



## TWO RIVERS 50, 100 & 200 CHATANIKA CHALLENGE 2013 Race Rules

### **PRE-RACE RULES**

**Qualifications:** All drivers must be members in good standing with the TRDMA. Drivers must be at least 18 years of age by the start of the race. No one convicted of animal abuse or neglect will be eligible to enter the race. TRDMA may honor censure by any other sled dog racing organization.

**Fees:** Entry fee for the 200 mile race is \$250, for the 100 mile race is \$125, and for the 50 mile race, \$50. Entries must be received by February 28<sup>th</sup>. Race-day sign-ups will have a \$25 late fee assessed, payable at the Drivers' meeting.

**Purse:** Minimum purse will be 50% of the total entry fees received in each class, plus additional sponsorship donations, if any. Payout will be as follows:

1<sup>st</sup>: 40% – 2<sup>nd</sup>: 30% – 3<sup>rd</sup>: 15% – 4<sup>th</sup>: 10% – 5<sup>th</sup>: 5%

Total purse will be announced at the bib draw.

**Registration:** Completed race entry forms must be postmarked no later than midnight February 28<sup>th</sup>, 2013. A total combined entry for the 100 and 200 mile races is 30 teams. Once the maximum number of entries is received, a waiting list will be established and will operate on a first-come, first-served basis. There is no maximum number of entries for the 50 mile class.

**Withdrawal prior to the race start:** An 100 or 200 mile entrant withdrawing prior to 12:01 A.M. AKST, Saturday, March 2<sup>nd</sup> will be refunded all but \$50 of his or her entry fee. Teams that withdraw after that time will forfeit their entire entry fee. Entry fees for the 50 mile class are non-refundable.

**Draw for start position:** Start position will be determined by luck of the draw on Thursday, March 7<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at 7:00 P.M. AKST at Two Rivers Lodge. The order of the draw will be determined by the order entries are received. Race numbers will be distributed at that time.

**Mandatory Driver's meeting:** Attendance at the drivers' meeting immediately following the bib draw is mandatory. Any driver not in attendance is subject to penalty or disqualification.

**Awards Banquet:** Awards presentations will be held Sunday, March 10<sup>th</sup>, 2012 at 5:00 P.M. AKST (6 P.M. AKDT) (**PLEASE NOTE:** clocks are changed to daylight saving time at 2:00 A.M. on Sunday March 10<sup>th</sup>, but the race clock will remain on AKST for the purpose of the race) at Two Rivers Lodge. Extra banquet tickets can be purchased at the bib draw.

**Race cancellation:** If the temperature at the Chatanika Lodge is colder than -44 degrees Fahrenheit at 10:00 A.M. on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, the race will be cancelled. After the race is started, it will continue regardless of temperature.

In the event of low snow/no snow conditions, the race will be cancelled no later than March 2<sup>rd</sup>. Notice of low snow/no snow race cancellation will be posted on the TRDMA web site and on Facebook. A best-effort attempt will be made to contact registered drivers by telephone and/or email.

### **Food drops:**

Drivers are responsible for providing their own drop bags. Drop bags must:

- be clearly marked with the driver's name and checkpoint.
- not exceed 60 pounds in weight.
- be packed securely enough to withstand handling and transport to the checkpoints.
- be checked in and sealed by a race official at the start no later than 10:00 A.M. on race day.
- be delivered by handlers to checkpoints before musher arrives.

Straw will be provided at Pleasant Valley Store. Drivers are responsible for providing their own straw at checkpoints other than Pleasant Valley Store.

Straw must be bagged and clearly marked with the driver's name and checkpoint. Handlers may deliver straw to checkpoints before mushers arrive.

**Proof of vaccinations required:** All dogs must have current rabies, distemper, and parvo vaccinations with proof available to be presented to the race veterinarian upon request prior to the start of the race. Copies of rabies certificates and purchase receipts for distemper/parvo vaccines are acceptable as proof. **PLEASE HAVE THESE WITH YOU AT THE DRIVERS MEETING TO BE CHECKED BY OFFICIALS.**

**Vet check:** Dogs will be checked for health and fitness by a licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician starting at 9:00 A.M. on race day. Dogs considered unfit will not be allowed to start the race.

