



Matt Hayashida
Willow, AK, USA

Matt Hayashida, 37, was born in Massachusetts and worked in Wyoming for three years as a river/fishing guide and a dog sled tour guide. He began mushing in 1993 and knew he wanted to run the Iditarod the first time he stepped on the runners. Matt came to Alaska in 1993 to work with Martin Buser. "After running two Iditarods with Martin's yearlings, I knew I wanted to start my own kennel. I now have a modest number of dogs, a few more Iditarods under my belt, a beautiful family and a wonderful circle of supportive friends and sponsors. Since 1999, he has been the general manager of Alaska Icefield Expeditions. Matt is married to Sarah and they are the parents of two daughters, Lily, 4 and Grace, 2. He is a member of Mush with P.R.I.D.E. and says he enjoys spending time with his family.

Learn more at Matt's website: www.rubiconracingfastdogs.com



Ken Anderson
Fairbanks, AK, USA

Ken Anderson, 37, was born in Minnesota. He says he began mushing at age 3 as his parents had a recreational team. When he was in sixth grade, his father bought him a book on the Iditarod and he decided to someday compete in the Race. Before moving to Alaska, he attended the University of Minnesota and was a dog handler. He came to Alaska in 1993 to learn more about mushing and study biology at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. He's been running the Iditarod since 1999. Ken is married to Gwen Holdman, also an Iditarod veteran. Ken says that they feel very fortunate for their mushing lifestyle and have mushed throughout North America. "Racing Iditarod has become a huge part of our life. I'm glad to be back again." He lists his occupation as dog musher and says his hobbies are carpentry and sailing. Ken and Gwen are the parents of twins, Marais and Leif, born in August, 2008.

Learn more at Ken's website: www.windycreekkennel.com



Ryan Redington
Wasilla, AK, USA

Ryan Redington, 27, was born and raised in the Wasilla area. He's been mushing since "I could hang onto the sled," says Ryan. He ran two Jr. Iditarod's and many local mid distance races as well as the Iditarod. Ryan and his wife, Erin, own and operate an Iditarod racing kennel in Knik, Alaska. Ryan has a long family history in the Iditarod. His grandfather was the "Father of the Iditarod," Joe Redington, Sr. Ryan grew up watching his father and grandfather race in 33 combined Iditarods and knew it was something he wanted to do. He has now completed four Iditarods with his top finish being 18th. Ryan and his wife, Erin, work for Alaska Excursions in Juneau, giving sled dog rides during the summer months. They have a kennel of over 40 dogs. Ryan has a daughter, Raynee, age seven. He enjoys trapping, hunting and fishing.

Learn more at Ryan's website: www.callintrailkennel.com



Lance Mackey

Fairbanks, AK, USA

Lance Mackey, 39, was born and raised in Alaska. The back to back three time Iditarod champion and four time Yukon Quest champion (and current record holder) says he began mushing "at birth." "I grew up around racing and the Iditarod. I was at the finish line in 1978 to see my father, Dick Mackey, win by one second. In 1983, my older brother, Rick, won. Both my father and brother won wearing bib #13 in their sixth Iditarod." 2007 was Lance's sixth Iditarod and he won wearing bib #13, just as he had planned. Lance says, "At this time we have a 'Dream Team.' I'm looking forward to another great race season and the chance to defend our title. The '09 Iditarod was **the** performance of our team's capabilities and a reason to smile when I saw how they enjoyed their jobs so much! Looking forward to another great race!" Lance is a lifetime member of the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod Trail Committee Inc. and a member of P.R.I.D.E. His interests include fishing, building and I love gold and ivory!" Lance and Tonya are the parents of Amanda, 21, Brittney, 19, and Cain, 17.



