

In Memory of Joanne Alexander & Susan Butcher

Women on the Trail

Excerpts from Nicki J. Nielsen



Dedicated to all the dog mushers who take to the trails to enjoy the peace and beauty of Alaska's countryside.
Especially dedicated to those women who have run the Iditarod Race.

A Listing of a Few Courageous Women in Alaska's Iditarod History:

1974	Lolly	Medley	She started with 14 dogs and ended with 9.
1974	Mary	Shields	First female to mush across the finish line at Nome in 1974.
1975	Ginger	Burcham	3rd female to enter the race. Ran a team of Samoyed & Samoyed-Siberian Crosses.
1977	Dinah	Knight	First woman from outside Alaska to enter the race.
1978	Francine	Bennis	First ran in 1984. She started running dogs in 1978.
1978	Gill	Gill	Ran her first race in 1978.
1978	Susan	Butcher	1st woman to place in the money, 4 time winner, died Aug. 5, 2006.
1978	Varona	Thompson	2 nd woman to place in the money. She netted \$500 in 1978.
1979	Dee Dee	Jonrowe	Has raced many Iditarods since 1979. Still racing despite a 'bout with cancer in 2004.
1979	Patty	Friend	Ran her first race in 1979. Her husband is an Iditarod musher, also.
1980	Barbara	Moore	She became Nome's first female to compete in the Iditarod.
1980	Donna	Gentry	1980 Iditarod Rookie of the Year.
1980	Marjorie	Moore	In Nome at the finish line she commented, "No big deal."
1981	Firmin	Firmin	A lifelong Alaskan, she first ran in 1981.
1982	Rose	Albert	First Alaska Native woman to compete in the Iditarod.
1983	Beverly	Masek	1983 was her first race. She serves in the Alaska State House as of 2004.
1983	Chris	O'Gar	First entered the race in 1983.
1983	Connie	Frerichs	She is from Delta Junction, Alaska and first entered the race in 1983.
1983	Fritz	Kirsch	She ran in 1983 and estimates that it cost her \$15,000 to run it then.
1983	Pam	Flowers	1983 race was a beginning of her ultimate goal to sled to the North Pole.
1983	Roxy	Wright	Famous sprint racer who first entered the race in 1983.
1983	Shannon C.	Poole	First took to the trail as one of 68 racers in 1983.
1984	Diana	Dronenburg	First time that a husband and wife ran together in competition.
1984	Kari	Skogen	First female musher from another country to race the Iditarod.
1984	Miki	Collins	Mushed dogs for 10 years before entering the 1984 race.
1985	Betsy	McGuire	Last minute entrant in the 1985 race.
1985	Claire	Philip	She and her husband became the 1 st couple to complete the race together.
1985	Libby	Riddles	First female to win the Iditarod Race. She won \$59,000.
1985	Monique	Bene	First musher from France to sign up for the race
1986	Pat	Danley	She entered with her husband, Bill Hall
2005	Rachael	Scdoris	First legally blind musher to run the Iditarod (2005) & to finish the Iditarod (2006)

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