Up	TBD
Fine Line Interiors & Anchorage Sheet Metal	\$ 1,000	Red Lantern Award TBD	Any Pro Team
Lynden	\$ 3,500	\$3,500 to the top placing all Rookie Team	All Rookie
Iron Dog Race, Inc.	\$ 1,500	TBD Southbound	Pro Team with a minimum of 1 rookie
Iron Dog Race, Inc.	\$ 1,500	TBD Southbound	Any Pro Team
Iron Dog Race, Inc.	\$2,500	\$2,500 to the fastest Pro Team from Koyuk to Kotzebue.	Any Pro Team
Iron Dog Race, Inc.	\$2,500	\$2,500 to the fastest Pro Team from Big Lake to Kotzebue with at least 1 rookie on team	Pro Team with a minimum of 1 rookie
Polaris Inc.	\$4,000	\$4,000 to the 4th highest placing all Polaris Team at the Finish	Any Pro Team
Anchorage Yamaha Polaris	\$1,500	Two (2) \$750 gift cards to the last Pro Team to arrive into Nome	Any Pro Team

**TOTAL CONTINGENCY PRIZES FOR 2026**

**\$65,500**

**For the most up-to-date prize information, please visit [irondog.org](http://irondog.org).**



## Avalanche Beacon Checkpoints & Battery Support

The Iron Dog is known as the world's longest and toughest snowmachine race, demanding preparation, discipline, and respect for Alaska's winter environment. While avalanche conditions are not a concern on the Iron Dog race route itself, the organization's commitment to safety extends far beyond race day and well beyond the course.

As part of that broader commitment to backcountry safety and community stewardship, Iron Dog supports an avalanche beacon checkpoint system that has been built over years of collaboration and continues to evolve. This season marks a key moment in that effort, with refreshed battery support and the addition of new checkpoint locations across Alaska's backcountry. These stations serve as a final, critical gear check, allowing riders to confirm that their avalanche beacons are turned on, transmitting properly, and powered before entering avalanche terrain.

Avalanche beacon checkpoints are not a replacement for formal avalanche education or rescue training. Instead, they reinforce a simple but essential habit: checking your gear every time. Many preventable incidents stem from beacons being turned off, left in search mode, or running on dead batteries. A quick stop at a checkpoint can catch those issues before they matter.

This project has been a collaborative effort from the start, built over time through shared vision and hands-on work from multiple organizations and volunteers. Alaska

Safe Riders and Backcountry Access's Are You Beeping initiative completed much of the early groundwork, including acquiring the beacon checkers themselves. Delta Powersports provided signage, while Avalanche Alliance and Klim contributed solar panels. Interstate Batteries and Iron Dog provided the batteries that keep the system operational, with many others contributing lumber, materials, and construction support.

To date, three checkpoint units have been built, with nine more



currently in progress as part of this year's expansion and refresh effort. Existing units are located in the Summit Lake (Isabel Pass) area and Red Rock Canyon. Additional installations scheduled for March include new checkpoints in Broad Pass, at Denali Highway lodges, and in the Thompson Pass and Valdez areas, with further locations planned near Cantwell and Summit.

These stations operate throughout the winter season, supporting not just racers, but snowmachiners, skiers, hunters, trappers, and anyone traveling Alaska's backcountry. In a state where access to formal avalanche training can be limited by distance, cost, and weather, these checkpoints provide a low-cost, high-impact safety measure that reinforces education through repetition.



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Behind the scenes, board members and volunteers design, build, place, and maintain the stations, often quietly and without recognition. Their work reflects a shared belief that backcountry safety is a collective responsibility.

As Roger Brown, Iron Dog board member and builder of the checkpoint stations, puts it:

*"These checkpoints provide a simple, life-saving reminder that reinforces a culture of safety for everyone recreating in Alaska's backcountry."*

Backed by Interstate Batteries and partner organizations, the avalanche beacon checkpoints stand as a reminder that Iron Dog's commitment to safety and responsibility extends far beyond the race itself.

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# NO SHORTCUT NORTH

## Lower 48 racers: prepare, adapt, overcome

The Iron Dog Snowmachine Race has always been a proving ground, but for racers coming from south of Alaska, the challenge begins long before the starting line. Different climates, unfamiliar terrain, limited access to Arctic conditions, and the logistics of transporting machines and gear thousands of miles north all add layers of complexity to the World's Longest, Toughest Snowmobile Race.

In 2026, the Iron Dog roster includes 15 racers from the Lower 48, representing Utah, Nevada, Minnesota, Wisconsin, Montana, California, and beyond. Some return as seasoned veterans, others arrive as true rookies, but all share a common goal: adapt, endure, and finish.

For Daniel Thomas of Salt Lake City, Utah, adaptation has become a central theme. Entering his fifth Iron Dog, Thomas says nothing truly prepares a racer for the variety the trail delivers.

"I think what I most underestimated about Iron Dog is the variation of trail and weather conditions you experience over the week of racing," Thomas said. "We did a lot of training from Big Lake to Puntilla, and that was helpful, but nothing compares to the variation of conditions a racer will experience."

With experience has come perspective.

"They may call it a race, but that doesn't mean as fast as you can at all times," Thomas said. "It is a very long race that takes extreme pacing and control to get to the finish."

Despite the pain and setbacks the race can deliver, Thomas keeps coming back for a simple reason.

"I love Iron Dog," he said. "I love the trail, the villages, the competitive bond with the racers. I love the vastness, the remoteness, the pain, the heartbreak, the pride at the finish. It contains so much of what I love in life."



Minnesota's Dustin Dohrn understands that commitment well. After a DNF in 2021, a 13th-place finish in 2022, and an eighth-place finish in 2024, Dohrn enters his fourth Iron Dog with higher expectations and a deeper appreciation for what it takes just to be ready.

"I think people underestimate how much it takes to prepare for this race," Dohrn said. "The sled builds alone can turn into a second job, and preparing your body and mind for a race that lasts a week long is a huge commitment."

Dohrn says his goals have evolved alongside his experience.

"The first year, I was more focused on finishing," he said. "Now, it's more realistic to aim higher, but that comes with a lot more preparation."

Coming from Minnesota, Dohrn says Iron Dog stands apart from any race in the Lower 48.

"It's exactly what a cross-country snowmobile race should be," he said. "Point A to point B, you just figure out how to get to the next checkpoint. It's unlike anything we have back home, and it makes me proud to be part of it."

Veteran Wisconsin racer Trent Johnson also returns with unfinished business. After mechanical issues ended his 2024 race early, Johnson once again takes aim at earning veteran status, knowing firsthand the challenges Lower 48 racers face before ever hitting the trail; from shipping machines to coordinating time away from work and family.

Alongside the veterans, several true rookies from the Lower 48 will experience Alaska for the first time this winter.

Luke Christensen of Milltown, Wisconsin, grew up watching his uncle, Iron Dog veteran Eric Christensen, race the event. In 2026, the two will line up together as teammates.

"Watching my uncle run Iron Dog the past several

**Team 27  
Iron Dog  
Post**



years and hearing the stories is what really set my Iron Dog mission in motion," Christensen said.

Christensen, who grew up dairy farming and now works as a heavy equipment mechanic, says the race's biggest challenge starts well before the green flag.

"Getting sleds and supplies up there, having the right tools, parts, and clothes, that's the biggest challenge," he said.

Still, the goal remains simple.

"Just finishing this race would mean I've got what it takes," Christensen said. "Hopefully earning that veteran status and seeing Alaska for the first time, that's what I'm looking forward to."

For Team 27's Mark Stratton of Sunnyvale, California, the decision to race Iron Dog was rooted in respect for the place, the challenge, and the partnership required to take it on. Racing alongside his lifelong friend Craig Conner, Stratton says Iron Dog appealed precisely because it strips away ego.

"The Iron Dog is the kind of challenge that doesn't care where you're from, it only cares how prepared you are," Stratton said. "Coming from California, that was part of the draw. Alaska demands respect, and tackling it with someone who's been by your side your entire life brings a level of confidence and humility you don't take lightly."

Stratton says the biggest challenge won't be a single section of trail, but the accumulation of unknowns.

"Conditions, weather, fatigue, and making smart decisions when the trail doesn't go as planned," he said. "Alaska has a way of reminding you that you're a guest in a very big place."

Preparation for Stratton has focused on durability and discipline, physically, mentally, and mechanically.

"We've spent a lot of time learning our machines inside and out," he said. "Respecting the race also means respecting the equipment that has to carry you across it."

For Stratton, finishing Iron Dog isn't about validation, it's about earning something.



Team 45 (Polaris): veteran Eric Christensen of Centuria, WI, and rookie Luke Christensen of Milltown, WI.

"Finishing the Iron Dog would mean we honored the race and the place it comes from," he said. "As first-time riders from the Lower 48, it's not about proving we belong, it's about earning it."

Team 27 joins rookies Barney Anselment, Wyatt J. Halek-Hooper, Adam Stafford, Dan Zimmerman, C.J. Vandeputte, Jason Carson, and others rounding out a Lower 48 contingent defined not by familiarity, but by resolve.

For many, Iron Dog is as much about people as it is about miles. Thomas says that spirit is what keeps drawing racers back north.

"I say this to almost every Alaskan racer," he said. "I don't believe

they understand just how amazing this race is. I am so grateful Alaska shares this race with us each year."

Different climates, unfamiliar trails, and countless unknowns await the Lower 48 racers in 2026. But if history has shown anything, it's that determination, preparation, humility, and respect for the race can bridge any distance, even the 2,500 miles of Alaska wilderness that define Iron Dog.

And for those who finish, that elusive title awaits: Iron Dog Veteran.

**Team 40  
Our Iron  
Dog Story**



# CLASS OF 2026 IRON DOG HALL OF FAME

The Iron Dog Race Hall of Fame recognizes more than podium finishes. It honors the racers, volunteers, and supporters whose commitment, sacrifice, and perseverance shaped the World's Longest, Toughest Snowmobile Race. Some contributions are measured in wins and miles; others in years of service, late nights, broken trails, and problems solved when no one else was there.

The Class of 2026 reflects both sides of that legacy. This year's inductees are Eric Quam and Robert "Mansey" Magnuson. They represent excellence earned in different ways, united by the same unwavering dedication to the race.

## Eric Quam

Two-time Iron Dog Champion, veteran racer, team supporter.

Eric Quam's Iron Dog résumé places him among an elite group of racers who have not only finished the race, but mastered it. A lifelong Alaskan, Quam first entered the Iron Dog in 1999, bringing a competitive drive shaped by years of racing before snowmachines became his primary focus. He started racing three-wheelers at age 14, and when that circuit disappeared, snowmachine racing became the next step.



Quam's Iron Dog career includes two overall victories, first in 2008 with partner Marc McKenna, and again in 2015 with Scott Faeo. Winning once is career-defining; winning twice puts a racer in rare company. Across both victories, Quam showed what Iron Dog demands most: controlled speed, mechanical awareness, physical endurance, and disciplined risk management across thousands of miles.

Beyond the wins, Quam's long-standing presence in the race community has been equally meaningful. Since his debut, he has supported teams, shared hard-earned experience, and stayed involved in the event whether starting the race or helping others prepare for the trail ahead. His Hall of Fame induction recognizes both his championships and his lasting influence as a competitor who understood that Iron Dog success is never accidental and never achieved alone.

## Robert "Mansey" Magnuson

Volunteer, trail breaker, checkpoint lead, logistics and fuel support.

If Iron Dog's racers are the heartbeat of the race, volunteers like Robert "Mansey" Magnuson are its backbone. His involvement dates to the late 1980s, long before modern tracking, instant communication, or streamlined logistics. Over the decades, he became a constant presence in some of the race's most critical and least visible roles. He broke trail into remote areas, helped establish and run checkpoints, and supported McGrath operations for more than 13 years, including trail breaking to Takotna and Poorman.



Magnuson also handled logistics that kept the race moving when conditions were difficult. He supported interior checkpoint operations and, during financially challenging years, personally flew fuel at his own expense to keep teams and checkpoints supplied. When problems hit late or under pressure, he was someone the race could rely on to step in and make it work.

His contributions were never about recognition. They were about responsibility and the reality that Alaska does not offer easy solutions. Hall of Fame induction honors Magnuson's decades of service and the truth behind Iron Dog's success: without dedicated volunteers willing to commit time, resources, and personal effort, there is no race to finish.

## A Shared Legacy

Eric Quam and Robert "Mansey" Magnuson reached the Iron Dog Hall of Fame by different paths, one through championships at race pace and the other through years of work that helped keep the race possible. Together, they reflect what Iron Dog stands for: competition, commitment, resilience, and community.

The Class of 2026 reminds us that Iron Dog history is written on the trail and behind the scenes, and that every mile raced is supported by countless others who made it possible. Congratulations to Eric Quam and Robert "Mansey" Magnuson, and thank you for the lasting legacy you leave with the Iron Dog Race.

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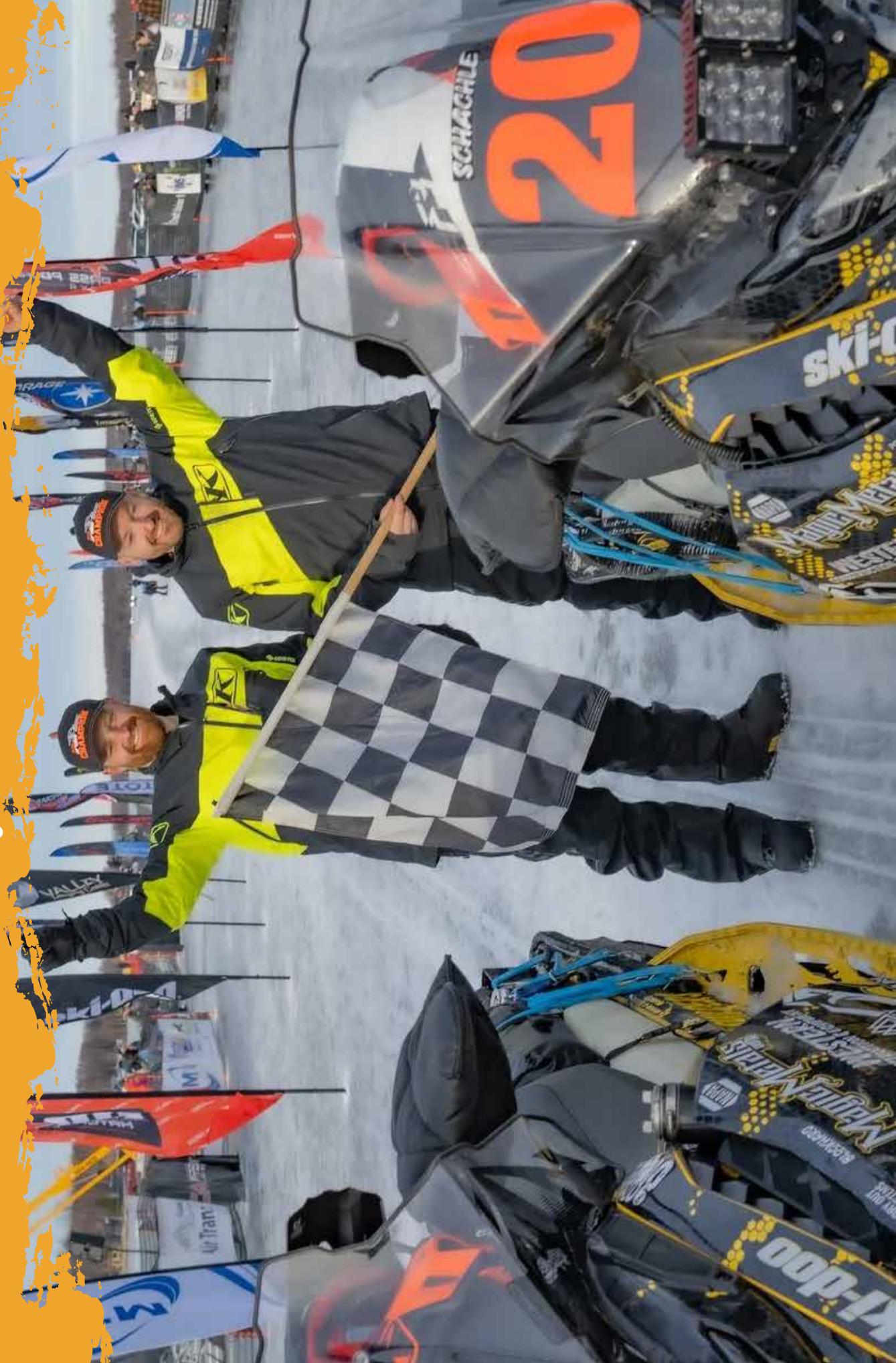




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# WHERE THE TRAIL MEETS COMMUNITIES

**Iron Dog Race, Inc.** is committed to being more than just a race. The Iron Dog believes in supporting the communities that make the event possible and investing in programs that extend well beyond race day. Through safety initiatives, youth development, education, and workforce support, Iron Dog continues to make a meaningful impact across Alaska.



