

# DOG

Summer 2008

&

# Sled

## *North Wapiti*

*An Interview With Karen Ramstead*

## How NOT To Mush



# The ONAC

*Open North American Championships*



*Dog & Sled* is published quarterly. Each issue contains articles, news and information on the world of sled dog sports.

For more information, contact *Dog & Sled* at **P.O. Box 32 Armuchee, GA 30105-0032** or online at **huskystuff@roman.net** . Visit *Dog & Sled's* website at **www.dx4solutions.com/dogandsled/**

**ALICE E. WHITE Editor, Writer, Publisher and Distributor**



I am a teenager and love sled dogs and sled dog sports. I have been running dogs for many years, sometimes on foot, sometimes with a bike or scooter or, in the rare case that my home state of Georgia actually gets significant snowfall, with a sled. Recently I have done some racing and I have worked in Alaska at Northern Sky Lodge and Kennel.

My current sled dog is Calypso, a Siberian husky. I scooter with her nearly every day and she loves it!

*Dog & Sled* started out as a handwritten magazine in 2000. Now I write it with the aid of a computer.

---

©2008

Alice E. White

# CONTENTS



## North Wapiti

An Interview with Karen Ramstead.

Page 5

## The Ballad Of Ellis And Streeper

The 2008 Open North American Championships.

Page 8

## How NOT To (dryland) Mush

An eventful dryland run in Kentucky.

Page 11

## DEPARTMENTS

**Talk & Bark**

Page 4

---

**Book Review**

Page 7

---

**News**

Page 15

---

**Classifieds**

Page 16

---

**The Last Woof**

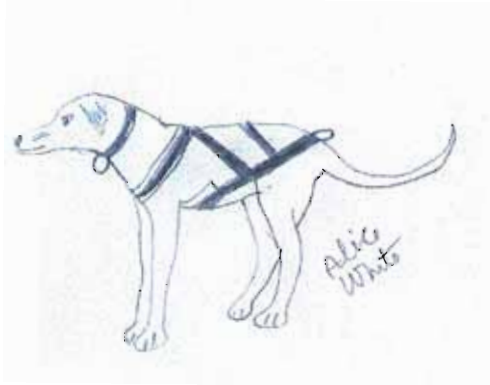
Page 16

---

COVER: Two canine competitors race through Creamer's Field during the 2008 Open North American Championships

# Talk & Bark

Commentary By Alice White



If my trip to work in Alaska did anything, it was to confirm that I eventually wanted to run a sled dog kennel. I had learned that I could indeed care for a sled dog kennel.

My next challenge was how to take myself and Calypso up to Alaska and find a kennel that would allow me to bring my own dog. Only I couldn't see a feasible way of transporting the two of us up there - not right now anyway.

But there were other options. One day, while surfing the internet, I came across the website of Manitou Crossing Kennels in Finland, Minnesota. I knew about the kennel because the mushers, Blake and Jennifer Freking, had both run the Iditarod this year with some of their Siberian huskies. On the home page of their site, they were advertising for handlers.

Minnesota is not close to Georgia but it is a lot closer than Alaska.

So I sent off an inquiry and, to make a long story short, Calypso and I are heading North to Minnesota this August. I'll be helping to train puppies and other dogs and there is the possibility of running some races!

Obviously, I'm very excited!

And I'm really pleased with what I have in this issue. I have included a story on the Open North American Championship sprint races which I was able to see while in Alaska. It was amazing to watch some of the fastest sled dogs in the world. These powerfully-built Eurohounds look nothing like a traditional sled dog but are still an inspiring sight.

I am also excited to have an interview with Karen Ramstead in here. I have been a big fan of Karen and her Siberian huskies so it was great to talk to her about them!

And I hope you also learn from my piece on How NOT To Mush. Maybe readers will not repeat the mistakes we made (which, by the way, did NOT seem funny at the time).