## **GENERAL RACE RULES**

### **Mandatory gear:**

- Cooker with three gallon capacity
- Cooking gear, including fuel sufficient for at least one feeding
- Food sufficient for at least one feeding of driver and team
- Cold weather sleeping bag
- Hand ax with an overall length of at least 22 inches
- A pair of snowshoes with bindings and at least 250 square inches of surface area
- Eight booties per dog
- Headlamp
- Snow hook
- Cable gang lines or picket lines to stake dogs at checkpoints or other campsites
- Assigned starting bib which must be visible at all times
- Vet book, which will be provided by race officials.
- A HANDLER AND DOG TRUCK

Mandatory gear will be checked starting at 9:00 A.M. on race day.

All mandatory gear, except booties, food or fuel must be in possession at sign-in at each checkpoint.

Lost mandatory gear must be replaced prior to signing in or a penalty will be assessed for each item.

Drivers must have all mandatory gear when leaving a checkpoint.

**Keep the trail clear:** Drivers resting their team must keep the trail clear of their dogs, food and gear at all times, i.e. you must not interfere or obstruct the passage of other teams and must camp at least 10 feet off the trail.

**One driver per team:** Only one driver per team is allowed.

**Following the trail:** All teams must follow the trail as marked. Deviations/shorter routes will be assessed a time penalty. Every effort will be made to keep trail markers in place, but TRDMA cannot be responsible for acts of nature or malicious acts. Two stakes on the side of the trail the turn is on will mark turns; e.g. a left turn will have two markers side-by-side on the left hand side of the trail; a right hand turn will have markers on the right. Intersections that are to be traveled straight through will have a single marker on the right and left side of the trail.

**Trail right-of-way:** When one team approaches to within 50 feet of another team, the team behind shall have the immediate right-of-way upon demand, except within one-half mile of the finish line. The driver ahead must stop his or her dogs and hold them to the best of his or her ability for a maximum of one minute or until the other team has passed, whichever occurs first. The passed team must remain behind at least four minutes before demanding trail right-of-way.

**Littering prohibited:** A minimum thirty minute time penalty will be assessed for littering on the trail or at checkpoints. Booties are considered litter.

**Number of dogs:** Drivers must start the race with no fewer than eight (8) dogs and no more than twelve (12). Drivers must finish with no fewer than five (5) dogs. No dogs can be added to a team after the start.

**Dog marking:** The Two Rivers Dog Musers Association may mark all dogs leaving the starting line.

**No loose leaders:** Loose leaders are not allowed. A driver must make every effort to secure a dog that becomes loose.

## **RUNNING THE RACE**

**Race start and finish:** Race will start at noon on Friday, March 8<sup>th</sup>, 2013 at Chatanika Lodge. It will finish at the North Pole checkpoint in the Chena Lakes Recreation area.

**Starting interval:** Teams will leave the starting line at two-minute intervals. Any team that cannot leave the starting line within one minute of its designated time will be required to start two minutes after the scheduled departure of the final team. Any team that cannot leave the starting line within 30 minutes of the last team's scheduled departure will be disqualified.

**Mandatory layovers:** Teams entered in the race will have ten hours of mandatory layover time. Drivers may take their mandatory layovers at any of the checkpoints in one hour increments to total ten hours. The one-hour increments can be taken in any combination that accumulates to ten hours prior to leaving the last checkpoint on the return trip. Layover time will be rounded down, e.g. an hour and forty minutes will be counted as an hour.

Make-up time will be added to adjust for starting times at the first checkpoint. All teams must have completed their mandatory layover plus any adjustments to their time by 10:00 A.M. on Sunday. Any team remaining at the last checkpoint after that time will be disqualified.

**Checkpoints:** Will be announced at the mushers' meeting.

**Checkpoint procedure:** Every driver must personally check in and out at each checkpoint. A driver is not officially checked in until he or she has all mandatory gear verified. A driver's checkpoint campsite must be clean of all straw, debris, etc. Handlers are allowed to clean the checkpoint campsites, but drivers are ultimately responsible for insuring campsites are clean.

Handlers must start to clean the campsite within a half-hour of the driver leaving the checkpoint. Unsatisfactory cleanup will result in a penalty being assessed the driver. The Two Rivers Dog Musers

Association will provide garbage bags at all checkpoints. Handlers may assist teams in and out of checkpoints.

**Dogs Entering and Leaving Checkpoints:** Drivers must check in with all of dogs they left the previous checkpoint with. All dogs must leave checkpoints in harness and attached to the towline. A dog may arrive at a checkpoint in the sled and leave in harness, attached to the towline.

**Designated sleeping areas:** Sleeping areas for drivers and drivers only will be designated at each checkpoint. A driver has the option of sleeping outside by his or her own team and sled. These are the only areas that may be used.