Liam & Finn Aklestad and Blake & Dylan Dean, sporting their new high-vis helmets in 2025  
Provided by KLIM

## HELMET SAFETY PROGRAM



Launched in 2020, the Iron Dog Helmet Awareness Program provides free, properly fitting helmets to youth in rural communities for year-round power sports. More than 2,800 helmets have been donated to youth across the Alaska. Iron Dog will continue distributing helmets along the trail this February, reaching youth in multiple rural communities. The program earned Iron Dog Race, Inc. the Governor's Special Achievement Award at the 2025 Alaska Governor's Safety and Health Conference.

## SOUTH ANCHORAGE MEDIA SUPPORT

For more than ten years, the South Anchorage High School Media Team has live-streamed the Iron Dog Race for fans worldwide. Students gain hands-on media experience while traveling to remote parts of Alaska. Iron Dog Race, Inc., funds transportation, lodging, meals, and equipment upgrades, and awards a scholarship to one student each year. Watch here: [irondog.org/race/watch](http://irondog.org/race/watch)

## KIDS DON'T FLOAT

In 2024, Iron Dog Race, Inc., partnered with several local organizations to distribute 175 life vests to children in Iron Dog communities including: Nikolai, McGrath, Galena, Nome, and Kotzebue. Life vests were also made available along popular waterways and lakes used by families in those areas.

## IRON PUP RACE SERIES



In 2026, Iron Pup will partner with local race organizations for three races to make sign-up easier, expand access to insurance, and create race environments that reflect the Iron Dog spirit. For more information go to: [irondog.org/iron-pup](http://irondog.org/iron-pup).

## MAKE IT RUN PROGRAM

The Make It Run program helps develop skills in small engine and recreational vehicle repair. Iron Dog Race, Inc., is building the program through partnerships with major companies, engineers, local teachers, and service providers. Public donations of snowmachines, four-wheelers, and UTVs will be used as hands-on learning tools in

the classroom. Iron Dog supports qualifying donations through its 501(c)(3) status by providing a tax-deductible receipt to the donor. In addition to expanding educational opportunities, the program encourages reuse and helps reduce repairable machines from ending up in landfills as waste.

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# YOUNG GUNS 2026

## EARNING IT THE HARD WAY

### A New Generation of Iron Dog Racers Learns the Trail, Mile by Mile

For many young racers, the Iron Dog doesn't begin at the starting line in Big Lake — it starts years earlier, standing quietly at a checkpoint, watching headlights glow through the dark, listening to engines idle in the cold, and imagining what it might feel like to be part of the World's Longest, Toughest Snowmobile Race.

That sense of curiosity and pull is shared across the 13 racers under the age of 30 entered in the 2026 Iron Dog. Some are true rookies, others already veterans despite their age, but all arrive with deep ties to snowmachining, Alaska communities, and the culture that surrounds the race.

Steffen Booth, 20, knows that feeling well. Born and raised in Nome, he grew up surrounded by Iron Dog history and the legends who helped define it.

"The racing history with all the 'legends' involved in Nome and the surrounding region for sure has a big part of shaping the racer I strive to be," Booth said. "The thought that I can inspire the youth just like many racers did when I was younger definitely gets me excited for the race."

For Booth, the excitement also comes from what he doesn't yet know.

"I look forward to getting through all the learning process successfully throughout the race," he said. "The more we know, the better we get."

Like many young racers, Booth is realistic about his goals. "To finish would be an accomplishment," he said. "A goal to set to do better for the next year."



That mindset, learning first, results second, echoes throughout the field.



Austin Carroll, Buck Roggenbuck and Corbin Hollenbeck

Evan Barber, 21, is already a veteran by Iron Dog standards, having raced four times since first entering the Pro Class at age 16. Raised in Willow, Barber grew up riding straight from his backyard and dreaming about racing long before he ever lined up at the start.

"Almost everything that hints at snow or machines gets me excited about Iron Dog," Barber said. "Seeing parts start to come in, sleds coming through checkpoints, cold temps, snow coming down; it all gets me excited."

Barber knows the race well enough now to understand where mistakes happen.

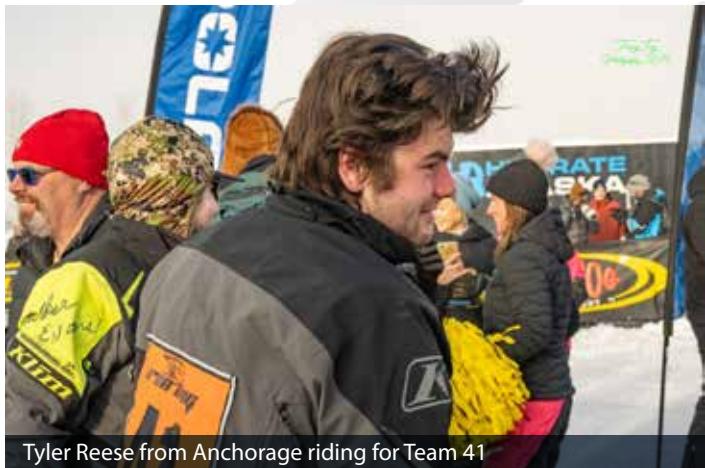
"For me, the first day and a half is the most important part of the race," he said. "That's where the most risk of failure is, anywhere conditions are unpredictable."

Despite his speed and success, including two top-

five finishes, Barber says experience has taught him to manage the mental side of the race.

"One of the biggest lessons I've learned is just to stay vigilant and embrace the suck," he said. "When the trail or weather sucks, it sucks for everyone. You have to use that to your advantage mentally."

Bradley Kishbaugh, 27, is entering his fifth Iron Dog, but like Barber, he says the race never stops teaching you lessons. Raised in Soldotna, Kishbaugh grew up riding off-trail and in backcountry terrain with his dad before branching out across Turnagain Pass and beyond.



Tyler Reese from Anchorage riding for Team 41

"The main thing that gets me excited is the challenges we may have to overcome," Kishbaugh said. "The problem solving, pushing myself out of my comfort zone."

For Kishbaugh, the first day remains critical. "The South Fork and Farewell Burn always seem to be a challenge," he said. "It's so important to make it to McGrath with machines in one piece."

"This will be my fifth Iron Dog," he added. "You never stop learning. Some challenges are preventable, some are in God's hands. The biggest thing is to take care of yourself and your partner. Negativity will kill your race."

At just 19, Austin Carroll already has multiple Iron Dog finishes to his name. Growing up in Fairbanks, Carroll was surrounded by racing and snowmachines from the start.

"I get excited for all of the experience and meeting more of the faster racers along the race," Carroll said. "And just the fun you have at each checkpoint."

This year, Carroll is focused on improving through known trouble spots. "I'm most focused on getting through the Burn faster than last year," he said. "That affected our positions a lot."

His goals remain grounded. "A good race would be a top seven," he said. "If we do better, that's awesome."

Corbin Hollenbeck, 19, is a rookie from North Pole whose

excitement comes from the simplicity of riding with friends.

"What gets me most excited is just being able to ride my snowmachine with my buddy and go have fun," he said.

Raised riding everything from trails to mountains, Hollenbeck says his focus is straightforward. "A good race would be running clean, keeping sleds in one piece, minimizing wrench time, staying smooth but fast."

For Blake Taylor, 24, Iron Dog is deeply personal. Growing up in McGrath, he watched racers pass his house, stayed up late at checkpoints, and learned mechanics the hard way in his uncle's garage.

"Being raised in McGrath taught me how to work with what you've got and be resourceful," Taylor said.

This year, Taylor carries added motivation. "My uncle Therron passed away last March," he said. "I want to finish strong for him. A finish would mean a lot."

Colton Sieh, 27, brings a different upbringing to the race. Raised in Kotzebue, he spent his youth hunting and trapping with his father by snowmachine.

"At a young age it became second nature," Sieh said. "A good race is keeping your rig together and finishing."

Like many of the young guns, Sieh understands the physical demands. "Being in fit shape goes a long ways," he said.

Team 41's Haakon Wold and Tyler Reese remain among the youngest veterans in the field, having already proven themselves with strong finishes well beyond their years. Alongside them, rookies Kevin McDaniel-Farley, Wyatt J. Halek-Hooper, Kenneth Esmailka, Quincy Williamson, and Colton Sieh round out a group defined not by bravado, but by preparation and perspective.

They are not chasing shortcuts or guarantees. They are chasing knowledge, experience, and the chance to earn their place, mile by mile.

As one generation passes wisdom down the trail, the next is already listening.



Wyatt J. Halek-Hooper at the 2025 start, racing as team 23

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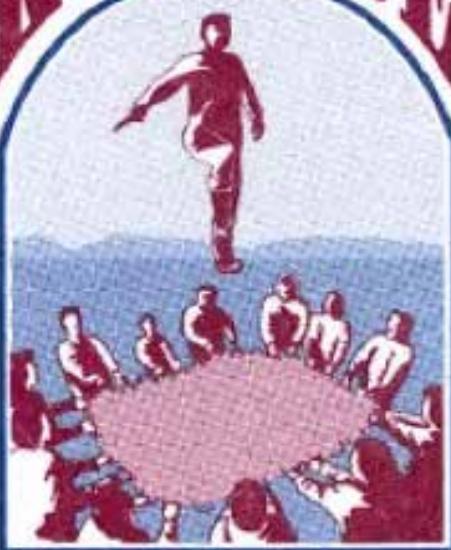
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# IRON DOG CHECKPOINTS 2026

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Big Lake

## 2026 PRO CLASS MILEAGE

### Big Lake to Nome

Big Lake (**Start**) to Skwentna  
Skwentna to Shell Lake  
Shell Lake to Whiskey Bravo  
Whiskey Bravo to Tatina  
Tatina to Nikolai  
Nikolai to McGrath  
McGrath to Ophir  
Ophir to Poorman  
Poorman to Ruby  
Ruby to Galena  
Galena to Kaltag  
Kaltag to Unalakleet  
Unalakleet to Shaktoolik  
Shaktoolik to Koyuk  
Koyuk to Buckland  
Buckland to Selawik  
Selawik to Kiana  
Kiana to Noorvik  
Noorvik to Kotzebue  
Kotzebue to Buckland

80	Buckland to Koyuk	87
17	Koyuk to Elim	44
46	Elim to White Mountain	46
70	White Mountain to Nome	70

### Nome To Fairbanks

74	Nome to White Mountain	70
52	White Mountain to Elim	46
42	Elim to Koyuk	44
93	Koyuk to Shaktoolik	62
61	Shaktoolik to Unalakleet	41
54	Unalakleet to Kaltag	85
89	Kaltag to Galena	89
85	Galena to Ruby	54
41	Ruby to Bible Camp	58
62	Bible Camp to Tanana	63
87	Tanana to Manley Hot Springs	67
68	Manley Hot Springs to Nenana	96
38	Nenana to Fairbanks ( <b>End</b> )	56

**Total Mileage:** **2,318**

### KIANA

Population 402. Kiana is situated "where three rivers meet": the Squirrel, Kobuk, and big/small channel rivers. Kiana is 1,054 miles into the race.

### NOORVIK

Population 652. Noorvik is on the right bank of the Nazuruk Channel of the Kobuk River and a short stop before reaching Kotzebue. It is 1,075 miles into the race.

### KOTZEBUE

Kotzebue, population 3,110, is the seat of the Northwest Arctic Borough and an important transportation hub. This year marks the seventh that the Iron Dog will pass through this snowmachine-loving community. The trail here encompasses part of the 375-mile Archie Ferguson/Willie Goodwin Memorial snowmachine race course, a long-established trail well known among rural Alaska racers. It is named The Red Dog Loop for premier sponsor Teck Alaska / Red Dog

### ELIM

Population 368. After looping back through the Red Dog Loop from Kotzebue, racers next will reach the coastal fishing community of Elim. It is 1,366 miles into the race.

### WHITE MOUNTAIN

Population 181. White Mountain is located on the eastern bank of the Fish River, about 1,412 miles into the race and only 70 miles from Nome.

### NOME

Until 1994, the race ended in Nome, tying Iron Dog to Alaska's Gold Rush history, and hence the earlier race name, the Gold Rush Classic. In 1998, the finish moved to Fairbanks, and now it is in 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. Spectators also enjoy watching the racers in the Nome Garage, where they are allowed time to work on their sleds in high-speed fashion. 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 3,594.

### BIBLE CAMP

Kokrine Hills Bible Camp is a seasonal camp site on the Yukon River between Ruby and Tanana. It's about 2,036 miles into the 2026 Pro Class course and 282 miles from the Fairbanks finish.

### TANANA

Population 246 (2020). Tanana sits on the Yukon River near the confluence with the Tanana River. It's about 2,099 miles into the race and 219 miles from Fairbanks.

### MANLEY

Population 169 (2020). Manley Hot Springs is a small community near the Tanana River on Hot Springs Slough at the end of the Elliott Highway. It's about 2,166 miles into the race and 152 miles from Fairbanks.

### NENANA

Population 343 (2020). Nenana sits at the confluence of the Nenana and Tanana rivers in the Interior. The town is famous for the Nenana Ice Classic, an annual spring breakup lottery that has run since 1917. It's about 2,262 miles into the race and 56 miles from Fairbanks.

### FAIRBANKS

Is the seat of the Fairbanks North Star Borough and the primary service-and-supply center for Interior Alaska, located on the banks of the Chena River in the Tanana Valley. This year, the Iron Dog Pro Class concludes here, finishing in Fairbanks at Pike's Landing Resort on Saturday, February 21, 2026, at the end of 2,318 miles of racing. It has a population of approximately 32,515 (2020).