# NORTH WAPITI

An Interview With Karen Ramstead

*Perhaps you know her from the Pretty Sled Dogs film or from various sled dog-related lists and websites. But chances are, you've heard of Iditarod musher, Karen Ramstead, and her North Wapiti Kennel. While most Iditarod mushers run mixbreed teams of Alaskan huskies, Karen Ramstead runs teams of purebred Siberian huskies. This Spring, Dog & Sled talked to Karen about mushing, the Iditarod and her Siberians.*

**Dog & Sled:** I always start with the same question - how did you become interested in mushing?

**Karen Ramstead:** Well, my husband wanted to move from Calgary to northern Alberta. I had a house and job in Calgary I loved (managing a Royal Doulton China shop) and my family was all there too, so I wasn't keen on the move. Mark offered to buy me a purebred dog if I moved. I took the bribe and 'Libby' came to live with us.

While visiting with Libby's breeders a few months after we got her, they took me for a dogsled ride. I knew the second I stepped on the runners that I had found something 'big' in my life.

**D&S:** Yes, once you get on those runners, there's no turning back! What was your next step? Did you start sled training Libby?

**KR:** No. I had purchased Libby as a breeding dog and I went back to the breeders to have her bred. She had her litter in February and the following winter we hooked up Libby and 3 of her kids for our trip with our own dog team.

**D&S:** How many dogs do you have now?

**KR:** Somewhere around 65

**D&S:** I know it's impossible to pick favorites but do you have any dogs that you think particularly stand out?

**KR:** I do have a number of favourites in the yard.

Crunchie and Kara definitely rate as the 'favourites' in my yard right now.

Kara (formally known as Ch. NorthWapiti's Valkyrie Kara) is my house dog and pretty much my constant companion. She is the easiest dog in the world to live with. She finished the 2004 Iditarod with me and was a key leader in my

kennel from 2003 until last season.

Crunchie (aka Ch. NorthWapiti's Crunchie) is son of my all time favourite dog, NorthWapiti's Super Grover. Crunch isn't the leader his dad was (no one is) but he is solid and dependable in harness. He has been on my team since 2004 and has never been dropped from any race we have been entered in. There is just also something extra special about him. He's a kindred spirit.

There are many other special dogs, but those two are the super special ones in the yard right now.

**D&S:** Did you start thinking about running the Iditarod when you first began mushing or did that come about later?

**KR:** Oh no - that came much, much later. We were talked into trying a 'longer' race in 1994 by a friend and really enjoyed it (helped that we won!). That was 54 miles and we figured if 54 was fun, 120 must be more fun and 300 must be even more fun than that. And it was.

But in 1997 we were juggling full time jobs, the kennel and training and it

just all became too much.

On the way home from an unsuccessful attempt to run the John Beargrease Marathon (due to stretching ourselves too thin) my husband gave me a choice 'Go Big or Stay Home'. In other words, if I loved this and really wanted to do it, I needed to devote myself to it. And if I wasn't willing to do that, we needed to scale back. I told him I thought I wanted to run Iditarod. That was the first time we had ever talked about it - but from that moment on, it was about all we talked about.

**D&S:** There weren't - and still aren't - many Siberian teams in the Iditarod. Did you ever feel like other people were looking down at your dogs or pressuring you to switch to Alaskans?

**KR:** No, not at all. I've always felt very welcome. I know that isn't the experience of all Siberian drivers (or at least from what I've heard) but it is my experience.

In fact, most mushers I've run with, including the likes of Lance Mackey, Rick Swenson, the Redingtons and the Seaveys, have had very favorable and nice

things to say about my team.

**D&S:** That's great. I understand your dogs have also had success in the show ring. Could you tell us a little bit about that?

**KR:** I believe the 'standard' for Siberian husky is a blueprint to a good sled dog - so a dog that meets the standard should be able to do well in both the show ring and on the trails.