Karin Hendrickson

Chugiak, AK, USA

Karin Hendrickson, 39, was born and raised in California. She graduated from the University of Colorado at Boulder in 1991 and has lived in Idaho and Colorado working as a teacher and college student. She now works in Environmental Regulation here in Alaska, where she moved in 2003 to run dogs. "My mom had been coming to Alaska to volunteer for the Iditarod since 1998, long before I knew a thing about sled dogs or how they would take over my life. In 2002, she talked me into coming up to volunteer. I returned to volunteer again in 2003 and that is when I knew my future. I sold my house and everything in it, quit my job and headed north. I spent two years learning the ropes and paying my dues as a handler. I loved the lifestyle and running dogs - then I got to run a race (the 2005 Tustumena 200) and that got me hooked even worse. For the last couple of years I've been working on building my own kennel and racing my own dogs. Iditarod 2009 was my rookie year. It was the most fun I've ever had. My dogs convinced me we had to go again." Before dogs, she says she used to telemark ski, rock climb, white water kayak, train horses, hike etc. Now, she says between working full time and training, she barely has time to sleep. Karin is married to Varan Hoyt.



Jessie Royer

Fairbanks, AK, USA

Jessie Royer, 33, was born in Idaho. She grew up on a cattle ranch in Montana where she lived for 21 years. She worked on ranches as a horse wrangler & horse teamster. She says she got her first sled dogs when she was 15. She started learning about dogs from Doug Swingley whom she worked with for a couple of years. She had dogs in Montana seven years before moving to Alaska in the spring on 1998. She now has a kennel north of Fairbanks with 65 dogs. Jessie has extensive mushing experience including having won Montana's Race to the Sky when she was only 17 and she was the winner of the invitational La Grande Odyssey in France in 2005. She says her hobbies are horses, hunting, mounted shooting, drawing, braiding and photography.



Jim Lanier

Chugiak, AK, USA

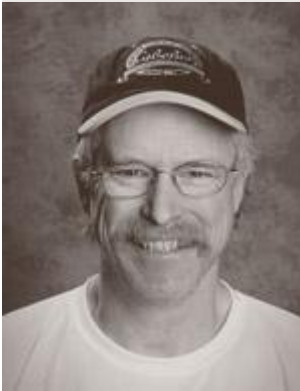
Jim Lanier, 69, was born in Washington, D.C. He was raised in Fargo, ND, where his family moved when he was six years old. He studied medicine/pathology at Washington University in St. Louis and the Mayo Clinic. After receiving his medical degree, he moved to Alaska in 1967 to serve at the Native hospital in Anchorage with the United States Public Health Service. A pathologist for 33 years, Jim is now retired from his work as a pathologist and says his current occupations are musher (since 1977), singer (all his life) and papa (41 years). He began mushing in 1977. He says he got the bug from Iditarod mushers Ron Gould, Dinah Knight and Gerry Riley. He completed his first Iditarod in 1979. He has now entered and completed thirteen Iditarods, including at least one in all four decades the race has been in existence. His goal is to make it five decades and in a competitive fashion. "After that, who knows?" He says, "health aside, it's a matter of continued enjoyment - of the dreaming, the planning, the training, the support of family, friends, and sponsors, and of going head-to-head with people half his age. Jim is married to Anna and is the father of four, Margaret, 41, Kim, 40, Willy, 31 and Jimmy, 12. His hobbies include music, commercial fishing, hunting, hiking, reading, baseball and kids.



Cindy Gallea

Seeley Lake, MT, USA

Cindy Gallea, 58, grew up on a farm in Minnesota where she experienced the pleasure of the outdoors and the good feeling of interacting with animals. She began mushing in 1987 and moved to Montana in 1990 to mush dogs, enjoy the beauty of the State and for work. A graduate of St. Olaf College with a BS in Nursing in 1973 and from the University of Washington with a Master's in nursing in 1990; she now has been a nurse practitioner for 19 years. After seeing the 1996 finish of the Iditarod, she knew she wanted to run the Race. "I am a long-time dog musher, a mother of two adult sons, and a nurse practitioner. I cherish each of these aspects of my life and try to find a good balance for all of these. I run the Iditarod because it is an exhilarating physical and mental challenge in a place of extraordinary beauty and done with amazing canine athletes. But running Iditarod is something more-it is an opportunity to immerse oneself in some of the best and most basic aspects of life-natural beauty, canine companionship, interaction with others who understand why we do what we do, outdoor activity and a spiritual connection. She is a member of the Montana Mountain Mushers and says she enjoys hiking, exercise, outdoor activities, and peace & justice issues. Cindy has two adult sons, Jim, 29 (an Iditarod veteran) and Brian, 25.