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## 2025 IRON DOG TOP 10 TEAMS

YEAR	CHAMPIONS	BRAND	TRAIL TIME
2025	Brad George & Robby Schachle	Ski-Doo	53:32:56
2024	Cody Barber & Brett Lapham	Polaris	52:36:10
2023	Tyler Aklestad & Nick Olstad	Ski-Doo	52:58:32
2022	Tyler Aklestad & Nick Olstad	Ski-Doo	53:27:21
2021	Brad George & Robby Schachle	Ski-Doo	50:26:04
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 CANCELED		
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

PLACE	NAME	BRAND	TRAIL TIME
1st	George / Schachle	Ski-Doo	53:32:56
2nd	Boylan / Leslie		54:30:16
3nd	Aklestad / Loyer		55:42:54
4th	Kishbaugh / Morgan		58:45:56
5th	Barber / Conlon		59:34:04
6th	Hoogendorn / McDaniel		62:22:20
7th	Kleewein / Wells		62:42:11
9th	Barber / Moore		63:14:51
10th	Kleewein / Weisz		64:16:25

## EXPEDITION CLASS GEARED UP FOR A 2026 ADVENTURE

The 2026 Iron Dog Expedition Class is growing, bringing more teams into a non-competitive ride that still demands preparation, pacing, and grit mile after mile.

Expedition teams depart from Big Lake on Thursday, February 12, 2026, ahead of the Pro Class start on Saturday, February 14, 2026. New for 2026, riders can choose to finish in Nome or Kotzebue. Teams include 2 to 4 riders, each on their own snowmachine.

This year's roster includes eight teams and 22 riders on Polaris, Ski-Doo, and Arctic Cat sleds.

Highlights include Team 51's three-rider group of Kim Bergeron, Jean-Pierre Bernier, and Randy Bevard, along with Team 88's three-rider entry of Paul Soberg, Michael Telkamp, and Brian Jurenka. Both teams include some veteran riders, and both are set to finish in Kotzebue. Bergeron and Bernier are especially familiar faces on the trail, returning after racing Pro Class in 2025 as Team 15.

Team 60 features an Anchorage mother-and-son pair, Elizabeth and Reed Stuart. Team 74 fields four riders with Jeremy Coleman, Jesse Tanner, Hunter Mathis, and KC Hatfield, while Team 82 brings husband-and-wife duo Travis and Caitlin Elison. Team 87 also lines up with four riders: William Magnuson, Jenniffer Lewin, Darwin Magnuson, and Jeff Gorton.

Expedition Class is where teams prove they can ride smart, stay steady, and get it done the right way. Whether finishing in Nome or Kotzebue, the goal is the same: finish safe, finish strong, and earn the story.

### Feb. 12, 2026 Expedition Class team departure

**Location:** South Big Lake, at Susitna Brewing Company

- 9:30 a.m. Expedition teams begin arrival and check in
- 11:00 a.m. All Expedition teams must be in the paddock with GPS units mounted
- 12:00 p.m. Expedition teams depart in 2 minute intervals



# IRON DOG PRO CLASS 2026



## TEAM 02

**Team Sponsors:** Belmont tire and Auto, Noxapaga Suites, Wilderness Ski-doo, Quality Auto.



### Chugie Farley

Age: 55 From: Nome  
Riding: Lynx Rave RE  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** Iron Dog Pro Class-2008, 2010. Iron Dog Trail Class-2013, 2024.

**Bio:** A lifelong resident of Nome, Chugie is returning to snowmachine racing to support his oldest son, Kevin. He and his wife, Jessica, have two sons, Kevin and Benjamin. Outside of riding, he owns an auto shop, works as a maritime captain, and spends much of his time organizing snow machine racing in Western Alaska. An avid outdoorsman, Chugie brings his mechanical expertise and passion for Alaska's wilderness back to the race trail this season.

**Personal Sponsors:** Jessica and Benjamin Farley, Johnny Bahnke III, Shanta Esparza, Jacob Hannon, Farley family and Stephanie and Dan Nielson

**Other Race History:** Many local race completions in the 90s and early 2000s.



### Kevin McDaniel-Farley

Age: 18 From: Nome  
Riding: Lynx Rave RE 600  
Status: Rookie

**Race History:** 2024 Expedition Class finisher

**Bio:** Kevin McDaniel-Farley, 18, of Nome, is part of the next generation of Western Alaska snowmachine racers. A junior at the University of Alaska, he works on his family's boats and in their auto shop. Racing alongside his dad, Chugie, Kevin is proud to carry forward this tradition of racing.

**Other Race History:** 2025 OME-GLV, Valdez, Hatcher's Pass, and Cannonball finisher



## TEAM 03

**Team Sponsors:** Polaris, Hatcherpass Polaris Wasilla, Bering Air, StudBoy Traction, Nome Quality Auto, The Vortex Group, Polaris Engineered Lubricants; Team Barber Racing: Booth R&R; Cruz Construction; Yellowjacket Oilfield Services; Aurora Drilling; Trijett; Slp Power Madd; C&A Pioneer Peak Orthopedics; Cornerstone General Contractors; Corks Auto; Jenski Automotive Track; USA139 Designs; Jonny Banke (wilderness skidoo); Fine Line Interior; Gux Lorax; Willie Scott James and Shiela Randy; Kangas Forbess Floor Coverings; Everts Air Cargo; Klim.



### Steffen Booth

Age: 20 From: Nome  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** Iron Dog 2022: 11th place

**Bio:** Steffen Booth, 20 years old. Born and raised in Nome, works as an A&P Mechanic for Bering Air and is an avid outdoorsman. Started riding snowmachines at the age of 4, first cross country race at 15. Competing in most of Alaska's cross country races, thirteen so far; finishing top three in ten of those and an 11th place Iron Dog finish at the age of 16. Steffen fell for the thrill of racing at a young age, growing up around a race environment with his dad Evan, late brother Chase and many other racers that inspired him. Race goals are to always have fun, to learn and compete at the highest level.

**Personal Sponsors:** Jim Wilkie, Mom & Dad, Brother Ian, Sister Taylor, Brother Cohen, Grandma Pat, Grandma Penny, Barber Family, Russell & Sandra Rowe, Bradley & Jesse Rowe, Ben Rowe, Sarah Caffery, Bert James, Steve Comstock (AKA Cookie), Gux Laurax, Willy Scott, Jon Troy Conlon, Chris Olds, Team 10, Team 14, Tobin Hobbs, Kara Johanson, Brian Walsh, Geoff Hubert, Tyler Huntington, Jake Hannon, Perry and Gail Burress, Davis Lincoln, Doug Wicken Freddie Otten, Ben Koelsh, Allen & Mike Thomas, Many Jennings, Bart Schneberger, The Weezer

**Other Race History:** Race Circuits: Nome Lions Club & ACRA



### Evan Barber

Age: 21 From: Willow  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2021: eighth place, 2023: seventh place, 2024: fourth place, 2025: fifth place

**Bio:** I started racing snowmobiles in 2016, and by

2019, I was competing semi-pro. I moved to the pro class in 2021. I've earned some significant victories, including the Valdez Mayor's Cup (semi-pro) and Nome-Golovin 200 race 600cc. I love riding in some of Alaska's most scenic and challenging areas, with my favorite spots being the coast of Nome, Kotzebue, and the rugged mountain terrain of Hatcher's Pass. Racing has certainly presented its challenges—I've had my share of crashes—but each experience has only pushed me to become better. My riding style is all about staying light on the sled and letting the sled do the work for me, allowing for smoother handling and more control. When I'm not racing, you can find me hunting, riding dirt bikes, and spending quality time with my family, all of which help me stay grounded and focused on new challenges.

**Other Race History:** Mayors cup 2019: 5th Place semi pro Mayors cup 2020: 1st place semi pro Mayors cup 2021: 3rd place pro c Mayors cup 2022: 4th place pro Hatcher pass boulder dash 2021: 3rd place pro Skwentna 200 2022: 2nd place pro



## TEAM 05

**Team Sponsors:** Three Bears Alaska Inc., Ski-doo, Team CC, Fly Racing, QAP, Crowley Fuels Alaska, McKenna Bros Paving Co., Dalton Refrigeration, Plumblime Services, Prism Design and Construction, GPS Alaska, 907 ICE, Alpha Spray Foam, Glenn Marlin-State Farm, Palmer Dental Center, Coca-Cola of Alaska, Impakt Athletics, PowerMadd, Woody's Traction, 139designs, Trijet Manufacturing & Precision Cutting, Fine Line Interiors.



### Zack Weisz

Age: 32 From: Eagle River  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ X-RS Comp  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** Iron Dog 2025- 9th Place; Iron Dog 2022- 5th Place; Iron Dog 2021- 5th Place Finish; Iron Dog 2020- 3rd Place Finish; Iron Dog 2019- 4th Place Finish; Iron Dog 2018- 11th Place, Top Rookie Team; 2017

**Bio:** Zack is a lifelong Alaskan living in Eagle River with his girlfriend, Amy, and their chocolate lab, Piston. This will be his 9th Iron Dog. He works for Three Bears Alaska as a third-generation employee and enjoys taking full advantage of the vast outdoors Alaska has to offer. When he's not racing, you can find him golfing or spending time at the lake with family and friends. Zack and Amy are welcomed their first baby boy in January 2026, just in time for the race.

**Personal Sponsors:** All of my friends and family who support me year after year.

**Other Race History:** Big Lake 500: 1st Place

# IRON DOG PRO CLASS 2026



## Thomas Davis

Age: 33 From: Wasilla  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2025 Iron Dog dnf, 2024 Iron Dog dnf, 2022 Iron Dog 5th place.

**Bio:** Tom is a born and raised Alaskan, who grew up playing hockey, hunting and fishing. He lives in Wasilla with his fiancé Miranda and three dogs. He is a foreman for QAP in the summers and spends his winters riding trails and mountains. This is his fourth Iron Dog race.

**Personal Sponsors:** I would like to thank my family for their continued support of me.

**Other Race History:** 2023 mayors cup dnf, 2019 mayors cup 4th semi pro.



**Team Sponsors:** Top Level Sponsors, Polaris Industries, Klim outerwear, Northern Air Cargo, Walker Evans Racing, Eagle River Polaris/AC, 2nd Tier Sponsors, CCI Industrial Services LLC, Q-Trucking, UA Local 367-Anchorage AK, Jenwar Towing, Summit Excavation, Stan Morgan-Cover pilot, Alaska Industrial X-ray, C&A Pro skis, Hog River Construction-Tyler Huntington, Polaris Engineered Lubricants, Stud Boy Traction Products, Bering Air, Powermadd, Arctic FX graphics, Baja Designs, 3rd Tier Sponsors, Auto Armor of Alaska, Big Dipper Industries, Tri-Jet Manufacturing Services, Northern Solutions LLC, Starting Line Products, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Alaska Wild Project, Fine Line Interiors, Velocity Sled Performance-Will, Rugged radios, Penner Construction, Pro Seal Services, Anchorage Snowmobile Club, Artwork by Sierra Winter



## Mike Morgan

Age: 40 From: Nome  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** Iron Dog including eight top 3's with 2 wins in 13 finishes.

**Bio:** I grew up riding and racing snowmobiles from a young age up around Nome Alaska. Aside from racing snowmobiles, I enjoy hiking, mountain biking, hunting, fishing, traveling, spending time with friends and family and adventuring with my pooch Indy. This will be my 17th Irondog race and third with current teammate Bradley Kishbaugh.

**Personal Sponsors:** Dad Stan & Ruby Morgan, Mom Ginny & Carl Emmons, Russ & Sandy and the boys, Sidney Mitchell-Selawik, Emmons Mechanical, Morgan's Sales & Service-Nome, 131 Racing-Bobby Menne, and Ben Koelsch with Bering Air for the all

the help with dad's plane.

**Other Race History:** Five Nome-Golovin race wins; Seven Kotzebue race wins; 12 top 5's.



## Bradley Kishbaugh

Age: 27 From: Soldotna  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2022 Iron Dog 6th Place 2022 Valdez Semi Pro 1st Place 2023 Iron Dog 5th Place 2024 Iron Dog 3rd place 2025 Iron Dog 4th Place.

**Bio:** Bradley is a life long Alaskan, born and raised in Soldotna. He enjoys hunting, fishing, and the great outdoor opportunities Alaska has to offer him. While riding backcountry growing up, Bradley took up cross country racing in 2021. He grew up playing comp hockey all over the state of Alaska. Bradley started working on the slope at 18 and is currently an LNG control room operator under Harvest Alaska.

**Personal Sponsors:** I would like to thank my Mom and Dad, Taylor, Piper, Jake Graves, Loretta and Danny Pulk, Jared and Cassi Ewing. The lower 48 Kishbaugh family, The Harvest Operations team and everyone else involved! Thank you!!

**Other Race History:** 2021 FYK 150 Open 8th 2021 Skwentna 200 5th Place.



## TEAM 07

**Team Sponsors:** Klim, Impakt athletics, XPS, Woodys Traction, SCS Unlimited, Powermadd, Fineline interiors, Specialty truck and auto, Graham industrial coatings, Trail tank, Valley imaging associates, Trijet manufacturing, Cruz Construction.



## Tyler Aklestad

Age: 40 From: Palmer  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ Comp  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2007: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2012: Finished, 2013: Finished, 2016: first place, 2017: Finished, 2018: Finished, 2019: Finished, 2020: first place, 2022: first place, 2023: first place, 2025: 3rd place.

**Bio:** Life long Alaskan born and raised in Palmer, Alaska. This will be my 22nd Iron Dog race. Love to fly, hunt, fish, dirt bike and snowmachine with my family. Wife Erin and two children Liam 10 and Finn 9.

**Personal Sponsors:** Keith Manternach, Steve Spence, Willy Barickman, Russ Siepert, Eric Sieh, Korey Cronquist, Chip and Jen Anderson

**Other Race History:** Arctic Man: 2014, first place;

2013, first place; 2012, first place; 2011, first place; 2008, first place.



## Nicholas Olstad

Age: 43 From: Wasilla  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ 600 XRS  
Comp  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2005: first place, 2009: first place, 2011: Finished, 2014: first place, 2016: Finished, 2017: Finished, 2018: Finished, 2020: first place, 2022: first place, 2023: first place.

**Bio:** Nick is a longtime Alaskan who enjoys the outdoors. When not working as a Marathon maintenance supervisor, he's spending time with wife, Brianne, daughter, Kaia, and son, Jackson. Nick loves to be out riding ATVs and hunting in the summer, and snowmachines until the snow is gone.

**Personal Sponsors:** Brianne, Kaia and Jackson Olstad.

**Other Race History:** 2019 Kotzebue 220, first place; 2019 Nome-Golovin, third place; Mayor's Cup 2005 and 2006, first place; 2011, third place; K-150 2005 and 2006, first place.



## TEAM 08

**Team Sponsors:** Team CC, Klim, Valley Imaging and StudBoy.



## Stan James

Age: 49 From: Palmer  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ Comp  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished, 2016: Finished, 2018: Finished, 2019: Finished, 2021: Finished, 2023: Finished

**Bio:** I could not be more grateful to be able to experience Alaska in this way. I would like to tell my wife and girls I love them. They have allowed me to chase my Alaska dream.

**Personal Sponsors:** Klim, Trail tank, Stud Boy, CC Ski Doo, Valley Imaging Center, Visa, MasterCard.

**Other Race History:** Multiple DNF's and red lanterns in all aspects of life.





# IRON DOG PRO CLASS 2026



## Daniel Thomas

Age: 45

From: Salt Lake City, UT

Riding: Ski-Doo X-RS

Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2022: Finished

**Bio:** Daniel calls Utah home where he is the father to four amazing daughters and the husband to the beautiful late Dalynn Thomas. Daniel not only races snowmachines but also owns and races a world-class sailboat named Dinzer Doo with his daughter Mika. Iron Dog and the people and beauty of Alaska hold a special place in his life. Thank you to Alaska and Iron Dog for sharing this race with me.