Over the years, eight dogs that have finished Iditarod with me have been Canadian Champion showdogs. A few other of my Champions have started, but not finished the race, so obviously, that can be the case.

My most recent 'show dog' is one I'm really proud of - Crunchie. Crunch won the 'Open Dog' class at the US Nationals last year and then, just six weeks after Iditarod, was in the show ring finishing his Championship. He is a very 'dark' dog, not at all 'traditionally' marked, so it can be harder for him to do well in the show ring.

**D&S:** It sounds like he's done great though! What do

you expect the future to hold for Siberian huskies? Do you foresee fewer mushers racing Siberians or do you think we'll see more purebred teams on the trails in the future?

**KR:** There are a lot of excellent Siberian teams out racing right now and many more out in the wings getting ready to hit some of the 'big' races. I think the future is very bright for the breed on the race trails!

**D&S:** Are you planning to run the Iditarod again next year?

**KR:** Actually, no I'm not. Finances are not going to allow me to run this year.

**D&S:** Sorry to hear that. You had a pretty good run this year though, didn't you? I read on your website that the 2008 Iditarod had a special meaning for your team since you ran the race in memory of your dog, Snickers.

*CONTINUED ON PAGE 10*

# BOOK REVIEW

## **COLD HANDS, WARM HEART**

**By Jeff King**

**Illustrated by Donna Gates King**

When I first heard that 4-time Iditarod champion, Jeff King, had written a book, I knew right away that this was one I was going to have to buy! On his Husky Homestead tours, Jeff tells great stories and is downright funny. I was sure that if he was able to translate that onto the written page, *Cold Hands, Warm Heart* would be fantastic. In other words, I had high expectations for this book.

And it was every bit as good as I had hoped!

*Cold Hands, Warm Heart* is a collection of Jeff King's stories, told in roughly chronological order. He writes about growing up in California and how his love of the outdoors drew him to Alaska where he discovered mushing and later began to race.

Each chapter in the book can stand by itself as a short story. Some are hilarious. The chapter "Another Day At The Office" chronicles a very eventful mid-distance race where nearly everything that could possibly happen, did. I was in stitches reading it. "Chowhound", about a dog who eats anything, regardless of whether it is good for her, and "Your Neighbor With A Jet", about a commercial video shoot, are close seconds.

Other stories are gripping and dramatic. In "Magic Carpet", King talks about running in the 1989 Yukon Quest where his team encountered deep water running on the Yukon river one night. In "Close Encounters", he writes about wild animals he has met along the trail including a caribou that seemed to be dangerously offended by his bright headlamp!

Some of the stories are very touching. There is "Make A Wish" about one of the children from the Make-A-Wish foundation who rode in King's sled for the ceremonial start of the 1996 Iditarod (each year, Make-A-Wish sends one child to ride in King's sled). And "A Promise Made" about (what else?) a promise he made to one of his daughters. There is plenty about the dogs. In "Breath Of Life" King captures a near-unbelievable moment from the Yukon Quest that shows the bond between sled dog and driver.

That's just a sample. There is so much in *Cold Hands, Warm Heart* that is worthy of praise. The book is beautifully illustrated throughout by King's wife, Donna. And I know that there is a lot more to tell. Readers are left satisfied with the book but in some way hoping that we will someday hear more of Jeff King's tales.



## *The Ballad Of Ellis and Streeper* - The 2008 ONAC



“Icy.” That was the word competitor Magali Philip used to describe trail conditions in the 2008 Open North American Championships or ONAC. There was very little fresh snow and the days had been warm, creating a slick running surface for the teams competing in this year’s race.

Run every year since its inception in 1946, the ONAC is held in Fairbanks, Alaska, each March and is considered one of the top sprint races in the world. The Alaska Dog Musher’s Association website boasts that “the ONAC is the oldest continuously run sled dog race of any kind in the world.”