Jeff King

Denali, AK, USA

Jeff King, 54, was born in California. He came to Alaska in 1975 to "seek adventure." He began mushing in 1976 after he heard Jerry Riley's race finish while listening to the radio. Jeff has an outstanding race record including a Yukon Quest victory in 1989 and four Iditarod victories. He lives with his family on Goose Lake in Denali Park surrounded by the majestic peaks of the Alaska Range. The King's two-story log home is also an art studio for Jeff's wife, Donna, an accomplished medical illustrator and wildlife painter. The owner and operator of Goose Lake Kennels, King breeds, raises and trains 60 to 70 huskies a year. The Kings have three daughters, Cali, 25, Tessa, 23, and Ellen, 18. All the girls have run the Jr. Iditarod and Cali finished the Iditarod. Learn more at Jeff's website: www.huskyhomestead.com



Sven Haltmann

Fairbanks, AK, USA

Sven Haltmann came to Alaska in 2001 to look for new challenges and opportunities. He quickly fell in love with the sport of mushing and Alaska's beautiful wilderness. It became very clear that Alaska was the perfect playground for him and he decided to stay.

Sven absolutely loves the outdoors and all animals. He feels very fortunate to finally have a life full of action and excitement, is in good health and can fulfill his dreams. He says, "I sure don't take that for granted and feel very blessed!"

He grew up in Appenzell, a little Swiss village, in the foothills of a popular mountain range. Surrounded by farm animals all of his teenage days, he developed a strong bond with animals, especially dogs.

He finished the 2009 Iditarod in 22nd place and is ready to take it to the next level in 2010. Iditarod success is a long process and takes patience and time. 2009 taught him valuable lessons and prepared his team for more challenging tasks.

Summer 2009 brought some changes to his life. After fighting fires for the past five years, Sven works now in Fairbanks at the GoNorth Travel Center.

Sven loves Alaska and America, a place where dreams still come true!!!!



Ramey Smyth

Willow, AK, USA

Ramey Smyth, 34, was born in Alaska, the son of Iditarod veterans Bud Smyth and the late Lolly Medley. He says he's been mushing since he was a young child. He ran the Jr. Iditarod three or four times and ran his first Iditarod in 1994 and has only skipped one year since. He is a log builder and also works as a hunting guide. He says his hobbies are dogs, hunting, building homes and reading history. Ramey says, "I love Alaska, love my family, love dogs, and am racing to compete at the highest level of mushing (Iditarod). I love a challenge and would hope people would abstain from alcohol and cigarettes. My mother died from cancer caused by smoking."

Ramey and his wife, Rebecca, are the parents of Ava, 2 ½.

Learn more at Ramey's website: www.homestretchkennel.com



Hans Gatt

Whitehorse, YT, CANADA

Hans Gatt, 51, grew up on a farm in Austria. He ran the farm from age 26 and bred award winning dairy cows. He raced motocross in Europe until he attended a dog sled race that ignited his passion for racing sled dogs. Hans immediately started a breeding program using Edinger, Dunlap and Lester Erhart dogs. He also built his first dog sleds in Austria, under the name 'Gatt Sleds.' His partner in sled building in Austria was his good friend Ernst Danler. After winning all eight races entered in his first year of racing, including European Championship, Hans turned his attention to the world of dog sled racing in North America. He moved to Atlin, B.C. in 1990. Hans has won the Yukon Quest three times, the Wyoming Stage Stop four times, the Copper Basin, the European Championship four times and the IFSS World Championship Open Class, among many other races. He would like to improve upon his 2009, 10th place finish in the Iditarod. Hans builds dog sleds, travels a bit, and trained a Jamaican musher to run the 2009 Yukon Quest. He lives near Whitehorse, Yukon, with his partner Susie Rogan and 72 dogs.

Learn more at Hans's website: www.gattsled.com



Sonny Lindner

Two Rivers, AK, USA

Sonny Lindner, 60, was born in Michigan on Christmas Eve. He came to Alaska in 1970 and attended the University of Alaska at Fairbanks where he graduated in 1972. He began mushing in the early 70's and became interested in the Iditarod in 1976 when he had friends having fun running the race. He was the winner of the first Yukon Quest. He finished fourth in the All Alaska Sweepstakes in 2008. Sonny is a carpentry contractor in the Fairbanks area. He has three adult children, Erika, R.T., and Chad, three young children, Ava, Sarah and Sam. He is also a grandfather. He says, "I enjoy the Iditarod Trail with dogs. I enjoy the Iditarod. It is a good trip for the dogs and musher - good scenery, too!"