**Personal Sponsors:** Mika, Ember, Maren, Dagny and my HELOC.



## TEAM 09

**Team Sponsors:** Anglers Bar and Grill, Hayward Power Sports, KLIM, Troy Conlon, Reno Rock, Vohk, Starting Line Products, Sabin Landscaping & Design LLC, ArcticFX Graphics, Tide Table, Carl's Cycle, Cardo Systems, PowerMadd, STUD BOY Traction, Delta Powersports Fairbanks, Farmer Bureau Insurance, DURA PRO, Detrimental Concepts, Hydrate Alaska.



## Kris Kaltenbacher

Age: 53 From: Sparks, NV

Riding: Polaris XC

Status: Veteran

**Race History:** Iron Dog 2024, 2025

**Bio:** I grew up in Dillingham AK riding Sled's, graduating from DLG in 1991, moved to Reno in 1993 to attend college at UNR. I got married, bought a home, had two boys and made a life here in Nevada. I was a basketball coach for 12 years for my boys in their traveling basketball clubs, along with coaching my youngest sons middle school team for two years. My career is working for Truckee Meadows Water Authority for the last 18 years working my way up to an Inspector position. I've been sledding for about 42 years. I got big into the film industry where I become a big part of Boondockers Movies for the 15 years, also a part of Crazy Canadian films, 509 video, Thunderstruck, BraapSki 2&3, Team Summit for three years. In 2012 I was featured as the cover of SledHeads magazine with a center spread, along with being featured in Sled Worthy magazine. I have a number of great sponsors and family members that without them I couldn't do this race. I now have the opportunity to make some history in the toughest greatest race the Iron Dog. I am now a two time Iron Dog finisher with a 12th last sesason and a 13th in 2024 now chasing a top ten finish.

**Personal Sponsors:** Thanks to my family, Tracy, Karson, Kohen, Dad Kent Kaltenbacher, My brother Tyree Newton, In loving memory of my Mom Debi Newton, the whole Carroll family, Klim, Vohk, Carls Cycle, Arctic FX, SLP, Delta Power Sports, Vohk, Reno Rock, Tide Table Coffee, Farmer bureau insurance, The Houston's.



## Cole Sabin

Age: 34 From: Hayward, WI

Riding: Polaris Cross Country

Status: Rookie

**Race History:** 2023 Irondog Expedition Class, 2024 Irondog Pro Class DNF

**Bio:** I was born and raised in Hayward, Wisconsin, where my passion for the outdoors started early. I've been riding snowmobiles since I was three years old, and that lifelong connection to motorsports and the outdoors continues to shape both my career and lifestyle. Whether it's for work or play, being outside is where I thrive.

Family is at the center of everything I do. I'm a proud father of three amazing daughters — Ruce (6), Lila (4), and Indy (3) — and they truly mean the world to me. They love to dance, sing, go shopping, do makeup, and of course, ride their snowmachines. Being a dad is my greatest motivation, both on and off the track.

When I'm not racing in Alaska, I spend time in the Florida Keys sportfishing, enjoying a different side of outdoor adventure. I also make time to head west whenever possible to elk hunt — another passion to feed the soul.

In the spring of 2025, I purchased our family-owned landscaping company and completed my first year operating independently. It was a strong year built on high standards, clear goals, and a commitment to growth. On January 1st, I took the next step by acquiring an irrigation company serving the northwest region of Wisconsin. After working closely with The Irrigators for over 20 years and building strong relationships, this acquisition was a natural progression.

Most recently, I expanded again by acquiring a tree farm. My fall seasons have traditionally focused on harvesting decorative black spruce tops from state, county, and private lands. The tree farm allows us to sustainably produce a higher-quality product while improving efficiency and long-term reliability.

Solutions, Valley Imaging Center, Eagle River Trustworthy Hardware Store, Powermadd, Sampson Racing Communications, Trijet, Nitro Trailers, Arctic FX, Luke Miller.



## Chris Olds

Age: 54 From: Eagle River

Riding: Polaris Cross Country

Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2000: Finished, 2001: Finished, 2002: Finished, 2006: Finished, 2007: Finished, 2008: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2010: first place, 2011: first place, 2012: Finished, 2013: Finished, 2014: Finished, 2015: Finished, 2016: Finished, 2018: first place, 2019: first place, 2020: Finished, 2021: Finished, 2022: Finished, 2024: Finished

**Bio:** I am married to Christine and have two Daughters Haley and Mya. I have grown up in Alaska, and enjoy everything Alaskan, including hunting, fishing, and everything outdoors. I enjoy riding dirt bikes, mountain bikes, SXS, shooting, camping and hanging out with my friends and family.

**Personal Sponsors:** My wife Christine, my daughters Haley and Mya, Mom & Dad, Matt Spernak, Micah Straughn, Jeremy Hanson, Rob Ross.

**Other Race History:** 1st Place K-400; Numerous top 3 finishes in Hillclimb, Hillcross, Cross Country, Arctic Man, and Snowcross; 19 top 10, 17 top 5 finishes.



## Ryan Sottosanti

Age: 48 From: Wasilla

Riding: Polaris

Status: Rookie

**Race History:** 2010 Iron Dog top rookie 6th place; Finished the Iron Dog in the top ten 9 times with many top 5 finishes and 2 podium finishes.

**Bio:** I am from Wasilla AK and am the owner of Big State Mechanical. I have a beautiful wife Heather and daughter Faith. I have been involved with some form of racing all of my life. This will be my 13th Iron Dog and I am more hungry than ever. It should be an exciting year for the fans and we promise to not disappoint. In the off season I enjoy riding dirt bikes in the mountains. I also enjoy spending time at the lake, ocean fishing, jet skiing, wake surfing, hunting, and spending time out on the golf course with my wife and daughter. Alaska is one of the most beautiful places on earth, and I appreciate everything the state has to offer.

**Personal Sponsors:** Heather Sottosanti Faith Sottosanti Al Sottosanti Everybody in the villages that help us out along the way.

**Other Race History:** 2008 Mayors Cup 3rd place; 2009 Mayors cup 2nd place. Trapper Creek 200 2nd place; K150 2nd, 3rd & 5th place. Alyeska Cross Country 1st & 4th place. Arctic Man 7th, 5th & 3rd place.



## TEAM 10

**Team Sponsors:** Polaris Racing, Klim, Walker Evans Racing, Eagle River Polaris & Arctic Cat, Stud Boy Traction, Starting Line Products, Cold Creek Extracts, Big State Mechanical, Polaris Engineered Lubricants, Spernak & Son, Finishing Edge, Fine Line Interiors, Anchorage Sheet Metal, Northern

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## TEAM 14

**Team Sponsors:** Value Liquor IBEW 1547 Fine Line Interiors Viking Electric QSI Pile Driving Lineworks Tri Jet Manufacturing Baileys Rental Spernak & Sons Palmer Dental Stewart Title of Alaska; Swole City Deena Bishop Boylan Boyz Racing Leslie Racing, Polaris Racing, Fly Racing, Hydrate Alaska, Anchorage Yamaha & Polaris, Kanady Chiropractic Center, Dalton Refrigeration, Jasen Funeral Homes, Statewide Door and Glass, Studboy, Rox, Speedwerks, Polaris Engined Lubricants, Dooley's Athletics Supply



### Casey Boylan

Age: 31 From: Palmer  
Riding: Polaris 600 Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2017: sixth place, 2018: fifth place, 2019: third place, 2020: DNF, 2021: second place, 2022: DNF, 2023: second place, 2024: second place, 2025: second place

**Bio:** I was born and raised Alaskan and have been on a snowmobile since I was 9 months old strapped to my dad's chest. I grew up riding in Petersville with his family and friends. I still love getting back to my roots and riding with my dad and now with my daughter. I started racing snocross locally in 2006 and eventually traveled to race the ISOC series from 2009-2014. I love anything outdoors and with a motor: from hunting to motocross. I am always trying to improve myself on and off the sled.

**Personal Sponsors:** Roger Boylan; Jordan Starr Family & Friends Alaska Realtor- McKenzie LaBuda.

**Other Race History:** 2010 ISOC National Sport Super Stock-1st, 2nd & 3rd place 2011 Podiumed every National 2012 Pro Lite ISOC Regional champion 2012 Pro Lite ISOC National multiple top 5 finishes. 2013 Pro Stock ISOC Regional champion 2014 Arctic Man men's snowboard win 2015 Mayors Cup Cross Country pro class win 2017 Mayors Cup- 3rd place pro class 2017 Skwetena 200-2nd place 2018 Mayors Cup-1st place 2020 Mayors Cup- 2nd place 2023 Mayors Cup- 1st place 2024 Mayors Cup- 1st place, Mayors cup 2025 1st place.



### Bryan Leslie

Age: 32 From: Anchorage  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** Iron Dog 2017-6th; Iron Dog 2018-5th; Iron Dog 2019-3rd; Iron Dog 2020-DNF; Iron Dog 2021-2nd; Iron Dog 2022- DNF; 2023- 2nd; 2024- 2nd.

**Bio:** Born and raised in Alaska, I grew up riding snowmachines at a young age with the family. With a competitive edge I soon got into motocross, racing for many years. Now working for the IBEW 1547 doing electrical work from intersections to commercial wiring. During my free time I enjoy sending time at the cabin, fishing, and hanging out with my family.

**Personal Sponsors:** Walker Evans, Jordan Starr, Roger Boylan, Family & Friends

**Other Race History:** 2015 AMMC semi pro champ; 2015 Larry Heal-1st; 2015 Arctic Man Ice-X-1st.



## TEAM 17

**Team Sponsors:** Ski Doo, Team CC, Mountain High Services, Triple L Repair, RMG Real Estate, JJC Enterprises, JJ Industrial Tools, AK Shockworks, IUOE Local 49, Nadeau Companies, Alaska Ground Screw, Woody's Traction, C&A Pro Skis, 139 Designs, Grip n Rip Racing, Trijet Manufacturing, Fine Line Interiors, Powermadd, Trailtank, Zimmerman And Wallace, Chris Liffrig Insurance Company, Carbon Pursuit, Fly Racing, FXR.



### Dustin Dohrn

Age: 31 From: Elgin, MN  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2022 Iron Dog finish (8th) 2022 Iron Dog finish (13th)

**Bio:** I'm from Elgin, Minnesota. I've raced Cross Country snowmobiles in the lower 48 for 16 years. I have raced three Iron Dogs and finished two times. I am a heavy equipment operator in the local 49. I have a very supportive wife Alyssa and two sons Layton and Weston. In the offseason I enjoy hunting, fishing, riding dirt bikes and road bikes.

**Personal Sponsors:** My wife Alyssa, my dad and brother Dillon.

**Other Race History:** 2020 USXC Semi Pro Stock points champion. 2020 USXC Semi Pro Improved points champion. 2017 Semi Pro Stock 2nd place in points championship. 2017 Semi Pro Improved points champion. 2017 I-600 3rd place (Semi-Pro).



### Gage Schaack

Age: 32 From: Cold Bay  
Riding: Ski-Doo  
Status: Rookie

**Race History:** Iron Dog 2022: DNF, 2021 Mayor's Cup: 1st place Semi-pro, 2022 Mayor's Cup: 6th place pro, 2023 Mayor's Cup: 5th place pro, 2025 Mayor's Cup 10th place.

**Bio:** I'm a lifelong Alaskan, born and raised in Nelson Lagoon/Cold Bay and now live in Eagle river.

I work for JJC Enterprises as a heavy equipment operator during the summer months and ride sleds as much as I can during the winter.

**Personal Sponsors:** My family and girlfriend Mara Froemling, Joe Brady, John Maxwell, Kody Worley, Blake Elder, Joe Copeland, the Larson family, Cody Cook, James Bohnke.



## TEAM 18

**Team Sponsors:** Sourdough Express, Frost Bite Builders, Delta Power Sports Fairbanks, Klim, Alaska Range, Sabin Landscaping, Alaska Hose Supply, Polaris, SLP, Hollenbeck Painting, Carroll Racing, Gunderson Painting, Country Financial, Stump Grinders, The Spur, Vertex, TDM Drilling, Sause Family Transmission, Powder Coating Alaska, DK Development, DC 907, Mulcare, Glacier Grind, Impulse Electric, Cardo Radios, 49Th State Restoration, Stud Boy, Tri Jet, Interior Remote Start, Alaska Screw Jacks, Haywood, Chatanika lodge, Alpine Medical, Elite Real Estate Group, Arctic Technical Services, Hayward Power Sports, Carroll Racing.



### Austin Carroll

Age: 19 From: Fairbanks  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** Iron Dog '24 13th place, Iron dog '25 12th place.

**Bio:** My name is Austin Carroll (Team #18) I was born and raised in Fairbanks, Ak I have been riding snowmachines my whole life and racing snow-cross, and cross country races for about 6 years. I've raced races such as the Iron dog, mayors cup, skwetna 200, and other races. I love to hunt and fish during the summer time and race/ride dirtbikes with my friends. I'd like to thank everyone who is supporting me and my teammate Corbin Hollenbeck.

**Personal Sponsors:** Delta powersports, Klim, Polaris, Sourdough Fuel Express, Frost Bite Builders.

**Other Race History:** 2023 Arctic Man 2nd place cross country, Arctic Man Snow X 2nd, Mayors Cup Junior Pro 2nd, Valdez Hill Climbs 2nd, Valdez Hill Cross 2nd, Fairbanks Snow Cross 3rd.



### Corbin Hollenbeck

Age: 19 From: North Pole  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** My name is Corbin Hollenbeck (Team #18) I was born and raised in Alaska I have been riding snowmachines my whole life and racing snow-



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cross, and cross country races for about 6 years. I've raced races such as the Iron dog, mayors cup, skwentna 200, and other races. I love to hunt during the summer time and race/ride dirtbikes with my friends. I'd like to thank everyone who is supporting me and my teammate Austin Carroll.

**Personal Sponsors:** Delta powersports, Klim, Polaris, Sourdough Fuel Express, Frost Bite Builders.



## TEAM 19

**Team Sponsors:** Yellow Jacket Oilfield Services, Peninsula Powersports, Moose River Dental, Skwentna Roadhouse, FOsters Construction,

Sweeny's Clothing, Stud Boy Traction, KLIM, Trijet.



### Chad Moore

Age: 43 From: Sterling  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** Iron Dog 2022 DNF, 2023 Finish, 2025 Finish, Skwentna 200, Mayor's Cup 2021-2025, Hatcher's Pass Boulder Dash 2025.

**Bio:** I'm a born and raised Alaskan. I have been riding snowmachines since I can remember. Love to be out in Alaska's remote backcountry summer and winter and spending time at my rural cabin with my family. I've been married to my biggest supporter/sponsor Janee for 16 years and we have raised three beautiful daughters together in this great state.

**Other Race History:** Mayor's cup 21, Skwentna 200 3rd PC 21 Mayor's cup 22 2nd SP, Skwentna 200 22 Mayor's cup 23 2nd Vets



### Tim Gossett

Age: 38 From: Wasilla  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2024 Iron Dog Rookie of the year Skwentna 200: 1st 2022, 1st 2023. Valdez Mayors cup: 4th 2023, 8th 2025 Hatcher's Pass Boulder Dash: 10th 2022, 9th 2023, 2nd 2025. DSMR (Noorvik): 3rd 2025.

