



by Steve Kakaruk

Tundra Times

**This promises to be a hot week in Fairbanks!** Starting on Tuesday, the **Tanana Chiefs Conference** will be holding their Annual Convention. **Thursday** night, there will be a benefit held at the **Eagles Hall** for the **Athabaskan Fiddlers Festival**. Friday, **Doyon's Annual Shareholders Meeting** takes place, with the start of the **North American** sharing the spot. **Fairbanks Native Association** will hold their Annual Potlatch on Saturday, the perfect caper to an exciting week of events.

**Noatak** is this year's host of the **NANA Annual Meeting** on March 17.

**Nome** doesn't have too much longer to wait as the mushers near the finish line in this year's **Iditarod**. As of March 6, Joe Garnie of Teller lead the pack to McGrath, the 10th checkpoint out, 48 miles down the trail. Next came Lavon Barve, Susan Butcher, Terry Adkins, John Cooper, Guy Blankenship, Mike Pemberton, Jerry Riley, John Barron and Rick Swenson. They are the top ten so far. By the time you read this you may already know who won this year's race since it's a fast one this time out.

Bobby Lee, of Trapper Creek drove his dogs out during a blizzard with temperatures well below 20 degrees. Bobby, in trouble, finally found a tree to pull in and dug out a snow cave under a snowdrift. He was hear hypothermic conditions when the coleman stove would not fire up. He had this compact stove as a back up for emergency purposes. Some of the other mushers wondered what the second stove's purpose would serve. I think they understand now. Travel prepared! Bobbie is still in this year's race.

Fairbanks is waiting for a musher to cross the finish line in this year's **Yukon Quest**. The last reported leaders are; Joe May of Trapper Creek, Jeff King, Harry Sutherland, Ed Foran, and Bill Cotter.

The **Institute of Alaska Native Arts** will hold a **Maskmakers' Symposium** starting March 24.

**"Beating Around the Bush"** is a new column which we hope to be able to offer on a weekly basis. You can help us out! Is there anything of interest going on in your community? Write to: **Bush Beat**, c/o Tundra Times, P.O. Box 104480, Anch., AK. 99510. Or call Steve @274-2512. —Ed.