Martin Buser
Big Lake, AK, USA

Born in Winterthur, Switzerland in 1958, Martin became fascinated with sled dogs while still a teen. He came to Alaska in 1979 to enhance his knowledge of care and training of sled dogs. He began working and training with long-time Alaskan mushers Earl and Natalie Norris and ran his first Iditarod in 1980. Martin, wife Kathy Chapoton, a retired teacher, and sons Nikolai and Rohn (both named after Iditarod checkpoints), reside in Big Lake, Alaska, where the family owns and manages Happy Trails Kennel. In the fall of 2009, Nikolai will be a senior at the University of Washington in Seattle and Rohn will be a sophomore at the University of Alaska, Anchorage. Rohn completed the 2008 Iditarod.

Martin spends a large percentage of his personal time speaking with youth on the humanitarian care of animals and the spirit of the Iditarod. A favorite celebrity of the children of Alaska, Martin treats them with surprise visits from his dogs and puppies during many of these appearances.

Martin runs the race each year with his dogs to test the success of their breeding, training and physical endurance. He regards his racers as true competitive athletes and prides his team on their longevity and spirit of competition. Says Martin, "I run the Iditarod to prove that my dogs, bred, trained and raced by Happy Trails Kennels, are the best amongst the world's long distance athletes." Martin's 2002 team currently holds the record for the Fastest Iditarod by completing the race in 8 days, 22 hours, 46 minutes and 2 seconds. He has the more consecutive Iditarod finishes than any other musher, 24 from 1986 until 2009. He also ran the race in 1980 and 1981.

As tribute to his treatment of his racers, Martin was awarded the coveted Leonhard Seppala Award in 1988, 1993, 1995 and again in 1997 for the most humanitarian care of his dogs. The award was named for the most famous Alaskan musher who ran the longest and most dangerous stretch of the 1925, 674-mile diphtheria serum run from Nenana to Nome, which saved hundreds of lives.

Following Martin's 2002 Iditarod victory, the process for his becoming a naturalized citizen of the United States was completed under the burlwood monument. He then turned around in Nome and made the trip from Nome to Big Lake with his family by snow machine.

Upon completion of the 2005 Iditarod after a woodworking accident 4 days prior to the race start resulting in the amputation of a part of his finger; he was awarded both the Sportsmanship and Most Inspirational Awards by his fellow mushers.

Martin is an honorary member of Rotary and the Explorer's Club. His hobbies are carpentry and woodturning. When not working with dogs, he spends most of his time building a new, smaller, retirement home.

In the summer, Martin and his family give tours of their working kennel. The tour begins with a DVD trip from Anchorage to Nome narrated by Buser and includes his unique anecdotal stories gathered over 23 Iditarods. Visitors are offered a glimpse of a mock up of the Cripple Checkpoint complete with campfire and wall tent. Veterinary and dog care topics are discussed and of course, there's the cuddling of puppies. The tour ends with a riotous symphony of dogs barking as a team is hooked up and taken on a demo run to show folks the dogs in action.

Sprocketheads, LLC produced a DVD featuring the unique lifestyle made possible by training and racing sled dogs. The DVD captures a sled dog's life from puppyhood to racing and Martin's interaction with his athletic friends.

Martin is currently the musher with the most consecutive Iditarod finishes, 24 races completed in row, 26 total finishes.

Learn more at Martin's website: www.buserdog.com



Mitch Seavey

Seward, AK, USA

Mitch Seavey, 49, was born in Minnesota and moved with his family to Alaska in 1963. He graduated from high school in Seward and wrestled for Pacific University in Forest Grove Oregon. He began mushing in 1963. Mitch's dad, Dan, ran the Iditarod in 1973 so he decided he wanted to run the Iditarod some day. After running eleven Iditarods, Mitch won the race in 2004. In 2008, Mitch was the winner of the All Alaska Sweepstakes, held that year as a commemoration of the original All Alaska Sweepstakes. Mitch and Janine are the parents of four boys, three of whom have run the Jr. Iditarod and the Iditarod, Danny, 26, Tyrell, 23, and Dallas, 21. The youngest, Conway, is 12. Learn more at Mitch's website: www.mitchseavey.com