**Bio:** Tim flew support for Team 16 Gossett/Wood in 2023 as his wife Hillarie became an Iron Dog Veteran before becoming one himself in 2024 with partner Joseph Gugel, finishing in 7th place as rookies of the year. In 2025 Tim and Hillarie ran together finishing in 11th place as the first husband/wife team to finish the Pro class. While Iron Dog 2026 wasn't part of the plan, when good friend Chad Moore pitched the idea it was too enticing to pass up.

**Personal Sponsors:** Hillarie and the kids, Cindi Herman, Joseph Gugel, Crosby & Erin, Mimi & Poppy, K Ting Ting.

**Other Race History:** Skwentna 200: 1st 2022, 1st 2023. Valdez Mayors cup: 4th 2023, 8th 2025 Hatcher's Pass Boulder Dash: 10th 2022, 9th 2023, 2nd 2025. DSMR (Noorvik): 3rd 2025



## TEAM 20

**Team Sponsors:** Klim, TeamCC, Studboy, Trijet, Donlin Gold, Knik Construction, Yankee Creek Mining, Dockmasters, Griprip Racing and Woodys Traction.



### Blake Taylor

Age: 24 From: McGrath  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** I'm from McGrath, Alaska, and have supported the Iron Dog through volunteering in communities along the trail, including McGrath, Ophir, Anchorage, and Big Lake.



### Barney Anselment

Age: 50 From: Polson, MT  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ XRS  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** Iron Dog Races-2016, 2017, 2018, 2019, 2020, 2021

**Bio:** Born and raised in Alaska on the iron dog trail, this will be my seventh iron dog race.



## TEAM 21

**Team Sponsors:** Team Arctic, Thomas Sno Sports, Countryside Sanitation LLC, Mopar Central, Lake City Towing, Tamarack Sno-Flyers, Wenzlaff Performance LLC, TeeMark, Johnny's Garage, Wayne's Dirt Work, Willey's Marine, Mark's Bar, Mystic Meadow Homes, FLY Racing, Up North Riders Inc., Eric Koch Construction, Just Drop It Tree Service, Stevo's Dock & Lift, Wyatt's Towing & Recovery, Stafford Trucking, ASAP Towing, McGregor Baking Company, The Scientists of Lighting, The Tire Barn, Mille Lacs Trails, Lewis Insulation, MoGuard LLC.



### Wyatt J. Halek-Hooper

Age: 28 From: McGregor, MN  
Riding: Arctic Cat RXC600  
Status: Rookie

**Race History:** Iron Dog 2025 DNF

**Bio:** Hello, I live in northern Minnesota and have rode snowmobiles my entire life. Throughout the years I have competed regularly racing stock car, dirt bikes, and Snowmobiles. I have a tendency to try to push myself to the next level in most things whether it be business or racing. Having the opportunity to race iron dog for the second time means a lot to me and let hope this year we can make it to the checkers!



### Adam Stafford

Age: 38 From: Aitkin, MN  
Riding: Arctic Cat RXC  
Status: Rookie

**Race History:** Iron Dog 2025 DNF

**Bio:** Im 38, born and raised in central Minnesota. Married to my wife Cassandra for 15 years with two little girls, Alessia & Calise. Been a snowmobile enthusiast forever. Spend my past time teaching my kids to ride snowmobile, and taking trips out to the mountains to ride. Looking to expand my snowmobile experience with running the Iron Dog! By trade, I own a mechanic shop and take pride in a job well done and old school customer service. I also take pride in being a volunteer firefighter in our small community of Aitkin, MN. (DNF 2025)



## TEAM 22

**Team Sponsors:** Peninsula Plowing, Freds AK Seafood, Fosters Construction, Finishing Edge, Laser Print and Graphics, Pinnacle Mechanical, Hockema Enterprises, 3T Detailing, Homer Elks Club, Pizza Box, Kenai River Haven, Tope Transportation, Trent Johnson Construction, Route 63 Realty, All American Heroes Foundation, Studboy, Straightline, Powermadd, Fly High Premium Fire Starters, Rugged Radios, Klim, Polaris Racing, SledTred, Grip N Rip Racing, Orca Theater, Caribou Hills Cabin Hoppers



### Trent Johnson

Age: 45 From: Hayward, WI  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2023 completed Iron Dog Expedition Class; 2024 dnf Iron Dog Pro Class; 2025 finished pro class 14th place.

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**Bio:** I grew up in a small town of Hayward in Northern Wisconsin, which is known for World class events and World Record Muskies, and have immersed myself in outdoor activities since day one, my #1 being snowmobiling, but I also love to ride Dirtbike, SXS, fish, hunt, and explore. I have a beautiful wife, named April, and two wonderful sons Jarrod and Addison. I own my own General Contracting And Construction Business Trent Johnson Construction LLC and build roughly 6 to 8 homes a year.

**Personal Sponsors:** Trent Johnson Construction LLC - Route 63 Realty - Up North Retreats - Fred Scheers Lumberjack Shows - Fred Scheers Lumberjack Show at the Alaska State Fair - Hayward Power Sports - Nelson Lumber and Home - Larry and Kerry Myrah - Sheldon and Laura Johnson - Kevin and Tara Johnson - Greg and Karen Johnson



## Tad Covault

Age: 46 From: Soldotna  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2022: DNF, 2023: 15th place, 2025: 15th place 2018 Arctic Man Hill Cross. Entered with a mountain sled, discovered quickly Iron Dog sleds were way faster and fly higher. I kindly took up the trail sweep position to ensure all the racers made it safely, LOL. 2005 Petersville Roadhouse Drag Races. 600 class 1st place on a borrowed 580EXT.

**Bio:** The 2025 Iron Dog Race was one for the books, lots of obstacles both natural and medical. True grit and one heck of a partner allowed us to finish the race. At the finish line I announced I was done, once again. My original goal was to finish one race and be done. Here comes round four! When you have a partner as good as Trent Johnson and the support of our amazing wives and crew, who am I to deny another attempt when it's Trent's dream. He deserves more than I could ever give. So here is to 2026 Iron Dog!! A huge thank you to all our sponsors, family, and friends that stand behind me year after year. Top 10 we are coming for you!!!!

**Personal Sponsors:** Pizza Box (Wife), Finishing Edge, Pinnacle Mechanical, Carmody Masonry, Arctic Arches, Foster Construction, Peninsula Plowing, Fred's Alaska Seafood, Mom and Dad Jolin, Peninsula Powersports, 3T Detailing, Lazer Print & Graphics, Homer Elks Lodge #2127, Hockema Enterprises, Trent Johnson Construction, Jody & Kathryn Hoskins, KLIM, Hilcorp Employees.

**Other Race History:** 2018 Arctic Man Hill cross. Finished Countless foot races to the buffet, generally 1st place



## TEAM 23

**Team Sponsors:** Deruelle & Gabrysak Designs, Gabrysak Construction, Yentna station roadhouse, Andy George, Skwentna roadhouse, Alaska farm supply, Imms inn lodge, Team CC skidoo - Korey & Barbara, Stone Law, Arctic Terra, Aurora flooring LLC, A&M aero, Valley chiropractic, VFW post 9785, Guaranteed services, Vikings slough Slednecks, Rick grey, Interstate batteries, 1023 diesel & fleet, Portage transportation, Tony & Cynthia Jacobson, Hooligans lodge, Shell lake lodge, Kent kallander - country insurance, Lynden transport, Knik construction, Alaska demolition, Weld air, Been there dump that, JRGL, Corks auto, Michael Schoder, Pacific asphalt, Charles & Fe Moore, Paul & Denice Sanderlin, Jack & Kristen Hargraves, CAC Plastics, Amy & John Davis, G'MA, KLIM, Deshka Landing Outdoor Association, Nowka Contracting, inc, WCCE LLC, Jackie's place restaurant.



## Adam Gabrysak

Age: 34 From: Willow  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ-XRS  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** I was born and raised in Alaska at our family's remote lodge on the Yentna river. Snow-machining and watching the iron dog became a huge part of my life. I live in Willow, AK with my wife Julia and our 4 children, Bruce 12, Imogen 9, Snow 6 and Danny 3. We operate a freighting service serving the Yentna and Susitna rivers. In my free time I enjoy spending time with my family and friends, being out on the trail and working on our remote cabin.



## Joseph Gabrysak

Age: 42 From: Chugiak  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ-XRS  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** I grew up in Alaska at a backcountry lodge- Yentna Station. I was raised riding and rebuilding snowmachines. I've always wanted to race the Iron Dog, but I never had time until now! I've worked drill rigs, ran coffee shops, and now in the cannabis industry. I also volunteer my free time to help the Yentna River community alongside Adam. But of all the hats I wear, my favorite is "Dad"! I live in Chugiak, AK, with my wife, Ashley, and our four daughters: Roxie-20, Amani-13, Sydaleigh-12, and Rooney-1.5 and we are expecting another girl Jan'26!

**Personal Sponsors:** Ashley Kolbeck, Roxie Gabrysak, Sydaleigh Gabrysak, Amani Gabrysak, Rooney Gabrysak, Ellie Gabrysak, Jean Gabrysak, Dan Gabrysak Senior.



## TEAM 24

**Team Sponsors:** Northern Industrial Training, Bore Tide Construction, Amped Mortgage, Alaska Line Builders, Magic Metals, Power Tronic, River City Power sports, Wilderness ski doo, IBEW 1547, Eagle River Polaris Arctic cat, Valley insurance Services, Denali Fitness, Collin Clayton, Cullenberg Custom Homes, Podium Motorsports, Alaska Realty & Investments, Umialik Insurance, Alaska Ground screw.



## Tyler Gurley

Age: 35 From: Chugiak  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ-XRS  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2024: 12th place, 2025: 10th place

**Bio:** Life long Alaskan Lineman Husband Father of two Started riding snowmobiles at an early age and grew to love it. Raced Motocross from the age of 16 into my early 30's. I started competing in cross country races at 28 years old and had to turn that into running the iron dog. In 2024 my team mate Collin Clayton and I were able to finish and earn our veteran status in 2025 my team mate Collin Clayton and I broke into the top 10.

**Personal Sponsors:** Steven Dwyer Katie Sindorf.



## Kris Sindorf

Age: 33 From: Palmer  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ-XRS  
Status: Rookie

**Race History:** 2016: Finished, 2024: Finished

**Bio:** A proud resident of Wasilla, Alaska. I take pride in being a dedicated father and husband, to my wife Katie and three young adventurers Everly, Dean and Westin. With two decades of competitive motorsports experience, I am thrilled to gear up for another exhilarating Iron Dog Journey. Huge thanks to everyone who supports Team 24!

**Personal Sponsors:** Katie Sindorf, David Harris, Paul Sindorf, Collin Clayton, Brandon Burmeister.

**Other Race History:** Boulder Dash 23' 4th place Pro finish.



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## TEAM 25

**Team Sponsors:** Brothers Motorsports, KLIM, Trijet Manufacturing, Team CC



### Dan Zimmerman

Age: 61 From: Nisswa, MN  
Riding: Ski-Doo Comp 600  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2 expedition class finishes, and 2 pro class entries

**Bio:** I'm just an old guy out having fun on a snowmachine in Alaska.

**Personal Sponsors:** Northern Shores Boat Storage.

**Other Race History:** I-500 1987-91 along with numerous sanctions in Minnesota



### C.J. Vandeputte

Age: 33 From: Nisswa, MN  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ XR-S  
Comp 600R E-TEC  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** I was born and raised in Central, MN where I still call home with my Wife Ashley. My family was in the powersports industry my whole life so riding snowmobiles and dirt bikes is just something I have always done. I spend most of my free time riding, hunting, or fishing.

**Personal Sponsors:** Brothers Motorsports, my Wife Ashley, Mother Kathy, and Brother Brandon.

**Other Race History:** USCC and USXC Competitor 2008-2012

## TEAM 27 SCRATCHED

**Team Sponsors:** MD Toolbox, KLIM, Golden Gate Kooikers, The Healthy Teen Project, and Monterey Search Dogs



### Mark Stratton

Age: 53 From: Sunnyvale, CA  
Riding: Arctic Cat  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** Mark Stratton is a lifelong adventurer and motorsports enthusiast, bringing grit, determination, and a love for the outdoors to his first Iron Dog race in 2026. Growing up with a passion for machines and the wilderness, Mark has spent years building the endurance, technical skills, and mindset needed to take on the world's

toughest snowmobile race. Racing alongside him is his lifelong friend and teammate, whom he first met in 1st grade. From childhood through adulthood, the two have pushed each other in countless activities and adventures, making their Iron Dog partnership a natural extension of their shared drive to test limits and chase challenges. Adding even more strength to the team, Mark's father, Mark Stratton Sr., will also be part of the 2026 effort. Spending half of the year in Funny River, Alaska, Mark Sr. brings deep Alaskan experience and family pride to the team's foundation. Beyond racing, the team is committed to giving back. They have partnered with the Healthy Teen Project to help raise awareness for teens struggling with eating disorders, as well as with the Monterey Bay Search Dogs and the Goldengate Kooiker Kennel, aligning their race efforts with causes close to their hearts. With Iron Dog 2026 on the horizon, Team "Trail Brothers" is ready to test their preparation, teamwork, and determination against Alaska's most unforgiving terrain. Their ultimate goal: to inspire others to embrace adventure, to highlight the importance of community, and to prove that perseverance and passion can conquer the wild.

**Personal Sponsors:** Mark Sr. and Laurie Stratton, Connie and David Hoisington



### Craig Conner

Age: 53 From: Henderson, NV  
Riding: Arctic Cat ZR600 RXC  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** I am a business owner, husband and father to two daughters. Originally from Washington state, I love outdoors, fishing, golfing, sports, traveling and spending time with family. I started skiing when I was 6 but took to snowmobiling when I was in my early 20s. Although parenthood and a relocation to Henderson, NV forced me to take a break from snowmobiling, I am excited to join my childhood friend as rookies in this year's IronDog. In our nearly 5 decades of friendship, we have experienced many things together and look forward to one more of those experiences of a lifetime.

**Personal Sponsors:** MDToolbox, Supreme Power Sports



## TEAM 30

**Team Sponsors:** KLIM; PowerMadd; Woodys Traction; Trijet; Last Frontier Solutions; Alaska West Air Service; Polar Plank LLC; Alaska West Air, Redoubt Bay Lodge, Cruz Construction



## Dustin Scalisi

Age: 30 From: Palmer  
Riding: Polaris Indy Cross Country  
Status: Rookie



**Bio:** Being raised in Alaska, my passion is everything outdoors. If I'm not working construction, I'm out in the backcountry riding, hunting, and looking for things to do that haven't been done before. The greatest privilege of my life is my amazing wife and 4 kids. I'm extremely grateful for their support. I've been riding snowmachines since I was 9 and racing since 2018. Racing has become a passion and racing the iron dog has been a life long dream of mine. I'm excited for the opportunity to accomplish that dream this year and further my racing experience.

## Duncan Brewer

Age: 31 From: Nikiski  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie



**Bio:** Born and raised Alaskan with a passion for the outdoors. I am a Pilot for the families Air Taxi and a father to one daughter. My racing career is only a few years in the making but it has grown into one of the most fulfilling journeys I've taken. Thank you Iron Dog and the great state of Alaska for this opportunity.



