

# Minto Laying Welcome Mat For Festival

The people of Minto are laying out the welcome mat for visitors to their village this weekend, as the annual Minto Spring Carnival, dog races, potlatches, ceremonial dancing and fun promised for everybody, gets under way today with a 10-mile women's sled dog race.

Minto women are competing around 10 miles of an 18-mile race course laid out for the men's races beginning tomorrow.

Every spring, Minto opens its doors to friends and relatives in other villages as warm April sunshine sends a shot of spring fever throughout Interior Alaska.

Visitors come crowding into the little Tanana river village, 100 miles west of Fairbanks, and Minto homeowners throw their doors open to take in as many as there's room for. Friend and stranger alike are welcome in Minto homes during the Carnival weekend.

Events crowd the weekend schedule.

Today Minto women, many of them wives of mushers

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# *Welcome Mat. . .*

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priming their teams for the Saturday and Sunday men's 18-mile race, are running in races which begin at 1 p.m.

Mushers from Fairbanks, Nenana, Minto and other areas will be heading out of the starting chutes at 1 p.m. both Saturday and Sunday. Despite warm temperatures, the trails are reported in good condition, with deep snow and a well-packed course.

The race trail itself starts along the frozen Tanana River in front of the village, and winds out through eighteen miles of the Minto Flats.