



Beating Around The Bush

by Steve Kakaruk

Tundra Times

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

Nome is preparing the streets for a warm welcome for the first musher to cross the finish line on front street in Nome. By mid-March after the **Iditarod** race has been completed and the awards are announced at the banquet, the **Iditarod Basketball Tournament** will begin. It's the largest basketball tournament in the state. In previous years, over 52 teams have participated, some of them from as far **Seattle** and **Oregon**. Divisions for both women and men in class A and B teams will participate. The competition takes place for one week and ends with an awards presentation and a celebration party. Perhaps the richest in the world! The **Nome Kennel Club's Dog Weight Pull** will take place during the weekend of the **Iditarod banquet**. Over \$3,000 in prize money is awarded. Trainers and their dogs will come from all over Alaska. The strongest dog will win \$1,000. There are three class weights of dogs in competition. Class A, 125lbs and over; Class B, 75 to 124 lbs; and Class C, up to 75 lbs. In the past dogs have pulled in excess of 2000 pounds.

The **Bering Sea Ice Classic Golf Tournament**, a fund raiser sponsored by the **Bering Sea Lions Club** will take place March 17. The game is played on the frozen sea using fluorescent orange golf balls. The six hole course is dyed green, in keeping with the St. Patricks Day tradition. First place will receive a \$200 purse. Again the **David Walluk Memorial Dog Sled Race** is March 8-9. Racers go 20 miles each day. The **Nome Sweepstakes Sled Dog Race** is scheduled for March 28. Racers begin and end back up in Nome on a rugged 300 mile trail. One of the last but not least of the winter events up at Nome is the **Nome Golovin Snomachine Race** which has been in existence for over 20 years. Twenty-five entrants are awarded the chance to take first place in two classes, Women's and Men's. The women leave Nome, race to the Safety Roadhouse and return for a total of 45 miles. The Men travel a total of 200 miles from Nome to Golovan and back.

For many that have thoughts of summer take note the first day of Spring (Vernal Equinox) comes March 21st.

The **Miss Cook Inlet Native Association Pageant** will take place on the same date, in Anchorage.

"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.