The race is run in three heats over three days - twenty miles the first day, twenty miles the second day and thirty miles the last day. The course takes mushers and dogs around downtown Fairbanks and the surrounding countryside. The event is an open-class sprint race, meaning there is no limit on how many

dogs a musher may have on a team. In 2008, the largest team consisted of twenty dogs and belonged to defending champion, Buddy Streeper.

The ONAC has a history of heavy competition. Past sprint racing legend George Attla won the race a record eight times and another racing legend, Roland Lombard, won six times.

In the past ten years, a new rivalry has been born between Buddy Streeper and Egil Ellis. In fact, every ONAC since 1999 has been won by either Ellis or Streeper. Before 2008, Ellis had won seven of the last nine races - putting him just one championship away from tying George Attla’s record. Streeper was the defending champion, having won in 2007 and 2003.



So, on the morning of the first 2008 heat, all eyes were on Buddy Streeper and Egil Ellis. Streeper had won the 2008 Fur Rendezvous Sled Dog Race in Anchorage earlier in the year, with Ellis coming in second. Racing fans wondered if history would repeat itself at the 2008 ONAC.

The race begins and ends in downtown Fairbanks on 2nd Avenue where spectators gather to cheer the teams on, regardless of weather conditions. In 2008 the weather was relatively calm and mild, good for the fans but



much warmer than the teams would have liked. This year, twenty-two mushers and their dog teams started the ONAC.

After leaving 2nd Avenue, the teams run along the Chena River, past the fairgrounds and through the Fairbanks countryside. The trail takes them through Creamer's Field, a former dairy farm turned wildlife refuge. A popular spot for birders during the Summer months, Creamer's Field becomes part of the ONAC course in March.

Egil Ellis won the first heat, completing the course in just over an hour. Not surprisingly, Buddy Streeper finished second - with a time of only nine seconds more than Ellis. Ross Saunderson, another former champion, finished third about a minute later. As predicted, it was shaping up to be a close race.



The second day it was windy and spectators along the race trail bundled up against the chill. With the official temperature recorded at nineteen degrees Fahrenheit, the mushers still worried conditions were too warm for the dogs to perform at their peak.

Egil Ellis won this second heat too, finishing almost four minutes ahead of Buddy Streeper. Today, Ken Chezik, a competitor from Michigan, placing four seconds after Streeper, beat Ross Saunderson out of third place. One



musher scratched.

On the third and last day of the 2008 ONAC, it was warmer, around twenty-three degrees.

The warmer weather, combined with the 30-mile trail on the last day made things harder for the teams. The shorter-coated Eurohound sprint dogs of the top racers had an easier time than did the thick-coated huskies of some mushers. Two teams scratched.

When the teams came back onto 2nd Avenue after running the long trail, it was Buddy Streeper's that finished fastest, winning the third heat. His time was five seconds faster than that of Egil Ellis. Arleigh Reynolds finished third, just over four minutes later.

However, when the times of all three heats were combined to determine the overall winner, it was Egil Ellis who took home the



prize for the 2008 Open North American Championships, tying George Attla's record of eight wins.

That evening, at the annual ONAC banquet in downtown Fairbanks, mushers and their friends and family gathered to celebrate the race and all of the participants - both human and canine.

Below is a list of the mushers in the 2008 Open North American Championships and their overall placement in the race.

- 1) Egil Ellis
- 2) Buddy Streeper
- 3) Ken Chezik
- 4) Ross Saunderson
- 5) Arleigh Reynolds
- 6) Israel Silas
- 7) Mike Cox
- 8) Bill Kornmuller
- 9) Alison Cousins
- 10) Curtis Erhart
- 11) Mark Hartum
- 12) Jeff Conn
- 13) Heather Hardy
- 14) Brent Beck
- 15) Magali Philip
- 16) Ed Wood

17) Gary Markley

18) Jack Berry

19) Mike Stephens

*Scratched:*

Mike Sanford

Bob Chlupach

Ed Dayton

---

*'NORTH WAPITI: AN INTERVIEW WITH  
KAREN RAMSTEAD*

*CONTINUED FROM PAGE 6*

**KR:** Yes, when I lost Snickers in Grayling in 2007, I knew we 'owed' her a trip to Nome - so that is what we did this year. I carried her ashes down the trail with me and scattered them on Cape Nome, overlooking the coast and Nome at sunset on my last day of the race. It was a very special moment for me and helped bring some closure to the events from the previous year. I did take a very small amount of her ashes to the finish line and scattered them under the burlled arch too.

