



by Steve Kakaruk

Tundra Times

Anchorage for the first time in the history of the Fur Rendezvous cancelled the World Championship Sled Dog Races due to the lack of snow. All the snow that was needed was about five inches to keep the races scheduled. Race Marshalls declared the race officially cancelled. Guess what? It's now snowing in Anchorage and expected to go until....

The Alaska Native Musicales drew record numbers of people which began February 18 and continued to the 21st.

The Gold Rush Snowmachine began its race at Big Lake instead of Anchorage due to the lack of snow. February 22.

The Community Enterprises Development Corporation (CEDC) held their annual meeting February 20.

The Alaska Federation of Natives held a full board meeting February 19, 20. Board members met and held a Reception for Legislators.

The Village Participation Conference scheduled Feb. 28-March 2 will take place at the Baranoff. This year's theme is "Planning for Our Future." The 13th annual VPC will address problems and possible solutions in "planning skills" as the need is ever present in bush communities as oil revenues decline. Governor Bill Sheffield is scheduled to speak on March 2 and Representative Kay Wallis is scheduled to speak on Feb 28.

The Alaska Native Sisterhood will host a traditional potlatch on Saturday when the VPC closes March 2.

Unalakleet held a meeting for the Kawerak Board February 19.

Dillingham held a BBNA Full Board Membership meeting February 21.

The Beaver Round-up will begin February 26 thru March 2.

Aniak met over the weekend at the Kuspuk School District for the Elders Conference.

Nenana raised the tripod and held their annual Tripod Raising Festival.

Nome's Bering Straits Elders Conference begins February 25 thru March 2. Senator John Sackett is Scheduled to speak. The Iditarod Races to Nome begin in Anchorage March 1. Also the David Walluk Memorial Sled Dog Race begins March 1.

Aniak's Winter carny is scheduled March 7-9.

Fairbanks Ice Festival begins March 7. The Tanana Chiefs Conference Annual Convention meets March 11. The Doyon Ltd Annual Shareholders Meeting is scheduled March 14. If the snow is not melted The Open North American Sled Dog Championship begin March 14. And the Fairbanks Native Association will share its Annual Potlatch with all.

The Yukon Quest race is heating up between Tim Osmar, currently second and Robin Jacobson of Squam Lake Minn. Jacobson who won last month's 430-mile John Beargrease Race in Minnesota finished first beating Iditarod veteran mushers Susan Butcher and Libby Riddles.

"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.