Aliy Zirkle

Two Rivers, AK, USA

Aliy Zirkle, 40, was born in New Hampshire. She went to college at the University of Pennsylvania where she majored in biology. In 1990 she came to Alaska to volunteer with the US Fish and Wildlife Service. Thirteen years ago she moved to Two Rivers from the "booming metropolis of Bettles, Alaska." She began mushing in 1993 and said she started by running a trap line, then ran (and won) the Yukon Quest and now she's doing the Iditarod. For the last nine years, she has been a dog musher and a carpenter. She says that sled dogs are her life and her passion. She enjoys watching puppies grow, learn and eventually become part of a team with their siblings. "I consider the Iditarod not only a competition of the highest caliber, but also a celebration of true Arctic transportation. I appreciate the trail crossing the magnificent state of Alaska and can think of no better mode of transportation I'd prefer than a dog team." Aliy is a member of the Two Rivers Dog Mushers and the IOFC. She is married to Allen Moore, also a musher, and has two adult step children, Bridgett and Jennifer. Aliy lists her hobby as "sitting in the hot tub watching the Northern Lights." Learn more at Aliy's website: www.SPKDogLog.com



DeeDee Jonrowe
Willow, AK, USA

DeeDee Jonrowe, 56, was born in Frankfort Germany while her father was in the military. The family moved to Alaska in 1971 where her dad was stationed at Ft. Richardson. DeeDee has a B.S. degree in Biological Sciences and Renewable Resources and now lists her occupation as kennel owner and dog racer. She says, "The Iditarod has become my lifestyle choice that permitted me a chance to celebrate Alaska's history and the partnership that dogs have had in it. I have had a chance to experience this relationship and to bond with the Alaskan culture that I admire. God has blessed me with the health to once again travel through His most beautiful handiwork, experiencing a reflection of His unconditional love thru the bond I have with my team. The volunteers and residents of rural Alaska are an important element of the experience for me, and I am blessed to continue participating in this race." DeeDee is a member of the Valley Women's Running Team and the Big Lake Baptist Church. She says in her spare time she enjoys Labrador retrievers, Pekingese's and mountain running. She is a triathlete and bike racer. DeeDee is married to Mike. Learn more at DeeDee's website: www.deedeejonrowe.com



Ray Redington Jr
Wasilla, AK, USA

Ray Redington, Jr., 34, was born and raised in Alaska. The grandson of Iditarod co-founder, Joe Redington, Sr. and son of Iditarod veteran, Raymie Redington, Ray says that he's been mushing since he can remember. "Iditarod has always been around my family." After running the Jr. Iditarod several times, he took a break from mushing. He began racing again in 2000. He is married to the former Julia Flodin, daughter of Iditarod veteran, Steve Flodin. They lived in Two Rivers for nine years and then moved back to Knik to be closer to family. Ray and Julia's daughter, Ellen, will be four during the 2010 Iditarod and Isaac will be one in December of this year. Ray says he enjoys hunting, fishing and my kids.



John Stewart
Aberdeen, Scotland, UK

John Stewart, 24, was born and raised in Aberdeen, Scotland. He started running dogs in 1991 and has been thinking about running the Iditarod ever since he first heard about it. He was a Scottish and British junior sprint champion and has raced in South America as well as in Canada, Alaska and the Lower 48. He says, "I've been racing dogs 18 years and competed all over the world in various styles of racing." He has handled for and trained and raced with Egil Ellis and Hans Gatt and most recently with Doug Swingley. "Competing in the Iditarod is a dream come true, having a chance to be up against the best distance dog mushers in the world." He thanks his parents and sponsors for supporting him. A commercial diver for the last two years, he says he is working to help fund his ambition to compete in the Iditarod. He says he enjoys diving, rock climbing, cars and music.



John Baker
Kotzebue, AK, USA

John Baker, 47, was born and raised in Kotzebue, Alaska. He began mushing in 1995 and was interested in the Iditarod after watching the Race in its early years. He ran his first Iditarod in 1996 and has been in every race since. He has 10 top ten Iditarod finishes. Baker is self-employed and enjoys the rural Alaska life with his wife, Iva, son, Alex, 21, a veteran of the Jr. Iditarod, and daughter, Tahayla, 7. A commercial pilot, he says his hobby is flying.



