The Tripod

October 2022

Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance, PO Box 2323, Seward AK 99664
http://www.Iditarod100.org IditarodHTA@gmail.com
The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance is an equal opportunity program provider and employer.

The Iditarod Historic Trail Alliance promotes awareness of the Iditarod Trail and its gold rush and Alaska Native heritage by encouraging education programs and historical research, assisting in the protection, improvement, maintenance and marking of the Trail and developing partnerships that foster stewardship, commitments and support.



Time to Renew

Alliance membership dues for 2023 are due by the end of December. A renewal form is enclosed with this newsletter.

This is a good time to upgrade your membership level and to recruit new members for the Alliance.

Every member is an important part of our mission to preserve, protect and promote the Iditarod National Historic Trail.

From the Past...

Iditarod Pioneer June 15, 1916

RUBY KENNEL CLUBS DERBY TO BE RUN ON MARCH 17

Ruby, Alaska, December 7, 1915

Iditarod Kennel Club, Iditarod, Alaska.

Gentlemen we send you greetings and wish you a season's success. Also, we beg to advise you and remind you that on March 17th, 1916, the annual Ruby Derby will be run between Ruby and Long and return. The distance is fifty-seven and a half miles and the record for the distance over the course is still held by your picked team driven by J. L. Jean in 1913. Our prizes this year are double any we have offered before, and are divided as follows $500 for first money, $300 for second and $200 for third. Entrance fee, $25. We hope to attract many entries. At present we understand that there will be two from Nulato and that Sture Stenberg will be here with a team, and there will be one from Tanana and two or three from Ruby and Long. We also have invited Nome to send a team. We hope we may get Fairbanks to pick a team and send it, but of course it is not likely they will, as they are only beginners at this northern pastime.

We enclose a card which shows in addition to the Derby, the other races we have planned for the following winter.

We will be very glad to welcome any entry from Iditarod for any of the races, and especially the Derby. We know you are good sports, have good dogs, and we would like you to come and play with us.

Ruby Kennel Club, Basil Clement, Secretary



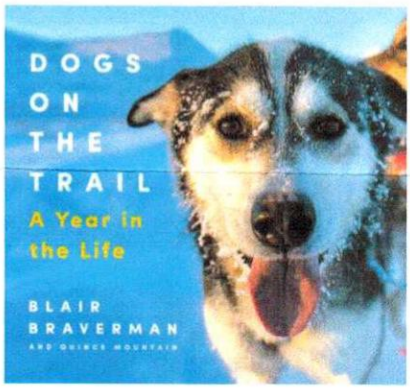
The caption says, " Coming to the 1916 Ruby Derby."

The above letter to the Iditarod Kennel Club was received by George Marsh in the last mail. While Mr. Clement speaks of Sture Sternberg taking part in the Ruby race, this is by no means assured. Mr. Sternberg is now on the outside and it is not probable he will return in time for the race.

Interest in the dog racing game in this camp has been at a low ebb for some time and no attempt has been made to pull off the customary races this year. The Iditarod Kennel Club appears to have just dropped into innocuous disquietude.

New Book

When Blair Braverman started posting pictures of her dog team on Twitter, she had no idea the response she would get. Being a musher, after all, is not just about racing, it is a full-time job. She and her husband, musher Quince Mountain, wanted to share stories about life with their dog team, and not just the big stuff, like expeditions and wild animal encounters, but also the everyday things: the challenge of storing a thousand pounds of raw meat, scouting new trails with the dogs, the decisions that go into putting a team together, how to train puppies. There were goofy stories, scary stories, heartfelt stories, stories that clearly connected with people and kept going viral.



Inspired by those connections, *Dogs on the Trail* is a chronicle of a year in the life of their dog team. Beginning in the fall as the weather starts to cool, training on both dry land and in the snow, then camping and racing. Spring brings mud—lousy for sledding. And summer is the season of puppies.

Although the authors are Wisconsin residents, they have spent ample time in Alaska, and they are celebrating and continuing a tradition born in the far north. Quince Mountain's one Iditarod Race unfortunately ended prematurely in 2020 when officials shut down checkpoints ahead of the emerging COVID-19 pandemic.

Land Manager Forum

Alaska Trails will be holding its annual Land Manager Forum on Tuesday, November 15. The Forum brings land managers, trails groups, trail builders and trail enthusiasts together to highlight the many successes they have had and share what has worked and what has not.

You can view the 2021 presentations at: https://www.alaska-trails.org/land-manager-foru.

The Forum will be held at BP Energy Center in Anchorage. More details including agenda, speakers and more will be forthcoming. If you have any questions or ideas for the forum, send an email to Steve Cleary: steve.cleary@alaska-trails.org

The Gold Sheet

To demonstrate the value of volunteer hours and private contributions to the 11 National Scenic Trails and the 19 National Historic Trails, the Partnership for The National Trails System compiles an annual report called the Gold Sheet, which summarizes the private dollars donated and hours of volunteer time contributed to build, interpret, and sustain the nation's 30 scenic and historic trails.

Using the yearly national rate for volunteer time calculated by the independent sector, the Gold Sheet transfers volunteer hours into monetary value. Combined, the value of volunteer work and private donation demonstrate the total private contributions to the National Trails System.

In 2021 money raised by the National Trails System's 30 trails was: in private contributions $20,134,251 and the monetary value of volunteer hours was $23,382,051.

The totals raised since 1995 are: in private donations $260,054,082 and in volunteer hours $453,437,405.