## TEAM 31

**Team Sponsors:** Kimberly & Joe Bowers, Thrifty car rental.



## Devon Esmailka

Age: 33 From: Kaltag  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** My name is Devon Esmailka, I grew up in a little village of Kaltag, AK along the Yukon. My Dad and uncles have done this race in 1999 and got 3rd place and rookie of the year. This year race will be special as I am doing it with my younger brother Kenneth. This will be second generation of Esmailka Brothers.

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## Kenneth Esmailka

Age: 19 From: Kaltag  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** My Name is Kenneth Esmailka, this is my First Iron dog, I'll be racing with my older Brother Devon, I grew up in a small remote area, along the mighty Yukon. it'll be a special run for us this year as my dad and uncle ran it in 1999 and got rookie of the year.



## TEAM 33

**Team Sponsors:** Klim, Woodys traction, Powermadd, Grip n rip racing, Alaska grown cannabis, Cascade Clutch and Performance, Team cc, Maniilaq, Northwest electric, Busters Performance, The wives Candice and Shylena, Martin and momcy, Unch Schuerch, Cody White, Harold lambert, Robbie Schroeder, James Sweetsir, Mickey and Jayme, Paulette Schuerch, Toby Monroe, Naaquaqs handsewn creations, Mark "House Cat" Lee, Ben and Ashley Payenna, Frank Lane, Bebix Bolton, Shayne Pungowi, Luke smith, Adam Greene, Mark McKenna



## George Lambert

Age: 37 From: Kotzebue  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ  
Status: Rookie

**Race History:** Iron Dog Pro Class in 2013, 2023, 2024

**Bio:** I got married to the love of my life Candice Lambert last New Year's Eve on the ice after I finished the knight riders race. We have 10 kids and 1 grandchild.

**Personal Sponsors:** Candice Lambert and kids, Harold Lambert, Paulette Schuerch, Mickey and Jayme, Unch Schuerch, Martin and Momcy,



## Thor Lie

Age: 42 From: Kotzebue  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** I was born and raised in Kotzebue, Alaska. Married my wife Shylena in 2018 we have 5 sons and a daughter due this September. My family and I live the subsistence lifestyle and enjoy being outdoors. I have always enjoyed snow machine racing, outdoor sports, boating, spending time with family and friends.

**Personal Sponsors:** Shylena Lie and my Boys, Mickey Jorgensen, Jamie Reed, Radar and Candice Lambert, Mike Hensley, Frank Lane, Mike Lie



## TEAM 34

**Team Sponsors:** Spain Excavating, Marten Creek Freighting, Wilco Contractors, Hans Eng-EG Electric, Valley General Construction-Josh Hooks, Burnt Toast, Far North Bookkeeping, Thermo-Kool of Alaska, Knik Construction, Bentalt Point Fish Camp, Wild North Services, Corks Auto Inc. Palmer, Ak, D&D Equipment, Northbound Fitness, Pioneer Lodge, Shaky's Bar, Solitude Fly Co., Towhead Lake Resort, Luther Chiropractic Center, Built Wright Fabrication, Ashley Wood, Brett Lapham, Shane & Tammy Barber, Chad Thacker, Owen Bouslaugh, Bernie Gheringer, Jim Miller, Don & Kari Stephens, Max Lutrell, Dick Frazier, Matt Bryant, Andrew Hofer, Jane Larson, Paul & Denise Sandelin, Fil & Maria, Terri Gagne, PowerMadd, Klim



## David Spain

Age: 42 From: Willow  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie

**Race History:** 2007 dnf, 2017 dnf, 2020 dnf

**Bio:** My name is David Spain and I am a 3rd generation Alaskan. I'm 42 years old, and have been running heavy equipment almost all my life. After spending 14 years in the Local 302 Operating Engineers on and off the North Slope, I decided to open my own company so I could be home with my family every night. I have been an avid snowmachiner since the age of 5 and have been riding most of my life. I have participated in quite a few races, including the K150, K200, K400, Skwentna 200, Mayor's Cup, and Iron Dog. My family and I are looking forward to this year's race season. I have the support and dedication of my lovely wife of 21 years and our three children - Brayden, Dawson and Taylor.

**Other Race History:** Mayors Cup, K150, K200, K400, Ice Racing



## Jody Payton

Age: 33 From: Willow  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** My name is Jody Payton, and I live in Willow, Alaska with my wife and our three sons. I enjoy riding snowmachines up and down the trails from Willow to Skwentna and throughout the surrounding mountains—something I've been doing since growing up along the Yentna River. When I'm not adventuring with friends and family, you can still find me on the river—hauling freight by snowmachine in the winter or running my barge in the summer. I'm new to the Iron Dog world, but I'm ready to give this race everything I have alongside my partner, David.



## TEAM 39

**Team Sponsors:** Aurora Drilling & Consulting, Team 15 Bergeron/Bernier, Diversified Tire, Valley Imaging, Rock Solid Pile Company, Stitt Construction, Spernak and Son, Palmer Dental Center, Willow Equipment Rentals, Alaska Quality Builders, Klim, Willow Hatcher Pass Polaris, Veit & Veit CPAs, Alaska Line Builders, Power Madd



## Shane Barber

Age: 51 From: Willow  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** Iron Dog 2000, 2004, 2006, 2007, 2009, 2014, 2015, 2018, 2019, 2023, 2025

**Bio:** I am a born and raised Alaskan with some Southern heritage. I live in Willow Alaska with my wife "Tammy" where we raised our 3 kids, Cody, Shana and Evan. Our family has been involved with Iron Dog since the very first race in 1984. We now have had 3 generations racing Iron Dog and it appears to be more to come. I am extremely thankful and excited about racing with my beautiful daughter "Shana" in this years Iron Dog. What a wonderful life. This will be my 20th race.

**Personal Sponsors:** I would like to thank my wife Tammy for all her support thru the years. I am thankful to the many friends and family that have taken me in and allowed me into their homes as tho I was an old friend every year on the trail. Thank you for all the support from friends and family that follow us each and every year and keeping us in their thoughts and prayers throughout the race. Its all appreciated. Thank you.

**Other Race History:** Been racing a long time. Its been fun.



## Shana Lapham

Age: 33 From: Willow  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** I was born and raised in Hatcher Pass. My husband and I are living in Willow and raising our daughters with the same love for the outdoors and sense of adventure that we have, as was passed down to us from our own families. I love being a wife and a mama to our two beautiful daughters and I work as a Senior Accountant for Veit & Veit CPAs doing taxes. In my free time I am just playing outside with my family, enjoying and exploring God's country!

**Personal Sponsors:** I'd like to thank my husband for his love and support and for being a great dad and



# IRON DOG PRO CLASS 2026

partner so I can step away and take the time to do this race. Thank you to my parents for supporting me in this, especially my dad for doing it with me! Thank you to my mother in law and sister in law for always being available to help with our daughters! Thank you to all our family and friends who have supported us financially and spiritually through love, support, and prayers!

**Other Race History:** Valdez Mayor's Cup, Larry Heal Memorial Race, Hatcher Pass Boulder Dash, Ice X, Skwentna 200, Arctic Man



## Jim Baldwin

Age: 51 From: Noorvik  
Riding: Ski-Doo 600 XRS Comp  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** Born and raised in northwest alaska. With my family, i enjoy being outdoors on the kobuk river. i am a proud father of 4, Tyra, TeHana, Brenna Boo, Little Jim.

**Other Race History:** Kotzebue Race, ACRA Kotz - Kiana, Nome Golovin most recently: 2021 Kotzebue Race 3rd place in open class.



## Quincy Williamson

Age: 27 From: Noorvik  
Riding: Ski-Doo  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** Quincy Williamson from Noorvik Alaska - I like to ride snowgos.

**Personal Sponsors:** Team CC, Bubba Grub, family.



**Team Sponsors:** Northern Asphalt, Handy Berm Containment Systems, Great Alaska Pizza Company.



## Haakon Wold

Age: 20 From: Wasilla  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ-XRS  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2023: 10th place, 2024: 9th place, 2025: DNF

**Bio:** Born and raised in Alaska. I love all Motorsports and being outdoors.

**Personal Sponsors:** mom and dad.

**Other Race History:** Mayors Cup in Valdez, Skwentna 200, 2023 and 2024 Iron Dog finish



## Tyler Reese

Age: 21 From: Anchorage  
Riding: Ski-Doo XRS Comp  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2024: 9th place 2025: DNF

**Bio:** Born and raised in Alaska enjoy spending summers on the water at the cabin and winters skiing and riding Snogos with friends and family

**Other Race History:** 2023 skwentna 200 semi pro 1st, 2021 big lake 500 3rd 2025 mayors cup semi pro 3rd

**Personal Sponsors:** My Wife Christina, My sons Rylan and Brendan, Rick and Kelly, Mom Kathy, RT and Teresa Lindner, Jay and Ginger in Ruby, Susie in Kaltag, Miller family in Nome, Jon Wagner, Team 82 Travis and Caitlin Elison, James Hiltunen at HILT, Kyle Malemute, Team Carroll, Hollenbeck's and so many more.

**Other Race History:** 2024 Mayors Cup 3rd place Vet class



## TEAM 42

**Team Sponsors:** Ryan Air, Randy, MaryJane, Zeb & Nikki Scherer, Boyuck, Vicki, Lee, Chelsea & Gavin Ryan, Tiffiny Wohlers with Impakt Athletics, Tony and Angie Gorn, Team CC, Calia and Jerney Simkaowski



## Eric Sieh

Age: 51 From: Kotzebue  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** Born in Hayward, WI, I've lived in Kotzebue, AK for the past 30+ years. When I'm not flying, I enjoy hunting, fishing, trapping, camping and spending time with my wife, Chelsea, and family: Colby, Courtney, Jaidon, Colton, Calia & Jerney, and Aero.

**Personal Sponsors:** Sending a big thank you to Tyler & Erin Aklestad, Nick & Brianne Olstad, Jimmy & Kim Baldwin, Reagan Free Rangers (Farm Fresh Eggs from Talkeetna, AK), Jade Hill



## Colton Sieh

Age: 27 From: Kotzebue  
Riding: Ski-Doo MX Z COMP  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** Born and raised in Kotzebue, AK. Been riding snow machines from a young age hunting, fishing, and trapping. Love being outdoors any chance I get. I work as an aircraft mechanic in Kotzebue.

**Personal Sponsors:** Eric and Chelsea Sieh, Arctic Backcountry Flying Service, Mom, Bailey, Jaidon, Aero, all of my sisters, Chuck and Tracey, Ryan Air, Randy and Maryjane



# IRON DOG PRO CLASS 2026



## TEAM - 45

**Team Sponsors:** Hanson Racing Engines, Felegy Racing, Lindor Tool, BMP, EFW, KLIM, Durapro, Power Madd, Polaris Racing, Jeff Small Engine,伍兹, HHR C&A Pro



### Eric Christensen

Age: 59 From: Centuria, WI  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** Iron Dog 2025 13th Place, Iron dog 2024 14th place, 2023 13th place, 2022 Ambassador finisher

**Bio:** Born-raised in Centuria Wisconsin. Employed at Polaris Industries, Powertrain Sr. Project leader, 32 years. Married to Julie for 22 years.

**Personal Sponsors:** Julie and Jared Christensen, Natalie Christensen. Gary Smetana, Chase Hedrick

**Other Race History:** I have participated in 22 1500's starting in 1988. Finished in top 10 pro's and podium finishes in 40+ and 50+.



### Luke Christensen

Age: 30 From: Milltown, WI  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** I grew up dairy farming with my Dad, Uncle and Grandma on the family farm in Centuria Wisconsin and I continue to crop farm. I also, have been a heavy equipment mechanic in the Local 49 Union for 10 years with various construction companies in Minnesota. My hobbies are spending time outdoors, hunting, fishing, trapping and farming. I've been married to my wonderful and supportive wife, Natalie, for 4 years and have a beautiful daughter, Ella, who will be 2yrs old in January. Snowmobiles have always been a big part of my life, and I look forward to participating in the world's longest, toughest snowmobile race with my uncle Eric and visiting Alaska for the first time.

**Personal Sponsors:** Natalie & Ella Christensen, Jared Christensen, Alex Hetteen, Gary smetana, Tom Loegering

**Other Race History:** started racing with USXC in 2017, COR powersports 2019 - present, Four i-500 finishes



## TEAM - 48

**Team Sponsors:** KLIM, Amsoil, Alaska Safety, River City Power Sports, Wilderness Skii Doo



### Paul Sindorf

Age: 63 From: Palmer  
Riding: Lynx Rave RE 600  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 1998: Finished, 2000: Finished, 2001: Finished, 2002: Finished, 2004: Finished, 2006: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2015: Finished, 2016: Finished, 2018

**Finished, 2020: Finished, 2024: Finished**

**Bio:** I am a lifelong Alaskan that finds fulfillment in the balance of family, work, and adventure. I am a husband and father of four that contributes to Alaska's prosperity through my work in the oil and gas industry. Embracing the spirit of the Last Frontier, I am an avid outdoorsman. Whether casting a line in remote waters, conquering single track trails on my mountain bike, or navigating snowy landscapes on skis, I thrive on the challenges of Alaska's wild beauty.

**Personal Sponsors:** Mary Sindorf, David Harris, Katherine Devine, Paul & Vivian Sindorf, Heather & Josh Morrow, Melanie Sindorf, Kris & Katie Sindorf, Jonathan and Geneva Sindorf, Ed Paulus, and John Bahnke.



### Jason Carson

Age: 39 From: Coalville, UT  
Riding: Lynx Rave RE 600  
Status: Rookie

**Bio:** Avid outdoorsman loves hunting and snowmobiling

**Personal Sponsors:** Klim

**Other Race History:** 2023 Valdez Mayors Cup



## TEAM - 49

**Team Sponsors:** Alyeska Pipeline Services Co., KLIM, SkiDoo Racing, Team CC Ski Doo, Anchorage Well and Pump Service



### Todd Palin

Age: 61 From: Big Lake  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ XRS  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 1993: Finished, 1995: first place, 1997: Finished, 1998: Finished, 2000: first place, 2001: Finished, 2002: first place, 2004: Finished, 2005: Finished, 2006: Finished, 2007: first place, 2008: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2011: Finished, 2012: Finished, 2013: Finished, 2015: Finished, 2018: Finished, 2020: Finished, 2021: Finished, 2023: Finished

**Bio:** This is Todd's 30th Iron Dog Race! He's enjoyed four first place victories, four second place finishes and several Top-10 finishes. Todd is a life long Alaskan, a commercial salmon fisherman in Bristol Bay in his hometown of Dillingham, former BP Alaska North Slope Production operator and is Alaska's former First Gentlemen. Todd is the proud parent of five great kids and 10 grandkids.

**Personal Sponsors:** L&M Supplies Dillingham, Studboy Traction Products, Dixon Aviation, Zugger Shocks, IceAge Performance, Wilderness Ski Doo Nome, Zollinger Racing Products, SLP, 131 Racing, Trail Tank, PowerMadd

**Other Race History:** Racing history: 1993: Finished, 1995: first Place, 1997: Finished, 1998: Finishea, 2000: rs, Place, 2001: Finished, 2002: first Place, 2004: Finished, 2005: Ensched, 2006: Finished, 2007: first Place, 2008: Finished, 2009: Finished, 2011: Finished, 2012: Finished, 2013: Finished, 2015: Finished, 2018: Finished, 2020: Finished, 2021: Finished 2023 finished



### Clint VanWingerden

Age: 45 From: Wasilla  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ  
Status: Veteran

**Race History:** 2014: Finished, 2015: Finished, 2016: Finished, 2017: Finished, 2018: Finished, 2019: Finished, 2020: Finished, 2021: Finished, 2022: Finished, 2023: Finished

**Bio:** Clint, his wife, Calli, and his two children, Reese and Miles, are part of Team Sons of Thunder, made up of family, friends and sponsors who align around a common belief that Jesus Christ is exactly who the Bible says he was: the Savior of the World (John 3:17). God loved you and me so much, that he sent his beloved Son Jesus, to pay the price for our sin so that we can be with him in heaven (John 3:16). It is because of this great love that we endeavor to proclaim the name of the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. It is our hope that Christ will demonstrate and extend grace to others through our effort and participation in the World's Longest, Toughest, Snowmobile race.