Warren Palfrey
Quesnel, BC, CANADA

Warren Palfrey, 34, began running dogs when he was eleven years old in his hometown of Rankin Inlet, Nunavut. As a Metis, Warren has always recognized the importance of dog sledding to his people's history. It was natural for him to want to run dogs. Warren started mushing by running a trap line with a team of Siberian huskies, Eskimo dogs, and Alaskan huskies. He now has Northern Star Kennels, home to 55 adult Alaskan huskies and 20 puppies of his own breeding, with an emphasis on the old Alaskan husky lines. "We are constantly amazed by the resiliency, the athleticism, and the drive of the Alaskan husky." In 2001, Warren relocated his family and dogs to Yellowknife, Northwest Territories to pursue his dream of becoming a professional dog musher. Warren is supported in his Iditarod plans by his wife and handler Kate and their three sons, Sam, 16, Peter, 11, and Jesse, 9. Mushing is a passion for all the family. Our children have been raised knowing our commitment to the sport and share our values on dog care and respect. Everyone helps in the raising of the puppies and the quest for excellence at Northern Star Kennels. We would like to thank all our family and friends for their support! And of course, a big thank you to our best buddies, the dogs! We wish everyone a safe, exciting race. See you on the trails! Learn more at Warren's website: www.northernstarkennels.com



Rick Swenson
Two Rivers, AK, USA

Rick Swenson, 59, was born in Minnesota. He moved to Alaska in 1973 to mush dogs. He is the only five-time winner of the Iditarod. He belongs to Mush with P.R.I.D.E., the Iditarod where he serves on the Board of Directors, and the Alaska Miners. Rick is the father of three, Kristen, Andy and Kevin.



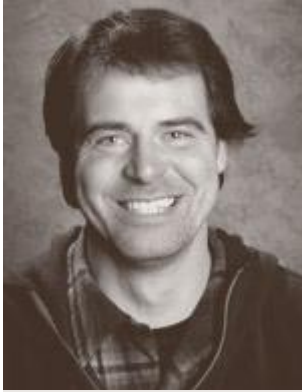
Robert Nelson
Kotzebue, AK, USA

Robert Nelson, 41, was born and raised in Kotzebue. He graduated from the University of Oregon in 1995 with a B.S. degree in Economics and Political Science. "My kennel is located some 20 miles outside of Kotzebue, a place called Fish Creek. I train with my dad, Louie, as well as with Ed Iten and John Baker, who also have their cabins nearby. I think the area in which we train is heaven on earth, plus I get to spend a lot of time with Louie. He's an incredible person. He's the reason I got involved with running dogs. If you're ever in the area, stop by. There's no shortage of coffee and conversation at our camp." For the last two years, Robert has worked in construction. He says that his hobbies are music, reading and biking.



Linwood Fiedler
Willow, AK, USA

Linwood Fiedler, 56, was born and raised in Vermont. He received his BSW at Carroll College and his MSW at University of Montana. He began dog mushing in 1980 and lived in Montana before moving to Alaska in 1990. He says he moved to Alaska "experience Alaska and to run the Iditarod." For the last 11 summers he has operated a glacier tour business in the Juneau area. He says, "Last year was a building year for a young team. We're back and race focused." Linwood and his wife Kathleen are the parents of three, Justin, Dalton and Christi.



Cim Smyth
Big Lake, AK, USA

Cim Smyth, 33, was born in Alaska and is the son of Iditarod veteran "Bud" Smyth. Cim says he's been mushing "since I was big enough to stand on a sled." He lists his occupation as "dog driver." His hobbies and interests include horses, soccer and reading. He and Corinne recently were married.



