

March 18, 2006 – Nome

Greetings to Iditarod Educators, Students and Race Fans,

There are so many happenings in Nome; it's hard to keep track of everything. As of 10:00 pm Alaska time, a total of 60 mushers have crossed the finish line, 5 of them today- March 18th. Rookie Rachael Scdoris (56th) and visual interpreter Tim Osmar (57th) came in from Safety just before 2:00 pm this afternoon. They averaged 3.6 miles per hour. It looks like Chad from Team Cortte of Tomahawk should cross under the Burlled Arch just before sun up on Sunday morning with Ron following at around 1:00 in the afternoon.

Special events today in Nome included a pancake breakfast served by the Boy Scouts and Girl Scouts of Nome, autograph session with mushers, a golf tournament and a 3 dog sled dog race. Considering my love for golf, most folks who know me would expect that I played in the golf tournament that took place out on the sea ice of the Bering Sea in the Nome National Forest. Running a dog team in Nome won out; I opted for the 3-dog race.



Golf on the Bering Sea

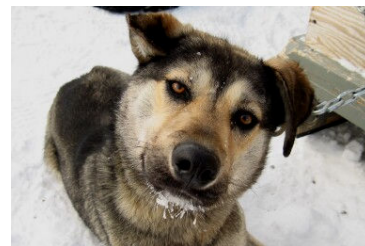
The 3 dog Business Man's Race was sponsored by the Nome Kennel Club as a fundraiser and as a way for folks to try the sport of mushing in a fun environment. There were 20 racers who tried their luck over the 3-mile trail. The owner of the dogs I ran was Dempsey Woods, a very successful Nome sprint musher. My lead dog was Tenor. Thunder and Chaser, both 10-month-old puppies filled out the team. The first segment of the course was a gradual climb up a long hill. Yes, what goes up must come down and from there the course ran over rolling hills to the finish line. Susan Shinki, bib #6, took first with a time of 12.58. Wearing bib #17, my time was 13.17 for second place and Josh Marble, bib #10 took 3rd place with a time of 13.18. My leader, Tenor did an awesome job especially while passing 3 teams. Thunder is a huge dog that loves to pull and Chaser has the energy of an entire class of kindergarten students. Many thanks to Dempsey for his coaching and the use of these fine dogs!



Tenor & Dempsey Woods



Chaser



Thunder



Trail Quilt has been in Anchorage for the Winter Teacher's Conference and Ceremonial Start then traveled to Willow for the restart. Quilt followed the race up the trail and when I arrived in Nome, Quilt was here. Quilt has more classrooms to visit so after this photo under the Burled Arch; Quilt will once again hit the trail to visit another school represented at the 2005 Summer Teacher's Conference.

The cooler pictured yesterday has a couple of purposes. As he was blowing through Skwentna, I saw Ramy Brooks fill his with hot water to take with him so that he wouldn't have to melt snow to water and feed his dogs when he decided to camp. Musher's also use the cooler as a mixing bowl for whatever they're going to feed their dogs. They pour warm water into the cooler then dump frozen meet in to make soup for the dogs or they add dry food. Musher's can also mix food and water before leaving a checkpoint and keep it from freezing until they decide to feed further down the trail.



For your final Iditarod ID photo, what is the curved white piece called that wraps around the front of this sled? These come in many shapes and sizes and are constructed with a variety of materials. See how many designs and materials you can come up with.

Happy trails to all,
Terrie