

Tanana Dogsled Racers Go Into Gear After Weather Slows Start

The Tanana Dog Mushers Association got off to a slow start with the very first race postponed because of poor snow conditions and a minus 20 degree temperature.

The trail was slow with light fog and snow when the first race was finally run and in spite of the weather, nine teams entered the six-mile passenger race.

Ray Folger mushed home in first place with Carol Ella as passenger in time of 27 minutes and 22 seconds, followed by Lester Erhart with passenger Judy Sommer in time of 28 minutes and 11 seconds.

Erhart was closely followed by Jake Starr with passenger Eleanor Folger with the time of 28 minutes and 12 seconds.

On December 10, another six-miler for men was run with 16 teams entered and a total of 131 dogs with the winner Roy Folger in time of 25 minutes and 39 seconds, John R. Swenson placed second in time of 26 minutes and 7 seconds, and third place went to Johnny Folger with a time of 26 minutes and 26 seconds.

December 31 was the women's 8-miler won by Gladys Erhart with time of 47 minutes and 8 seconds, Pinky Folger was second with a time of 51 minutes and 35 seconds and Flora Korkrines third in 52 minutes and 21 seconds.

On Monday, New Year's Day, things really picked up. Nineteen teams entered the men's 8-miler with a total of 158 dogs on the Yukon River trail.

Winner was Peter Joseph with time of 38 minutes and 59 seconds, second - Ray Folger, time 40 minutes, 22 seconds and third again was Johnny Folger with time of 42 minutes and 19 seconds.

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Tanana Racers

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Tanana Dog Mushers have scheduled the following races for the remainder of the season:

January 14, a 10-miler was postponed a week because of extreme temperatures.

January 28, next Sunday, men's 12-miler.

February 11, men's 14-miler.

February 25, men's 16-miler.

March 10, men's 18-miler.

March 24, men's 20-miler.

The following is the schedule for the month of April Spring Carnival Races:

April 4, men's snowshoe race; women's 10-miler and 5-dog 6-miler kid's race.

April 5, 6-mile passanger race; 6-mile old man's race and women's snowshoe race.

April 6, men's 20-miler.

April 7, men's 20-miler; 2-dog kid's 2-miler and 1-dog kid's race, one half mile.

This season of dogracing in Tanana promises to be a big one with sponsors such as Wien Air Alaska, Tanana Lions Club, Northern Commercial Co., Tanana Air Taxi, Gregory Merchandise, and Pictures Inc. of Anchorage.

The purse for the April races, including preliminary races, totals \$1,500.

"We extend an invitation to all you mushers to attend the April Races," says Tanana Dog Mushers Association, "and try for some of Tanana's green stuff. See you on the trail."