Michael Suprenant
Chugiak, AK, USA

Michael Suprenant, 45, was born in Germany while his dad was stationed there. He spent his youth living in Germany, Texas and New Mexico. After High School he joined the Air Force as an avionics technician, working on various aircraft including F-4s, A-10s, C-130s, C-5s, C-141s, KC-10s, KC-135s and the C-17. Mike has spent time all over the world including Hawaii, Japan, Australia and Saudi Arabia. He came to Alaska with the Air Force in 1997 and says he volunteered for Alaska expecting great skiing and fishing. He began thinking about the Iditarod at that time and became an Iditarod volunteer. After the Air Force, he decided to stay in Alaska to pursue his Iditarod dream. He began mushing in 2000 and moved to Chugiak from Anchorage to be able to run dogs. With some great advice from Iditarod veterans and his own experiences as a volunteer on the trail he crafted a plan to run the Iditarod. Mike currently is a Civil Service worker for the U.S. Army at Elmendorf A.F.B. He has a BA in Business and has been in contracting for three years. Michael is a member of the Chugiak Dog Mushers and lists his hobby as potato farming.



Gerald Sousa
Talkeetna, AK, USA

<>Jerry Sousa, 51, was born in California where he lived until he was 12. He moved to Alaska with his family in 1971 and has been here ever since, graduating from Susitna Valley High School in Talkeetna and attended UAA. He began mushing in 2000 and said he became interested in the Iditarod by listening to KHAR radio reports on the Race. He's a member of the Iditarod Trail Committee, Inc. and owns Talkeetna Fishing Guides & Sundog Kennel. He says, "We mush dogs for the dogs! That's all!" He and Kathleen are the parents of Nicolas, 7. He is also the father of two adult children, Fritha and Denali. Jerry lists his hobbies and interests as hunting, flying and fishing.



William Pinkham
Glenwood Springs, CO, USA

William Pinkham, 51, was born in the District of Columbia and grew up in New Jersey. He went to college and got his degree in geology/polyscience. He went to Colorado in 1980 and fell in love with the Rockies, skiing, hiking and biking. Now he says he's "working on moving to Alaska." He began mushing in 1994 after the "seed had been planted when he was a child." William said he played rugby for 23 years and filled the void left from that when he moved to Colorado, where he moved to get "mountains and space," with distance mushing. He started racing in 1999. "My dogs are a mix of solid lines and are energetic and young this year." He married Jodi in 2008 and says, "Jodi and I work together with the dogs and other parts of our relationship. I entered the Iditarod again to grow and see that country and coast again." He enjoys reading, biking, climbing and Soo Bahk Do (Korean martial art).



Zack Steer
Sheep Mountain, AK, USA

<>Zack Steer, 36, is married to Anjanette and they have two boys, Glenn, 7, and Clay 5. The family owns and operates Sheep Mountain Lodge in Alaska. Both Zack and Anjanette were born and raised in Alaska. They enjoy working and playing together, especially their time together with their kennel of 24 racing sled dogs. Zack grew up in Anchorage, graduating from Service High School and spent 4 years at Colorado College, receiving a BS in Political Science and Economics in 1995, before returning home to Alaska for good.

Zack has been running and racing sled dogs since 1996 with friend and kennel partner, Robert Bundtzen. Zack took his first dogsled ride in 1996, and within one year was signed up to compete in his first Iditarod in 1998. Zack has many fond (and not-so-fun) memories of his travels on the back of a dogsled. Mostly, he enjoys the time outside alone without the distractions of day-to-day "responsibility." Zack appreciates the privilege of racing in the Iditarod and enjoys competing against the best long distance mushers in the world.

Zack has competed in the Iditarod five times, placing as high as third in 2007. Zack has also raced in the Yukon Quest as well as in many other mid-distance races in Alaska. Learn more at Zack's website: www.sheepmountain.com



Sebastian Schnuelle
Whitehorse, YT, CANADA

Sebastian Schnuelle, 39, was born in Wuppertal, Germany. After studying Environmental Engineering in Germany he moved to Canada in 1996 "in search of adventure." Sebastian started out in Ontario but then moved to the Yukon in 1997 to run his tour business. First working as a motor home rental agent he then opened his tour business, Blue Kennels, which he now runs full time during the winter. He's run many mid-distance races and in 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2009, he ran both the Yukon Quest and the Iditarod. Sebastian is the recipient of the Veterinarians choice award as well as the Sportsmanship award in the 2007 Yukon Quest and he was the 2009 Yukon Quest champion. He was the second place finisher in the 2009 Iditarod. He is a member of Mush with P.R.I.D.E. and says his hobby is sailing.