**Personal Sponsors:** My beautiful wife and best friend, Calli, for her love and encouragement; my cool kids, Reese and Miles, for their care and enthusiasm; my family and friends, for their continued prayers and support.

**Other Race History:** Second place, Larry Heal Memorial vet class; third place, 2022 Valdez Mayor's Cup



# IRON DOG EXPEDITION CLASS



## TEAM 51



### Kim Bergeron

Age: 57 From: Dublin  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran  
Finish: Kotzebue

**Race History:** Iron Dog Trail/Expedition Class finisher 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Pro Class, 2024 DNF. 2025 Finished

**Bio:** Kim Bergeron volunteers at the local, state, and international levels. He served ten years as County Director of New Hampshire Snowmobile Association (NHSA) and serves currently as Business Director on the NHSA Board of Directors; is Vice Chair, North East Chapter, International Snowmobile Congress; and is a member of many local snowmobile clubs in NH and AK, the Merrimack Valley Trail Riders (MVTR), New England Trail Riders Association (NETRA), and New Hampshire Off-Highway Vehicle Association (NHOHVA). Additionally, Bergeron supports trail riding in Trapper Creek and Petersville, AK, donates the use of snow machines for volunteers of the Iron Dog, and provides financial support for one of the check points of the race. Kim is happily married to wife, Jennifer, of 27 years; he has traveled down the trail with his son many times. Daughter Amanda loves to snowmachine. He shares his love of powersports by taking new riders out, both tracked and wheeled, to experience outdoor recreation.



### Jean-Pierre Bernier

Age: 54 From: Hancock, NH  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran  
Finish: Kotzebue

**Race History:** Iron Dog Trail/Expedition Class finisher 2015, 2018, 2019, 2021, 2022 and 2023. Pro Class, 2024 DNF. 2025 Finished

**Bio:** A small-business owner who has served on the Hancock Conservation Commission since 2017, working to protect local trails. A member of the Washington Snow Riders, Merrimack Valley Trail Riders (MVTR), New England Trail Rider Association (NETRA), and New Hampshire Off-Highway Vehicle Association (NHOHVA). My wilderness adventures began in my early 20s through rock/ice climbing and mountaineering throughout the Lower 48 and the Canadian Rockies and shifted into motorsports in my late 30s. My early years were spent living in the cities of New York, Miami and Fall River, Mass., and it seems like such a long, strange path between life now and then. Married to my wonderful wife, Kristen, for 25 years. Her patience and tolerance of me over the years has been endless. I am the man I am because of her. Have two great sons, Oscar and Harrison, both in their 20's. I have made three

successful Expedition Class runs and came just short in 2024 of completing the Pro Race. 2025 was the year of redemption as we were able to finish

Pro receiving the coveted Red Lantern Award!



### Randy Bedard

Age: 63 From: Willow  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Kotzebue

**Bio:** Iron Dog has become more than an annual trail ride with my friends to the finish line. Iron Dog allows me to be surrounded by positive, high energy people that make this event bigger than life. At my age, I ride smarter not harder but can still lay down a good pace and make our daily checkpoints. I keep moving forward with strong support from Family, Friends and Health Providers. Iron Dog gives me a goal to keep strong, healthy and motivated towards the finish line.



### Reed Stuart

Age: 16 From: Anchorage  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** Raised in Alaska, I've been involved in motorsports my entire life. I started racing motocross at age 5, riding snowmachines at 6, and began cross-country snowmachine racing at 14. I'm a sophomore at Dimond High School in Anchorage where I've made honor roll and am on the cross-country ski team. I'm excited to be part of our Iron Dog mother-son team this year, and to gain experience toward my goal of racing Pro Class.

**Personal Sponsors:** Polaris Racing, Anchorage Yamaha Polaris, Big Dipper Industries, DC 907 Diesels, Stud Boy Traction Products, KLIM, Portage Transportation, Skwentna Roadhouse, TriJet Manufacturing

**Other Race History:** Valdez Mayor's Cup (Junior's class 1st place 2025, 2nd place 2024); Skwentna 200 (Junior's class 2nd place, 2024); Arctic Man Cross Country (Semi-pro 1st place 2025, Junior's class 1st place 2025); Iron Pup (2nd place 2025); Scary Tree (1st place 2024); Hatcher Pass Boulder Dash; Gunsight Snow Scrambles; numerous motocross seasons and championships.



## TEAM 60



### Elizabeth Stuart

Age: 52 From: Anchorage  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** Alaskan raised, I love all things outdoors and am passionate about helping women feel comfortable with motorsports. I started the women's class at Alaska motocross races 30 years ago and enjoy seeing girls gain confidence through riding and racing. I've been able to travel around the state in my profession as a CPA, and I'm always ready to see more of it. When not riding, I'm usually hiking, fishing, or cross-country skiing. Scott and I are raising two sons, Case and Reed, in Anchorage and Willow. I'm excited to be part of an Iron Dog mother-son team!

**Personal Sponsors:** My husband Scott Stuart who is the support crew for my "good ideas," and my friends who serve as a squad of cheerleaders. Polaris Racing, Anchorage Yamaha Polaris, Big Dipper Industries, DC 907 Diesels, Stud Boy Traction Products, KLIM, Portage Transportation, Skwentna Roadhouse, TriJet Manufacturing

**Other Race History:** Valdez Mayor's Cup (Women's class 2nd place 2025, 4th place 2024); Skwentna 200 (Women's class 3rd place, 2024 and 2023); Arctic Man Cross Country (Women's class 2nd place 2025); Hatcher Pass Boulder Dash; Gunsight Snow Scramble; many motocross seasons and championships.



## TEAM 74



### Jeremy Coleman

Age: 46 From: Chugiak  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** I retired from the Army in 2024 after 23 years of service. I am married and have 4 kids: Jacob Dylan, 26, Emil Palme, 16, Naomi Coleman, 11, and Freya Coleman, 5.

**Personal Sponsors:** Alpine Family Dentistry, Alaska Leather, Mad Hatter

# IRON DOG EXPEDITION CLASS



## Jesse Tanner

Age: 48 From: Wasilla  
Riding: Polaris XCR 650  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** I am a lifelong Alaskan looking to explore more of this incredible state. I grew up following the Iditarod and wanted to be able to see the race course from beginning to end. I am excited to experience the Iron Dog excitement and meet other Alaskans at each checkpoint and along the trail. I was born in Palmer, Alaska, and feel like the luckiest guy alive to be able to live and explore this great state with friends and family. I love the Alaskan people and the spirit of adventure that is discovered with every conversation throughout the seasons. I am a father of 2 amazing kids, Taylee, 15, and Cruz, 11, so grateful I get to pass on the lifestyle that I have been able to enjoy with them for as long as possible. I would like to give thanks to my wife, Jen, for supporting this endeavor and to all the sponsors and support network that have made it possible. My goal is to make it to Nome this year and finish the race and honor my lifelong childhood/military friend who ended his battle with pancreatic cancer in the fall of 2024.

**Personal Sponsors:** Tanner Group Real Estate, Alaska Leather, Mad Hatter, Adams Family Painting



## Hunter Mathis

Age: 27 From: Wasilla  
Riding: Arctic Cat ZR RXC 600  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** I moved to Alaska from Texas after joining the Army in 2016, where I served as an Apache Helicopter Crew Chief at Fort Wainwright. I now live and work in Wasilla, where I own and operate Nomad Barber Co. I am a recruiter/trainer for Operation Iron Warrior (OIW). OIW is a non-profit that supports veterans who not only complete the Irontdog, but also provides resources/support for veterans who live along the Irontdog trail.

**Personal Sponsors:** Operation Iron Warrior, Arctic Cat, Alaska Leather, Mad Hatter, My peeps: Alyssa, Dalton, Ramon, Frankie, Jeremiah, Brad, Scott, Hunter, Case, Bubbles, Biscuit, and SparkPlugg.



## KC Hatfield

Age: 41 From: Salcha  
Riding: Arctic Cat Zr 6000 RXC  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** KC Hatfield is a U.S. Marine Corps combat veteran, lifelong snowmachiner, and first-time Iron Dog racer representing Salcha, Alaska. Raised in Jackson Hole, Wyoming, KC grew up riding and exploring the backcountry, building a deep respect for the outdoors and the machines that make life

in extreme environments possible. After military service, KC faced significant health challenges and uncertainty about the future. Through Operation Iron Warrior, he found renewed purpose, focus, and a path forward. Racing the Iron Dog is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream and a powerful testament to resilience, determination, and the importance of team and mission beyond the uniform.

**Personal Sponsors:** KC would like to extend sincere gratitude to Arctic Cat, KLIM, AMSOIL, and Operation Iron Warrior for their support. Your commitment to performance, reliability, and community makes it possible for veterans to pursue goals that once felt out of reach. This journey would not be possible without you.



## TEAM 77



## Thomas Jamgochian

Age: 44 From: Wausau, WI  
Riding: Polaris  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** I was born and raised in Wausau Wisconsin and grew up with a passion for motorsports at a young age. My first dirt bike was a Honda mini trail 50. Raced some motocross when I was younger. I got into riding snowmachine as a teenager. I love riding anywhere but mostly done in Northern Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. I am happily married of 8 years to my awesome wife Jessika and have 3 wonderful step children Owen, Audra and Annalise. I enjoy snowmobiling, dual sport riding, hunting, golfing, boating and love being at our spot in Three Lakes WI.

**Personal Sponsors:** Rain Auto Wash, CarBuff's, Edge O Dells Resort, Sport O Motive, Sportsmans Service Center, Lang Equipment, Badgerland Overhead Door, Ciao Italian Restaurant, Hogan Eickhoff Law, Mark Schroeder and Family, Tim Roberts, Tim Myton, Advanced Fitness Service, Studboy Traction, Polaris Snowmobiles, Klim



## Eric Eickhoff

Age: 44 From: Appleton, WI  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** I am a lifelong resident of Wisconsin. This will be my first time running the Iron Dog in any capacity. I have been snowmobiling since I was 12 years old and spend most of my riding time on marked trails throughout Wisconsin and the Upper Peninsula of Michigan. Last season, I was blessed to have logged more than 4,500 miles riding with close friends who share the same passion for the sport. I have thought about doing the Iron Dog for many years, and the Expedition Class represents the opportunity to take my passion to the next level

through endurance, adventure, and commitment. Outside of snowmobiling, I enjoy boating and hiking. I would like to thank Erica, my fiancée, and Derek, our four-legged son, for their constant support leading up to this adventure.

**Personal Sponsors:** Rain Auto Wash, CarBuff's, Edge O Dells Resort, Sport O Motive, Sportsmans Service Center, Lang Equipment, Badgerland Overhead Door, Ciao Italian Restaurant, Hogan Eickhoff Law, Mark Schroeder and Family, Tim Roberts, Tim Myton, Advanced Fitness Service, Studboy Traction, Polaris Snowmobiles, Klim



## TEAM 82



## Travis Elison

Age: 44 From: Anchorage  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ ZRS Comp  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** I grew up in Fairbanks and Anchorage as a hockey player. My best friend got me into snow machines in high school and now it's a passion for the whole family. I live in Anchorage with my beautiful wife and race partner, Caitlin, and our 11 year old daughter, Cami. That's right, I'm riding with my wife. We love spending time at our cabin and riding sleds. Team 82 got involved with Iron Dog helping run the Rainy Pass checkpoint. I'm excited to ride the rest of the trail with my ride or die and to see Nome for the first time.

**Personal Sponsors:** Cat Larea and Mark McDermott, Nancy Tankersley, Cami Elison, Team 82 (2024), Ben and April Barber, Town Real Estate, Cato Motorsports, and Klim.



## Caitlin Elison

Age: 41 From: Anchorage  
Riding: Ski-Doo MXZ ZRS Comp  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** Alaska born and raised, Caitlin is a longtime volunteer for the Iron dog at the (former) Rainy Pass check point. She first started riding in 2009 when her then boyfriend (now husband) suggested they get into the sport. Caitlin and Travis are a wife and husband team that will be participating in their first Expedition class. They both hope to do it again with their daughter once she gets older. Caitlin loves all things outdoors and spending time at their remote cabin. "I'm excited for ultimate date night/week. Seeing Nome for the first time is a major bucket list item. Only made better by experiencing it with the love of my life."

**Personal Sponsors:** Team 82 would like to personally thank Cat Larea, Mark McDermott, Nancy Tankersley, Cami Elison, Team 82 (Duvlea, Swenson, Wagner, Wood 2024), Ben and April Barber, Town Real Estate, Cato Motor Sports, and Klim.



# IRON DOG EXPEDITION CLASS



## TEAM 85

**Team Sponsors:** Alaska Cub, Rugged Radios, The Campbell Family



### Jeremiah Brewington

Age: 48 From: Wasilla  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Race History:** 2022 Iron Dog Expedition Class Finisher, 2023 Iron Dog Expedition Class Finisher, 2025 Iron Dog Pro Class DNF

**Bio:** Born and raised in Alaska, Jeremiah joined the U.S. Army in 1995. He returned home after service in 2016. Through various veterans non-profit organizations such as Battle Dogs and Paul Thacker's Warrior rides, Jeremiah was re-introduced to the world of snowmachine racing. In 2022, Jeremiah completed his first ride on the Iron Dog completing the expedition class, then completed it again in 2023. Jeremiah and one of his team mates from the the first year are attemptd to race in the pro-class in 2025, however due to a training injury, Jeremiah had to scratch. This year, he will be riding the trail as an expedition class ride with his Tom Snell, who attempted to make it to nome in 2024, but was not able to finish.

**Personal Sponsors:** Alaska Cub, Bambi Brewington, The Snell Family, The Campbell Family, Alaska Cub, Hatcher Pass Polaris



### Thomas Snell

Age: 56 From: Alton, NH  
Riding: Ski-Doo XRS Comp  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Race History:** Iron Dog attempt in 2024.

**Bio:** I've been professionally in the snowmobile industry since 1991 and after recent weight loss surgery, wanted to live a dream and participate in the Iron Dog event.

**Personal Sponsors:** Woody's Traction Backwoods BMP Bumpers Grip-n-Rip Racing Products Rugged Radios Cobra Cord

**Race History:** Several seasons as a mechanic on snow cross and grass drag teams.



## TEAM 87



### William Magnuson

Age: 38 From: Ham Lake, MN  
Riding: Polaris XCR  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Race History:** 2022 Iron Dog Expedition Class Finisher, 2023 Iron Dog Expedition Class Finisher, 2025 Iron Dog Pro Class DNF

**Bio:** I live in New York, and grew up in Minnesota, I respect hard work and tasteful irreverence, I want to go ice cave spelunking on Europa



### Jenniffer Lewin

Age: 51 From: New York, NY  
Riding: Polaris  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** Born on Maui and long based in Colorado, I now live and work in New York City. Many years of snowmachining in Minnesota with my husband and his family have inspired my deep connection to the northern landscape and the sense of motion, light, and community that shape my large-scale interactive artworks.