**D&S:** Taking Snickers to Nome must have really meant a lot to you. I think it's wonderful that you did that.

Visit Karen Ramstead's website at  
[www.northwapiti.com](http://www.northwapiti.com)



# How NOT To (dryland) Mush

When I signed up for the 2007 Dogs Across America mushing relay, I described my dog scootering skill level as “experienced”. Lately, I have been wondering just exactly what I meant by “experienced.”

I am reminded of a time, when I was twelve and trying to film a fake advertisement. My Dad was trying to repair brake lights on a trailer and his friend, Alan, was over at our house lending his assistance. I stood there, video camera in one hand, dog leash (attached to a husky, of course) in the other, filming my “ad”.

“We have lots of experience,” Alan told the camera. From the back of the trailer, Dad called out “Mostly bad experience!”

“Mostly bad experience” would be a good way to describe a dryland mushing run that happened last November. In the course of a couple of hours, we managed to write the book on how NOT to run sled dogs.

It was a chilly Saturday evening in Kentucky’s Land Between the Lakes and several of the Southeast’s dog mushers were gathered for a weekend campout and run: Jeff from Kentucky and five of his huskies, Chapin and Cathy from South Carolina with a horse trailer turned dog truck full of twenty-nine rescued

huskies that he was training as sled dogs (he’d begun the trip to Kentucky with only twenty-seven dogs but had managed to pick up two more along the way), Jenni from Tennessee with her two huskies and a scooter, and myself, with a scooter and my brat of a husky, Calypso.

Calypso was showing how tired she was (not!) from the morning’s run by roughhousing with two of Jeff’s dogs - Steel and Domino. She’d done really well that morning, although I’d discovered the first rule of How NOT To Mush.

## **Never forget to mark the leak if you blow your tire.**

Calypso and I were tearing up the trail with our scooter when I noticed something was wrong with the back wheel. I stopped and discovered it to be flat.

My first inclination was to stop and pump up the tire enough to get back to camp. Unfortunately, Calypso’s first inclination was to avoid stopping at all costs. It was difficult - no: impossible - to hold the scooter and Calypso still and pump up the tire at the same time (why didn’t I bring an extra gangline so I could tether her to a tree?).

Just then, Chapin and his string of nine dogs showed up. “I’ve got a flat,” I said. “And she won’t be still.” I pointed at

Calypso.

“You could hook her up with us and ride the cart back,” Chapin suggested.

Just then my Mom, who was acting as the dog mushers’ support crew, showed up in her car. I found a cable in the car and locked the scooter to a tree. Then Chapin and I hooked Calypso up with the “big dogs” and she ran in a team for the first time in her life. She figured it out almost immediately and decided that running with the “big dogs” was fun! She did so well that I began to overestimate her and this would come into play during the evening’s run.

After the run, my Mom and I drove back, picked up the scooter and brought it back to camp. I pulled the inner tube out, filled up a plastic container with water and began the painstaking search for the source of the leak. After a long, methodical search, I saw bubbles coming up, which caused me to shout in triumph, “Hah! I found it!”

Now where did I put the patch kit?

Of course, it was on the other side of the car, so I went around to get it. When I returned, I realized with a wave of anguish that I hadn’t marked the leak on the tube. So I had to go through the whole process AGAIN.

