



IRON DOG 2015 ATTRACTS NEW RACERS INCLUDING CHAMPION DOG MUSHER SONNY LINDNER

Iron Dog continues to attract an exciting lineup of snowmobile racers from Alaska, Canada and across the United States.

Anchorage. For the last four years, the Iron Dog snowmobile race has maintained a field of more than 70 racers. Each year, athletes from as far away as Maine have come to participate in Alaska's largest motorized sporting event. Now entering its 32nd year as the longest, toughest snowmobile race, the Iron Dog will have 37 Pro Class teams of racers from all across North America.

Kevin Kastner, Executive Director, Iron Dog, Inc., said: "We're very excited to have such a broad spectrum of local, national and international racers. The growing diversity adds to the overall interest in snowmobiling and expands the audience of spectators who are discovering what makes this great race across Alaska so incredible."

For 2015, in addition to the usual field of urban area Alaska teams, there are racers from Bethel, Soldotna, Fairbanks, Two Rivers, McGrath, Nome, Kotzebue, Tanana, Idaho, Minnesota, Maine and Alberta Canada. Of the 37 teams and 74 racers, 27 racers are rookies, 10 teams are full-rookie teams, 4 father-son teams, 4 all-brother teams, 8 returning champions and there's one all female team. The last all female team to compete was in 2011 with the Alaska National Guard team Sgt. Maj. Pamela Harrington and Sgt. Elaine Jackson. In 2001, Jackie Page and Missy McClurg are the only all-female team to have successfully finished this race to-date.

Another exciting new racer for 2015 is champion sled dog musher Sonny Linder from Two Rivers, Alaska. Sonny is the first-ever racer to win the Yukon Quest championship and has several top finishes in both the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest sled dog races. "I am excited to run the Iron Dog Race with my son, RT, and get a new perspective on a familiar trail," said Sonny Linder, "I needed a change of pace." Sonny certainly has vast mushing experience on the trail, but both he and RT will be racing as rookies in the Iron Dog Pro Class race.

Other news for Pro Class racers this year are: (1) *Four-time Champion Marc McKenna has a new teammate and is now riding Polaris after recently winning two in a row on Ski-Doo in 2012 and 2013.* (2) *Bethel racer Steven Boney is now partnered with long-time racer Doug Dixon, Anchorage both riding on Yamaha.* (3) *Tyson Johnson is now on his 17th Iron Dog, having first started when he was 17 years old.* (4) *Notably not racing are Scott Davis and Dusty VanMeter.* (5) *A strong new team to watch is Team #20, Faeo and Quam.* (6) *Todd Palin is back again with Tyler Huntington.* (7) *The team with the most enthusiastic fans, from McGrath, Team #12, the Strick Brothers are back again after taking a year off.* (8) *Team #16 Champions Minnick/Olstad are returning.*

The week of Iron Dog events begins with the Donlin Gold Iron Dog Safety Expo, to be held at Cabela's in Anchorage on February 18, 2015.

Following is a list of teams who will draw for starting positions during the Hall of Fame Banquet on Thursday, February 19, 2015. Tickets are available online at www.irondog.org or by calling (907) 563-4414.

BIB #	LAST NAME	FIRST NAME	CITY	STATE	SNOWMOBILE MAKE	EARLY BIRD	RACER STATUS
2	Sottosanti	Ryan	Wasilla	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
2	Barber	Shane	Willow	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
3	Dixon	Doug	Anchorage	AK	Yamaha	X	Veteran
3	Boney	Steven	Bethel	AK	Yamaha	X	Veteran
4	Kidwell	Rachel	Anchorage	AK	Polaris	X	Rookie
4	Wood	Ashley	Wasilla	AK	Polaris	X	Rookie
5	Chvastasz	Ray	Wasilla	AK	Polaris	X	Rookie
5	Carroll	Chris	Fairbanks	AK	Polaris	X	Rookie
6	George	Andy	Wassila	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
6	George	Brad	Wasilla	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
7	Bartel	Gordon	Anchorage	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
7	Bartel	Aaron	Anchorage	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
8	Johnson	Tyson	Eagle River	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
8	Aklestad	Tyler	Plamer	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
9	Plumb	Joshua	Eagle River	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
9	Starr	Jordan	Eagle River	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
10	Morgan	Mike	Anchorage	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
10	Olds	Chris	Eagle River	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
11	Palin	Todd	Wasilla	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
11	Huntington	Tyler	Fairbanks	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
12	Strick	Robert	Wasilla	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
12	Strick Jr	Steffen	McGrath	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
13	Schaeffer	John	Anchorage	AK	Arctic Cat	X	Rookie
13	Lie	Rick	Kotzebue	AK	Arctic Cat	X	Rookie
14	Tope	Mark	Anchorage	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
14	Tope	Mike	Anchorage	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Rookie
16	Minnick	Todd	Wasilla	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
16	Olstad	Nick	Wasilla	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
18	Gueco	Chad	Wasilla	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
18	Zwink	Andrew	Wasilla	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
20	Quam	Eric	Palmer	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
20	Faeo	Scott	Wasilla	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
21	Brown	Stan	Eagle River	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
21	Dean	John	Eagle River	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
22	Gravatt	Randy	Island Park	ID	Arctic Cat	X	Veteran
22	Strobel	Dieter	Barrett	MN	Arctic Cat	X	Rookie
23	Sindorf	Jonathan	Wasilla	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Rookie
23	Sindorf Jr	Paul	Palmer	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran

For info:

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25	Huss	Micah	Willow	AK	Arctic Cat	X	Rookie
25	Carr	Mark	Soldotna	AK	Arctic Cat	X	Veteran
27	Jones	Larry	Anchorage	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
27	Delimont	Tyler	Anchorage	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
28	Gundersen	Jason	Fairbanks	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Rookie
28	Norum	Josh	Fairbanks	AK	Ski-Doo	X	Rookie
29	Levine	Larry	Anchorage	AK	Polaris	X	Rookie
29	English	Stanley	Anchorage	AK	Polaris	X	Rookie
30	Crouse	Geoff	Anchorage	AK	Arctic Cat	X	Veteran
30	Vaughn	Jerrod	Anchorage	AK	Arctic Cat	X	Veteran
31	Dow	Chad	Fairfield	ME	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
31	Lessard	Tim	Monmouth	ME	Ski-Doo	X	Veteran
32	Alward	Jerry	Anchorage	AK	Polaris	X	Rookie
32	Kanady	Tim	Anchorage	AK	Polaris	X	Rookie
33	Koontz	Donald	Wasilla	AK	Polaris	X	Rookie
33	Conner	Kyle	Wasilla	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
34	Collins	Chris	Kotzebue	AK	Ski Doo	X	Veteran
34	Bahnke III	John	Nome	AK	Ski Doo	X	Veteran
36	Greene	Tony	Fairbanks	AK	Polaris	X	Rookie
36	Folsom	Ryan	Fairbanks	AK	Polaris	X	Veteran
39	Barber	Cody	Willow	AK	Polaris	X	Rookie
39	Lapham	Brett	Willow	AK	Polaris	X	Rookie
40	Marks Jr	Arnold	Tanana	AK	Yamaha	X	Veteran
40	Agnes	Archie	Tanana	AK	Yamaha	X	Veteran
41	Davis	Cory	Soldotna	AK	Arctic Cat	X	Veteran
41	Simons	Ryan	Camrose Alberta	Canada	Arctic Cat	X	Veteran
48	Dyer	Wayne	Sedgwick	ME	Ski Doo	X	Rookie
48	Kruse	Chris	Skowhegan	ME	Ski Doo	X	Rookie
49	VanWingerden	Klinton	BigLake	AK	Yamaha	X	Rookie
49	VanWingerden	Kris	BigLake	AK	Yamaha	X	Rookie
15	Potter	Charlie	Palmer	AK	Arctic Cat		Veteran
15	Jurenka	Brain	Anchorage	AK	Arctic Cat		Rookie
17	McKenna	Marc	Anchorage	AK	Polaris		Veteran
17	Hill	Allen	Wasilla	AK	Polaris		Veteran
42	Lindner	Rurik	Fairbanks	AK	Ski Doo		Rookie
42	Lindner	Sonny	Two Rivers	AK	Ski Doo		Rookie

Note: Early bird status means that the team will draw during the first round. 34 teams registered early, leaving only teams #15, #17 and #42 in the second round.

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Iron Dog, Inc. is a proud leader in the snowmobile community promoting snowmobile safety and outdoor education through trade shows, seminars and community events. Iron Dog also conducts student exchange programs and has donated \$84,000 to Alaska charities since 2011.

The Iron Dog race, presented by the Alaska National Guard, is a World Class Snowmobile Event that crosses the State of Alaska each February impacting over twenty-five Alaskan communities. Today's Iron Dog course is over 2,000 miles, from Anchorage to Nome and finishing in Fairbanks, making it the World's longest snowmobile race. Participants must traverse areas of Alaska's most remote and rugged terrain while confronting some of the harshest winter conditions. Survival skills are essential, making it the World's toughest snowmobile race.

Iron Dog 2015 is scheduled to begin Saturday, February 21, 2015. Visit www.irondog.org for the latest news and schedule of events.

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