### Darwin Magnuson

Age: 70 From: Ham Lake, MN  
Riding: Polaris XCR  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** I have lived in Minnesota my whole life and love snowmobiling. I have always wanted to do the Iron Dog Run. This is my opportunity and I'm very excited for the challenge.



### Jeff Gorton

Age: 54 From: Willow  
Riding: Polaris XCR  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Nome

**Bio:** I am a lifelong Alaskan with a deep passion for snowmachining — I started riding to our family cabin at age eight and have been exploring Alaska's backcountry ever since. I've had the privilege of breaking trail for two Iditarods from Willow to Nome and have spent countless hours riding to my cabin at Shell Lake. Recently, I earned my private pilot's license and currently work as the owner and operator of Alaskan Luxury Cruises. While I now spend more time on the water and in the air, I'm excited for the opportunity to spend time on one of the toughest trails with friends in the Expedition Class.

**Personal Sponsors:** Braze Inc, Jen Lewin Studios



## TEAM 88



### Paul Soberg

Age: 56 From: Mound, MN  
Riding: Arctic Cat  
Status: Rookie  
Finish: Kotzebue

**Bio:** Born and raised in Minnesota. Graduated from Hoffmann Kensington High School in west central Minnesota and married my wife Kari in 2002. I was an owner/operator of a manufacturing business for 25 years and retired in the Fall of 2025. I grew up riding motorcycles and snowmobiles and have always enjoyed spending time outdoors. My current hobbies include hunting, fishing, camping, boating, dirt bike riding, motorcycle trips and snowmobiling. I have been back country riding in western states for 30 years.



### Michael Telkamp

Age: 56 From: Hoffman, MN  
Riding: Arctic Cat XC6000  
Status: Veteran  
Finish: Kotzebue

**Race History:** 2014 Iron Dog Trail Class finisher with a team of seven. 2015 Iron Dog Trail Class finisher, 2016 DNF, 2017 Iron Dog Pro 12th Place Finish, 2020 Iron Dog Expedition Class Finisher, 2022 Trail Class Finisher, 2023 Trail Class Finish, 2024 Trail Class Finish

**Bio:** Born and raised in Hoffman, MN. I have owned and operated my family farm for 33 years. I've been married to my wife, Kris, since 1992. 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. In 2020, I did the Expedition class with Charlie Potter and Brian Jurenka, 2024 year with Brian Jurenka and David Schreier and last year with Paul Soberg and Brian. Alaska has been a part of my life for many years now and it's been a great experience with many new friends made along the way.

**Personal Sponsors:** Thank you to my wife, Kris as well as my family and friends. The encouragement and support from everyone is appreciated.



**Brian  
Jurenka**

Age: 44 From: Eagle River  
Riding: Polaris Cross Country  
Status: Veteran  
Finish: Kotzebue

**Race History:** Ironton 2012 Trail class finisher, 2013 Pro class DNF, 2015 Pro class 18th.

**Bio:** He works as a Mechanic on the North Slope. When not working, he enjoys being a full-time dad to his new son, William. He also enjoys hiking, hunting, fishing, playing hockey and working around the house.

**Personal Sponsors:** William and family.

**Other Race History:** GCI ArcticMan Classic 2014 Men's Adaptive ski 4th place, 2013 Men's Adaptive ski 4th place, 2005 Men's Snowboard 5th place. Alaska Moto Mushers Club semi-pro sno-cross series, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009. Alaska Moto Mushers Club cross-country race series semi-pro 50-200-mile races 2003-2015. Valdez Mayors Cup cross-country race semi-pro 150 miles, 2003-2018.



# AMBASSADOR CLASS 2026

## Experience, safety, and storytelling along the Iron Dog trail

The Iron Dog Snowmachine Race has always demanded more than speed. It asks for judgment, preparation, respect for the trail, and an understanding that Alaska sets the terms, not the riders. That philosophy is at the heart of the Iron Dog Ambassador Class, a program designed to represent the race, its sponsors, and the communities along the route while promoting snowmachine safety and education.

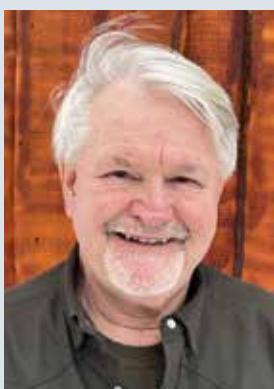
In 2026, eight riders make up the Ambassador Team. These ambassadors bring decades of combined riding, racing, engineering, and industry experience to the trail, including two Polaris employees who add a behind-the-scenes perspective on snowmachine design and durability.

While they won't be chasing the Pro Class podium, these riders will be doing something equally important: showing what it means to ride prepared, ride smart, and ride with purpose.

### The Three Old Guys

By now, most Iron Dog fans know the story - "The Three Old Guys".

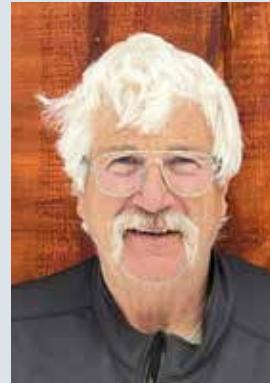
In 2023, Rob Hallstrom, Rex Hibbert, and Paul Dick pointed their Arctic Cats north and didn't stop until they reached Fairbanks, traveling more than 5,000 miles over 38 days from Minnesota to Alaska. What began as a "what if" turned into a full-scale winter expedition stitched together by forgotten trails, frozen rivers, historic trapping routes, and long days with no guarantees.



**Rob Hallstrom** is an endurance rider and lifelong adventurer who has been snowmobiling for more than 50 years. With a deep passion for remote travel, he has logged thousands of miles on rugged winter routes and backcountry terrain.

Two of the three, Hibbert and Dick, are no strangers to the Iron Dog competition, having raced in the 1994 Gold Rush Classic and finished third overall. Nearly three decades later, they returned not to race a clock, but to

reconnect with the communities and landscapes that define the event.



**Rex Hibbert** is a veteran, a true cowboy, and a deep-snow rider at heart. Shaped by decades of Rocky Mountain cross-country racing alongside his brother, he brings the grit and calm decision-making that long miles require.

"The Iron Dog was obviously a competitive run," Dick said in a previous interview, "but this last trip was all off-trail, deep snow, slush, ice jams, a heck of a lot of work."



**Paul Dick** is a veteran and lifelong long-distance rider with more than 50 years of experience. He is one of North America's most seasoned long-distance cross-country racers, known for the steady mindset and endurance the trail demands over many days.

What truly set the journey apart was the response. A simple Facebook page created to keep family informed grew into a community of nearly 40,000 followers, offering real-time encouragement and trail insight as the trio worked their way north.

"People were opening doors, sharing meals, offering places to work on sleds," Hallstrom recalled. "It reminded us how much the people make the journey."



Paul Dick and Rex Hibbert as rookie riders in the 1994 Iron Dog

As Ambassadors in 2026, the Three Old Guys bring something no checklist can replicate: lived proof that endurance, preparation, and respect matter more than age and that the Iron Dog spirit doesn't end at the finish line.

Rounding out this year's Ambassador Team are five more riders, each bringing their own experience and purpose to the trail.



**Brad Helwig**, a lifelong Alaskan, raced Iron Dog in 2009 & 2010, finishing fourth and third, respectively. Though no longer competing in the Pro Class, Helwig has remained connected to the race through years of behind-the-scenes support involvement.

"Being in the Ambassador class means I get to experience the Iron Dog in a way that balances the challenge of the course with the responsibility of representing the values of the sport and the companies behind it," Hetteen said. "It's about showcasing the durability and real-world capability of Polaris machines while promoting safe riding and sportsmanship."



**Devon Hetteen** comes from a family with generations of snowmobiling experience and has spent the past four years working at Polaris as a Powertrain Engineer. For Hetteen, the Ambassador role bridges professional insight with personal passion.

Hetteen plans to engage directly with fans, volunteers, and communities along the route, offering a behind-the-scenes look at what goes into engineering machines capable of handling Alaska's harshest conditions.

"My favorite thing about Iron Dog is how it brings everything together, the challenge, the adventure, the camaraderie, and the connection to the environment," he said. "There's nothing else like it."

### More Than a Class

The Ambassador Team exists outside the race clock, but firmly within the heart of Iron Dog. These riders represent the idea that success isn't measured only by finish times;



**Tim Olin** grew up snowmobiling in western New York, riding on the front of his father's sled before he could walk. That early connection carried him through engineering school at SUNY Alfred and into his career in Snow Engineering at Polaris in Roseau, Minnesota.

As an Ambassador, Olin brings gratitude for the support of his fiancée, Taylor, and his family, and a deep respect for what Iron Dog represents as a proving ground for machines and riders alike.

it's measured by preparation, safety, community respect, and the ability to make it run when conditions are far from ideal.



**Tom Rowland** is a lifelong snowmobiler from central Minnesota and an Arctic Cat dealer since 1988 through Thomas Sno Sports. He founded ArcticInsider.com to preserve Arctic Cat history and culture, and brings a historian's perspective shaped by long-distance rides like his 1,700-mile trip around Lake Superior.

These eight Ambassadors will be doing what Iron Dog has always asked of its participants: honoring the trail, supporting the people along it, and showing the next generation what responsible, capable snowmachining looks like in Alaska.



**Trevor Helwig** was born and raised in Anchorage and grew up in a powersports family, riding everything from snowmachines to jet skis at a young age. The son of fellow Ambassador Brad Helwig, he continues the family's strong connection to Iron Dog. Trevor works as a heavy equipment mechanic with Operating Engineers Local 302 and spends his free time outdoors. He competed the Trail Class in 2019 and entered Pro Class in 2022 and 2025.

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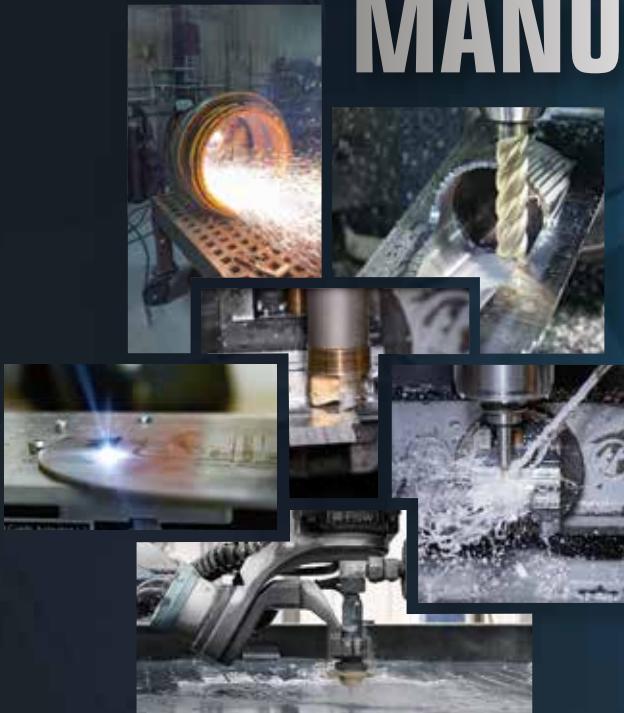


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# RACERS TO WATCH



## Experience, preparation, and consistency define the teams shaping the 2026 Iron Dog

Every Iron Dog has its storylines. Some are written by weather, others by equipment, and many by decisions made when fatigue sets in and the trail stops being forgiving. No one can predict how the World's Longest, Toughest Snowmobile Race will unfold, but the same traits tend to surface when the field starts to separate.

As the 2026 Iron Dog approaches, several teams stand out not because of bravado, but because of what they have shown over time: preparation, pacing, resilience, attention to detail, and respect for the race. These are not guarantees, only signs that these teams have positioned themselves well for what lies ahead.

### Team 3: Steffen Booth & Evan Barber

Steffen Booth and Evan Barber bring a blend of youth and experience that sharpens each season. Both grew up in Alaska's snowmachine culture and understand that speed alone is never enough. Barber, just 21, already has multiple Iron Dog starts and top five finishes. Booth brings a legacy mindset shaped in Nome and a deep respect for what the race demands. Their strength is steady progression and the patience to learn, mile by mile.

### Team 6: Mike Morgan & Bradley Kishbaugh

Mike Morgan and Bradley Kishbaugh reflect the difference between finishing and competing. With Morgan a two-time champion, their approach centers on preparation well beyond race week. Morgan emphasizes that detail, experience, and the ability to hold a winning pace for 2,500 miles separates top teams. He points to consistency as the real edge, minimizing mechanical issues and mistakes while staying fully in control. Kishbaugh, racing since 2009, brings a win-first mindset tempered by the reality that patience matters, and recklessness does not last long.

### Team 7: Tyler Aklestad & Nicholas Olstad

With deep combined experience, Tyler Aklestad and Nicholas Olstad bring one of the strongest knowledge bases in the field, including multiple wins between them. Aklestad stresses confidence built through training, while accepting that unexpected problems are part of the race. Their advantage is knowing when to push and when to preserve body and machine. Since teaming up in 2020, they have refined training and execution, focusing on running their own race with discipline over days of pressure.

### Team 10: Chris Olds & Ryan Sottosanti

Chris Olds is a proven champion whose longevity comes from adaptability. Paired with Ryan Sottosanti, the team combines veteran awareness with evolving strategy. Olds' success has rarely been about overpowering the trail, but reading it and choosing when to press or protect. Their strength is clean execution, avoiding the slow build of small mistakes that can decide the final outcome.

## Team 14: Casey Boylan & Bryan Leslie

Casey Boylan and Bryan Leslie keep building momentum with a methodical approach. They get through long days without pushing too hard, and they often move up as attrition reshapes the standings. Their calm pace reflects a core Iron Dog truth: staying competitive is often earned through restraint.

## Team 5: Zack Weisz & Thomas Davis

Zack Weisz and Thomas Davis arrive focused on fundamentals and progression. Their attention to reliability, conditioning, and consistent pace mirrors the habits shared by many successful Iron Dog finishers. Teams like this are often still moving forward when the race tightens.

## Team 41: Haakon Wold & Tyler Reese

Haakon Wold and Tyler Reese continue to outperform expectations tied to age. Their finishes reflect maturity under pressure, steady communication, and smart adaptation when conditions change. They show that Iron Dog experience is not measured only in years, but in decisions made when the trail is unforgiving.



## WHAT IT ALL MEANS

Iron Dog has never been about predicting winners. Weather shifts, machines fail, fatigue clouds judgment, and the field changes mile by mile. What these teams share is readiness, the discipline to prepare, the humility to respect the course, and the resilience to keep moving when plans unravel.

In the end, Iron Dog remains what it has always been: everyone starts equal, the trail decides the rest, and finishing is earned. As 2026 unfolds, these are teams to watch not because they are expected to win, but because they understand what it takes to stay in the race when it matters most.

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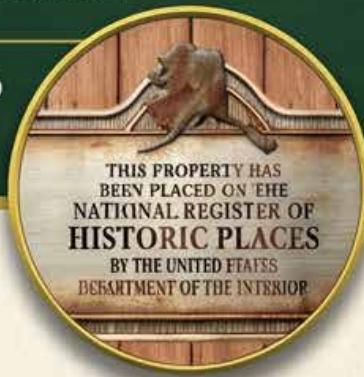
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