As it was, I ended up not using the scooter that night. Chapin was putting the finishing touches on a new racing cart he'd built for Jeff, who wanted to try it out that evening. Since he wouldn't be using it, Jeff offered to let me use his old cart and Chapin offered to let me run a couple of his dogs in wheel behind Calypso.

Naturally, I took them up on the offers and thus learned the second rule of How NOT To Mush.

### **Never get cocky**

I hooked Calypso in single lead and Chapin said "I've got two dogs I want to run but they've never been in harness."

"Okay," I said.

Chapin showed me which two dogs they were. Both were black and white, blue eyed rescue huskies. Their names were Beth and Max. Calypso eyed them suspiciously as Chapin and I hooked them in wheel. Max immediately tried to pull the rig forward on his own.

"I think this guy knows what's going on," Chapin said. And then he was off with his own team of twelve dogs, causing those left behind to raise the roof.

Next went Jenni and her two huskies, pulling the scooter. And then it was my turn.

"You know how to lock and unlock the brake, right?" Jeff

asked me.

"Yeah, I think so." I'd seen him do it and it didn't look that hard. Jeff gave me a little flashing red light to hook to my arm. It winked on and off in the dim light.

I leaned back and pulled the quick release. "Okay, *HIKE!*" Calypso trotted forward and Beth and Max followed. We were moving slowly but that was okay. This wasn't a race. We were moving along and I thought *hey, this is working out really well.* And then Beth stepped over the gangline with her front foot. It wasn't impeding her or anything but it was really bugging me. I thought I should probably stop and put her leg back on her side of the gangline but then we came to The Curve in the road. It hadn't been a problem with the scooter that morning but now it would prove to be a major obstacle.

Calypso immediately tried to dash off the trail and down into the ditch at The Curve. "ON BY!" I yelled but it was too late. Calypso was teaching me the third lesson of How NOT To Mush.

### **Never hook up an inexperienced leader in front of dogs who have never been in harness before.**

Calypso grudgingly obeyed my *on by* command but by that point, Max and Beth had overtaken her and were both tangled in the lead section of the gangline.

"Whoa!" I called, stamping the brake. I was going to have to lock it and go up and untangle my team. However, I couldn't get it to lock. Every time I let up on the brake, the team would inch forward under the power of my two wheel dogs. Calypso was supplying no power.

It was frustrating that I could see how the brake was supposed to lock but just wasn't able to lock it using my foot. So I crouched down to see if I could lock it with my hands and at the same time stop myself from dragging. Finally we stopped and I got the brake to lock. Triumphant, I looked up and bumped into Max.

Seeing me doing something with my hands (locking the brake) the dogs had come to investigate and see if they could lend helping noses. This presented a bit of an issue, as they were supposed to be in *front* of the rig, not behind it with me. Even worse, they had all tangled in their lines.

"Calypso," I groaned. "I told you to *line out.*"

I gestured to the front of the rig. And, to my surprise, the dogs tried to go to the front. Only they tried to go around the *other* side of the cart and the gangline slammed against me and I found myself pinned to the back of the cart.

"Move," I said, pushing out at the mass of dogs. They



suddenly realized they were tangled and tried to escape. Somebody growled and I tapped the offending dog's nose. A dogfight was the *last* thing I needed. It was getting darker.

"Come on!" I struggled up, led the dogs to the front of the cart, then spent a couple of minutes untangling them and getting them lined out. In the dusk light, I became more conscious of the blinking red light on my arm.  
*Blink, blink, blink...*

From back towards the camp there was some shouting but I didn't pay it any mind. I lined out the dogs and petted them all to calm them down. Then I started back to the rig. I can only imagine the dialogue between the dogs.

*I like this person, she petted me!*

*That was fun!*

*Let's do it again!*

And without hesitation, Max and Beth followed me back to the cart. Calypso tried to line out for half a second and then gave me a look that said *I have never been so insulted as to be hooked up with these bumpkins.*

"No," I said in exasperation "Calypso - *line out!*" But Calypso was fed up and mutinous.