Learn more at Sebastian's website: www.sebastianschnuelle.com



Paul Gebhardt

Kasilof, AK, USA

Paul Gebhardt, 53, was born and raised in Minnesota and came to Alaska in 1989 "to escape the rat race of the Lower 48 states."

With a number of top Iditarod finishes, including crossing the finish line in second place twice, Paul Gebhardt, 53, is ready to move into the winner's circle. After selling out most of his Kasilof-based kennel, and taking a hiatus from the Iditarod in 2002, Paul has demonstrated a remarkable ability to breed and develop a high-caliber dog team in a very short period. Many of his bloodlines trace back to his Golden Harness Award winning-leader, Red Dog, and with two Leonard Seppala Humanitarian Awards to his name, Paul has proven his devotion to his canine athletes. Unlike most competitive mushers that focus on their kennels as an exclusive profession, Paul is a true "working man's musher". He is a General Contractor that specializes in custom homes and commercial properties, and together with his wife Evy, operates Aspen Hollow Lodging on Alaska's Kenai Peninsula for seasonal visitors. Paul lives in a custom log home that he built himself, and is one of the few mushers to build his own dog sleds as well.

Paul is an avid hunter, and true to his Minnesota-born heritage on a family dairy farm, enjoys raising pheasants and horses, as well as gardening. Paul has been racing the Iditarod since 1996, and has won various mid distance events including the Copper Basin 300 and the Tustumena 200.

Paul and Evy are the parents of one adult child, Kristin.

Learn more at Paul's website: www.aspenhollowlodging.com



Newton Marshall
St. Anne, JAMAICA

Twenty-six year old Jamaican, Oswald "Newton" Marshall began mushing in 2005 after an operations manager at Chukka Cove, saw something special in Newton and handpicked him to look after a trio of new dogs at Chukka Cove Farm.

Newton's exuberance and special way with animals propelled him on a journey to the snow and great outdoors to train with huskies. In November 2007, it was decided that Newton would train and race to qualify for the Yukon Quest. Marshall left sunny Jamaica and arrived in Whitehorse, Yukon Territory, Canada to begin his long distance training with three-time Yukon Quest winner Hans Gatt.

Marshall was up to the task and March 27-28, 2008 he finished 7th in a field of 15 in the 210-mile Percy DeWolfe Memorial Mail Race and received the Sportsmanship Award from his fellow mushers. Marshall then successfully completed Alaska's Copper Basin 300 (Jan 10 to 13, 2009) placing 13th in a field of 27 starts.

On February 26, 2009, Marshall became the first Jamaican ever to finish the Yukon Quest 1,000 Mile International Sled Dog Race. He did so finishing 13th out of a field of 29 mushers. For his perseverance despite the odds against him, race officials selected Marshall as the recipient of the Challenge of the North Award.

For 2010, Newton has set his sights on the Iditarod and will be training with 3-time champion Lance Mackey as he prepares for this race.

Learn more at Newton's website: www.jamaicadogsled.com



Sam Deltour
Sint-Kruis, BELGIUM

Sam Deltour, 24, was born in Belgium. He received his bachelor's degree in Medicine and is now in his fifth year of medical studies. He saw a documentary about the Iditarod on the National Geographic Channel when he was 12 and became interested in mushing. So he began mushing in 2006 and came to Alaska and trained at the Seavey Kennels to run the 2008 Iditarod. At some point during that time, he says, "I started noticing a lot of parallels between mushing and Multiple Sclerosis. Slowly, continuously and unpredictable physical functions decrease. Every day is a new challenge, planning difficult, fatigue a given. There were times when I ran Iditarod I could barely stand on my feet cause I was so tired. My mother was a huge source of inspiration for me during such moments. I would like to dedicate every mile I travel and take care of my beloved canine athletes and friends to the one who took such good care of me all those years and to everyone who's living with the same challenges she has to face everyday." Sam finished in 2008 with his sixteen athletes in harness fulfilling a childhood dream." He says that last winter he was back in medical school and "the musher inside of me was getting pretty bored. I wanted to learn more, experience more, at the same time, I wanted to give more to the dogs. Don't ask me why I felt like keeping on freezing off brain cells and putting my toes on the line..... Thanks to an athlete's status I can run some races during the winter and study over the summer." Same enjoys kite surfing, playing the guitar and reading.

Learn more at Sam's website: www.samdeltour.com