Attla wins another race

Nenana Tripod Championship

NENANA – George Attla put the wraps on another championship this past weekend in the, Nenana Tripod Championship Sled Dog Race at the Tenana River community.

Attla won the first 10.7 mile heat in a time of 35.30.39. thus extending his winning streak to five consecutive heats. The streak dates back to the final two heats of the '79 Rondy and included both heats of the Alaska State Championship in Soldotna. Greg Taylor took second place with a time of 36.10.56 and Nenana's Charlie Stevens placed third at 36.35.24. Youngster Terry Erhart of Tanana finished fourth at 36 35 83 only .59 slower than Stevens. Carl Huntington finished fifth at 36.36.71.

Sunday's second heat was run in less than desirable conditions, as a brisk wind tended to complicate race strategy. Terry Erhart overhauled Attla for day time at 37.24.75 and Attla finished second at \neg 37.53.65. Erhart's time was not good enough to catch Attla in total elapsed time as George's total time was 73.24.04. Erhart finished second at 74.00.56 and Carl Huntington finished third at 74.46.03.

Charlie Stevens was prevented from taking a run at the title when he became tangled with the team of Greg Taylor under the hyway bridge several hundred yards from the starting line. Taylor scratched at that point and Stevens went on to finish fifth in the race.

A total of 24 teams entered the race and 20 completed it. In a race of 10.7 miles there can be no stops along the way as there is not enough trail to make up for lost time.

The Nenana lce Classic Tripod was raised on Sunday and will await those anxious few moments of spring when the ice moves at Nenana and makes some lucky soul a lot richer in the annual guessing game.