



Zuma's
Paw Prints

Augustine is a Volcano

January 16, 2006

Hi Boys and Girls,

Here we are just forty-six days until Iditarod 2006. I can hardly wait! Are you all getting as excited as I am to watch the race? So far, only one musher has withdrawn which leaves 102 mushers still planning to go to Nome. That is a lot of teams, but some will probably withdraw before the food drop the middle of February. Some rookies still have to finish their qualifying races and if they don't, they will have to withdraw.

Did you hear about Augustine volcano erupting here in Alaska on Friday? The alert level was red, of course and it stayed that way all day Saturday. It was lowered to orange on Sunday and last time I checked, it was still at orange. We were worried that the ash might start falling on the Anchorage area, but so far it has all stayed south of the big city. The Anchorage area has over half of the population of Alaska living and working there. Ash fallout can cause all kinds of problems for humans as they breathe in the ash. It is also bad for computers and hard on the car engines. Lois went to the parts store to get some extra air filters for her van and they were already sold out because everyone was stocking up on them just in case. When one of our volcanoes erupts and the ash falls on our area, the humans must change the air filters every day or so to keep the ash from corroding the engine. She is going to have to wait for the next shipment on Tuesday to get any for her car.

I have created a crossword puzzle with some volcanic terms for you to solve. I thought it would be fun to learn some new words and crosswords are a good way to do that. The crossword is on my list of reports so that you can access it easily. I hope you enjoy it.

It has not snowed since just before Christmas and there is hardly any cover on the ground at Wasilla. Last year the boys and girls across the country did snow dances and it worked so I am asking you to do some snow dancing again this year. Please do it as soon as possible because the qualifying races are planned for this period and they need the snow. If they have to cancel the qualifiers, the rookies won't be able to run in the Iditarod, so while you are doing your snow dance you must think snow.

I will write to you again soon to tell you what we are doing here at Iditarod at this time. If you want to read or print out any of the reports I did for last year's race, please do it this coming week as we will be cleaning off the site to make room for the 2006 race coverage.

More next time,



Lots of Tail Wags,
Zuma

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