



RACING TEAM — Musher John Suter discusses his team of "poodles" with fellow Knik musher Dave Olson.
— Mitch Demientieff Photo

Travelling musher finds winners circle

KNIK — Dog musher Charlie Stevens of Nenana, made the long drive of approximately 250 miles to Knik on Saturday, January 6 to compete in the Aurora Dog Mushers Association 13-mile dog race this past weekend and drove his 14 dog team to victory. Although losing about 2 minutes in making a pass of a slower team, Stevens had no trouble the rest of the way and edged out his closest competitor by 18 seconds. Stevens posted a time of 46:13 and hometown musher Tim Redington narrowly nosed out fellow Knik musher Jack Shulties for second place, Redington's time was 46:31 and Shulties clocked 46:33 for third place.

The hometown mushers were handicapped by the fact that their training trail is the same trail local mushers utilize for training runs, and since the locals do not use the start and finish line on training runs they (Knik mushers) generally lose some time in every race. Saturday's run was no exception to the rule and Knik mushers are thinking of running the future

aces around the track in the opposite direction as most troubles are reported on the home stretch.

Back to racing action — Vern Cherniski, Dave Branholm and Don Holcomb took the next three places respectively and the seventh musher Joe Labeau was still working his way around the trail as the sun was setting and this reporter headed for the "homefront."

The Aurora Dog Mushers have scheduled a 15-mile race on January 13 and the championship race will be held on January 20 and 21, featuring two 16-mile

heats.

Mushers times include:

1. Charlie Stevens	46:13
2. Tim Redington	46:31
3. Jack Shulties	46:33
4. Vern Cherniski	48:30
5. Dave Branholm	53:14
5. Don Holcomb	55:41
7. Joe Labeau	MIA

7 dog, 6½ mile

1. Neil Shanahan	28:12
2. Bill Cotter	30:42
3. Donna Olson	31:03
4. Bill Sturdevant	31:59
5. Keith Fairchild	32:25
6. John Suter	41:24