Muttering more to myself than to the dogs, I lined the team

out again and walked back to the cart. Once again, the little pack followed at my heels. "NO!" I complained. "You're supposed to stay in front!" Lining them out yet again, I decided that I needed to get back to the cart before the dogs could.

**Never try to out-think the dogs.**

It went like this. If I could dash back, unlock the brake and shout *hike!* we would get moving before Beth and Max realized they wanted to follow me back to the cart. It didn't work. They were now determined to stay under my feet for the rest of the night. I figured the only way to get out of this would be to go ahead and unlock the brake, get the team lined out and moving and then run back and jump on the cart.

Speaking of brakes, back up the trail, Jeff was learning another rule of How NOT To Mush.

**Never hook up a full team to a rig you have never tried out. Especially at night.**

As Jeff's team blasted down the trail, he realized that something was wrong. And this something would prove to be very problematic.

As I was trying to sort out my latest tangle, I heard what sounded like a pack of out-of-control dogs dashing down the road. Around The Curve came Jeff's team with Jeff

screaming, "I DON'T HAVE ANY BRAKES!!"

It seems that, while preparing the rig, everyone had forgotten to make sure the hand brakes worked properly.

So Jeff's team piled into mine and instead of having three dogs pinning me to the back of the rig, I had nine! Calypso's eyes got really big and she gave me a look like *I am never going to forgive you for this.* I was certain there was going to be a dogfight. The little red light was blinking obnoxiously and all the dogs' harnesses were sticking to the velcro on my knee and elbow pads. I would have pressed my hands to my head and groaned in frustration except that I was using my hands to hold the dogs.

Jeff finally got his team past me and then continued down the trail, out-of-control. Calypso displayed the most enthusiasm she had that evening, watching them disappear into the night. Unfortunately I had to get everybody untangled AGAIN. By the time I had finished, she was bored again. I jumped on the back of the rig.

"Calypso, HIKE!" I shouted. Calypso promptly walked off the trail and peed on a patch of grass.

And that was the end of our run.



The intrepid Southeastern mushers. From left: Cathy, Chapin, me (in purple), Jenni and Jeff. Not shown is the support crew: my Mom, who was taking the picture.

Jeff and his dogs made it through the night run without brakes. The next day, he and Chapin fixed that problem and the rig now has fully functional brakes.

After a good night's rest, Calypso was happy and enthusiastic again and she and I had a good scooter run, keeping up with the other teams (often passing them).



# **NEWS**

## **Mitch Seavey Wins 2008 All Alaska Sweepstakes**

Seward, Alaska, musher, Mitch Seavey, took home the \$100,000 prize in the 2008 running of the All Alaska Sweepstakes. The 408-mile winner-take-all race was originally held in the early 1900s and helped showcase the abilities of the Siberian husky. Its course stretched from Nome, Alaska, to Candle and back and it was the premier distance race in Alaska until 1917, when it was discontinued.

The race was resurrected once in 1983 and again in 2008.

Mitch Seavey's win was considered a bit of an upset since those following the race expected the top two contenders to be Jeff King and Lance Mackey, who had raced hard against each other in the Iditarod. King finished second, Mackey third.

*Source:*

*allalaskasweepstakes.org*

## **Studies May Shed Light On Sled Dog Endurance**

Dr. Michael Davis, a veterinarian from

Oklahoma State University, is researching how sled dogs in the Iditarod can run long distances without tiring the same way a human would.

"Before the race, the dogs' metabolic makeup is similar to humans'," Davis told the *New York Times*. "Then suddenly they throw a switch - we don't know what it is yet - that reverses all of that. In a 24-hour period, they go back to the same type of metabolic baseline you see in resting subjects. But it's while they are running 100 miles a day."