**Time penalties:** All time penalties accrued will be applied to the mandatory layovers or at the finish.

**Protests:** A driver may protest any action of a competitor that he/she feels is contrary to the intent of these rules. To be recognized as a legitimate protest, the infraction(s) observed by a musher must be presented to a race official in writing at the musher's earliest convenience (at the next checkpoint preferably), and in no case more than twenty-four (24) hours after a musher finishes the race.

**Appeals:** Drivers may appeal Race officials' decisions or penalties assessed by submitting, in writing, an account of the circumstances surrounding the decision or penalty being appealed. The appeal must be submitted to a race official no more than 24 hours after the incident or driver's race finish, whichever is later. An Appeals Board will be convened within 24 hours of the appeal being received. The Board will consist of an Association Director, a

Rules Committee member, a Race committee member and, if veterinary issues are involved, a Race Vet. An informal hearing will be held at that time. Decisions of the Appeals Board will be final.

## **DOG CARE**

**Mistreatment prohibited:** Mistreatment of dogs will cause immediate disqualification from the Two Rivers 200. Such an action will also be reported to all major race organizations. The race marshal will have absolute authority over this matter.

**Signal whips:** Signal whips will not be permitted.

**Dog drops:** Injured, sick or fatigued dogs must be dropped at designated checkpoints only. Drivers are responsible for their own dropped dogs.

Drivers must have the means to safely carry dogs in the sled bag. Dogs cannot be led behind a sled. Drivers will be responsible for any veterinary fees incurred by an injured, sick, or expired dog.

**Designated dog drops:** Dogs may be dropped at checkpoints only.

**Drugs and drug testing:** No injectable drugs may be used unless administered by the race veterinarian. Oral or topical drugs that may suppress the signs of illness or injury may not be carried or used. No drugs or artificial means may be used to drive the dogs beyond their natural ability. Race officials may require urine or blood samples for random drug testing. Drivers will be required to cooperate with race officials to accomplish the gathering of samples.

**Expired dogs:** Any dog that expires during the race for any reason must be taken to the next checkpoint or returned to the checkpoint last passed and submitted to the race marshal, a judge, or a race veterinarian. A licensed veterinary pathologist or veterinarian will perform a necropsy on all expired dogs. The driver will be responsible for necropsy expenses. The death of any dog may result in the disqualification of the driver, and/or prohibition from entering future races.

**Tampering:** No driver may tamper with another driver's dogs, food, or gear.

**Sleds:** Only one sled may be used during the race. Sled must have brush bow and braking device. Any repairs must be done exclusively by the driver.

No significant alterations as to weight or size will be allowed. Sled and equipment must be in good repair. Equipment will be inspected before the musher will be permitted to start the race.

**Race assistance:** No planned help is allowed in the race, except that sealed drop bags and straw will be delivered to the checkpoints and carried to the driver's area by handlers. Handlers may assist in parking the team and guiding it in and out of the checkpoint.

No driver may receive outside assistance between or at checkpoints unless an emergency exists. The driver must not accept any assistance in the feeding or care of his or her team or for sled repairs.

No driver will accept any assistance from a motorized vehicle, including pacing. A lost team will not be disqualified if the driver regains control of it, provided the team and driver complete the course and comply with rules, including checkpoint requirements. A driver may receive assistance from another driver in recovering a lost team. Motorized assistance will not be allowed, or disqualification will result.

Outside assistance will be allowed only if a team is unmanageable. The race marshal's decision concerning this will be final.

**Withdrawal from the race:** A driver wishing to withdraw may do so only at the checkpoints.

**Courteous behavior:** All drivers shall conduct themselves in a courteous and honorable manner at all times. Officials, media, volunteers, and fans are all equal participants in the race and it is the driver's responsibility to maintain a courteous rapport with them at all times.

### **200 Mile Trail Description**

The race begins at Chatanika Lodge at mile 28 on the Steese Highway. The route follows a series of trails and roads to Cleary Summit and over to Iowa Dome before descending into the Little Chena River drainage. After crossing the Little Chena, the trail heads toward Chena Hot Springs Road. It will follow a series of trails using the Two Rivers trail system, heading out to Angel Creek Lodge and back. The finish will be at the North Pole checkpoint.

The finalized trail description will be posted on the TRDMA web site by March 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2013. It will be subject to change because of weather or safety concerns.

### **100 Mile Trail Description**

The 100 mile trail will be the same as above, ending at Angel Creek.

### **50 Mile Trail Description**

The 50 mile trail will be as above, ending at the first checkpoint, Two Rivers Lodge.