*Source:*

*nytimes.com*

## **Lance Mackey Nominated for 2008 ESPY Award**

2007 and 2008 Yukon Quest and Iditarod (or IditaQuest, as it has come to be called) champion, Lance Mackey was nominated by ESPN for a 2008 ESPY award in the category of Best Outdoor Athlete. Mackey was nominated for the same award in 2007 but did not win.

The winners of the ESPY awards are chosen by voters logging onto the awards' website.

The 2008 ESPY Awards will be broadcast on ESPN on July 20th and will be hosted by Justin Timberlake.

*Sources:*

*espys.tv*

*comebackkennel.com*

## **Iditarod Raises Entry Fee, Limits Number Of Entrants**

For the first time in the history of the 1,150-mile race, the Iditarod has limited the number of mushers who may sign up. New rules limit the 2009 entry field to 100 mushers and the 2010 entry field to 85.

The guaranteed purse was also cut for 2009. This year the total purse was \$900,000 which was shared between the finishing mushers, with the winner receiving \$69,000. The total purse for the 2009 race will be \$660,000 although the winner will still receive the same amount as last year. The entry fee for the 2009 Iditarod was raised from \$3,000 to \$4,000.

*Source:*

*adn.com*

# CLASSIFIEDS

## Equipment

### BLACK ICE DOGSLEDDING EQUIPMENT

Harnesses, ganglines, sleds, dog packs, carts, skijoring equipment, books and more.

Call (320) 485-4825 or visit  
[www.blackicedogsledding.com](http://www.blackicedogsledding.com)

---

### CANVASBACK PET SUPPLIES

Lots of dog supplies including packing, skijoring and sledding equipment. Books on these subjects also available.

All prices are indicated in Canadian currency.  
For more information Call 1-800-889-6191 or visit  
[www.canvasbackpets.com](http://www.canvasbackpets.com)

---

### PETSCAPE PRODUCTS

Pet products including sacco carts, harnesses and skijoring equipment.

Visit [www.petscapeproducts.com](http://www.petscapeproducts.com)

---

### DIGGLER SCOOTERS

Mountain scooters that readily lend themselves to dryland mushing.

Call (707) 775-2452 or visit  
[www.diggler.com](http://www.diggler.com)

---

### APPALACHIAN MUSHING SUPPLIES

Sled dog equipment store located in Chapin, SC. Sells harnesses, ganglines, booties, skijoring belts and more.  
Call 803-345-0729 or toll free 866-202-4760.

Online at [www.scdogsled.com](http://www.scdogsled.com)

---

SIBERIAN HUSKY ASSIST RESCUE is now a distributor for MANMAT harnesses to help raise funds.

If you're interested in purchasing one, you can see the harnesses and get sizing and color information at "<http://www.howlingdogalaska.com>"

To order, please call Marcia at:  
276-494-3153; or email her at:  
[siberianhuskyrescue@yahoo.com](mailto:siberianhuskyrescue@yahoo.com)

---

## THE LAST WOOF



### HIGH FIVE!

Smokey, a sled dog at Northern Sky Lodge, shows off her foot.

## Publications

### MUSHING THE MAGAZINE OF DOG-POWERED ADVENTURE

Bi-monthly magazine covering all aspects of dogsledding, dog packing, carting, skijoring and more. Recently merged with *Sled Dog Sports* magazine.

Call (917) 929-6118 or visit  
[www.mushing.com](http://www.mushing.com)

---

### TEAM & TRAIL MAGAZINE

Monthly magazine full of sled dog news, stories and information from around the world.

Call (717) 244-0671 or visit  
[www.team-and-trail.com](http://www.team-and-trail.com)

---

### CONTINENTAL KENNEL CLUB MAGAZINE

Magazine of the Continental Kennel Club (CKC) with articles about dog sports and activities as well as breed profiles, health information and news.

Call 1 (800) 952-3376 or visit  
[www.ckcusa.com](http://www.ckcusa.com)

---