



Zuma's
Paw Prints

DON'T GIVE YOUR ADDRESS ON THE INTERNET!

March 9, 2006

Good Evening Girls and Boys,

Another great day at Iditarod Headquarters in Anchorage is coming to an end and there is so much to tell you that I hardly know where to begin.

First I have an important message to all my little buddies out there who write humans and dogs on the web. I have received several emails with the home address of the boy or girl who is writing to me. I cannot tell you how scary that is. Boys and girls you must **never, never** give out your full name and/or address over the Internet. There are some bad humans who surf the net looking for this kind of information. These humans can and will hurt children who are not careful. So please don't do that, not ever! If someone on line asks for you last name or your address, you tell you mom or dad or your teacher. This is really important boys and girls.

I also have a message about email for teachers: Some schools have a very high security setting on their email accounts and the mail gets bounced back to me. This is the reason some of you are not receiving answers to your email. Our mail service is set up so that we cannot open any attachments so we have not been able to answer email with attachments as well. If you or your students have not received an answer to email from me, please try a different computer or email service. Set up a yahoo or hotmail account (free) for your class to use for correspondence if necessary. I certainly want to correspond with you and your class and I know the boys and girls want to write to me so let's work together to solve the problem.

It is nighttime here in Alaska and a lot of teams are out on the trail taking advantage of the cooler, nighttime temperatures. Paul Gebhardt didn't take his layover at the Cripple checkpoint, choosing to continue on to Ruby. I think he is hungry for that fancy seven-course dinner at Ruby that the Millennium Hotel puts on for the first musher to reach the Yukon River. Doug Swingley, the current leader in this race is completing his mandatory layover at Cripple. So far he has won the Penair's Spirit of Alaska Award (a beautiful spirit mask and \$500 credit on Penair for travel or freight) at McGrath and the GCI Halfway Award (a trophy and \$3,000 in gold nuggets) at Cripple. Several of the mushers are doing their layover at Cripple, including some top contenders, like DeeDee Jonrowe (photo right), John Baker, Bjornar Andersen, and the Smyth brothers. Also at the Cripple checkpoint are: Jeff King, Bill Pinkham and Gregg Hickmann. Of all the



teams who have arrived at Cripple, only Jeff King has completed his mandatory layover. He arrived at Cripple at 2:45 this afternoon. I just looked at the latest update and Jeff King left Cripple at 11:45 tonight.

Twenty-seven teams are headed for Cripple and all but one of them has taken his or her mandatory long layover. Ten teams are in Ophir and six of those teams have completed the layover. Five teams are between Takotna and Ophir while seven teams remain at the Takotna checkpoint. Two teams have left McGrath while twelve teams are in McGrath. Five teams are at the Nikolai checkpoint and only one of those teams has completed the layover. The field of mushers is beginning to stretch out as they stop for their long layover.

Ophir Checkpoint →



All mushers must take a 24-hour plus layover (they add on the difference in time from the start so that all mushers' time becomes equal) and 2 short layovers. One of the short layovers must be taken at White Mountain checkpoint and the other one can be at any checkpoint on the Yukon River. As you can see the long layover is taken at the checkpoint that the musher chooses. You can also see that it is important that the teams take the layovers where it will

do them the most good while keeping them from getting too far behind. Pictured on the left: Handlers bring Bob Bundtzen's team from his 24 hour resting place on Thursday morning at the Takotna checkpoint.

Teacher	Grade	School	City	State
Keese, Ms	1		Thousand Oaks	CA
Conners, Ms	5	Adams School	Portland	OR
Friedman, Ms & Kohn, MS	3	Hickory Woods School	Wall Lake	MI
Daniels, Cindy	5	Kenmore Elementary	Kenmore	WA
Piccari, Ms	3	Most Holy Redeemer Sch	Tampa	FL
Trapp, Ms	2	New Covenant Christian	Marlborough	MA
No teacher given	3	Stratton Elementary	New Port	WA
Unknown	5	Unknown	Unknown	

Late this afternoon, a delivery person from Capone's Pizza Place brought us one of the biggest pizza's I have ever seen. One piece was enough for a meal for most of the volunteers working in the various headquarters rooms on the third floor of the Millennium. I didn't know they made ovens that big. Only one problem with that pizza, the people at Capone's didn't get a teacher name, school name or city and state. So if that teacher is reading this please email me at zuma@iditarod.com. I like to thank people when they send pizza and let them know how good it was. Oh, and by the way, those slices of that pizza might have been a meal for the humans in the room but I ate two pieces and that was after eating some of all the others. Gosh, I love pizza. I will dream about pizza tonight. Thank you boys and girls, eating pizza is one of my favorite things.

I am being a good dog and sharing with the volunteers helping me. I also share with the volunteers in the other rooms like the computer room and phone room. I will tell you more about those in a future *Paw Print*.

Now I have to tell you some sad news. One of my friends from Noah Burmeister's team died of pneumonia today. Noah saw that he was getting sick and dropped him at a checkpoint where the veterinarians could care for him. He was medivac'ed out and cared for by a team of veterinarians, but for some reason, the medications didn't work like they should have and Yellowknife died this morning. He will be watching over the teams from the other side of the Rainbow Bridge. I will miss him.

Until next time,



Lots of Tail Wags,
Zuma

Don't forget to visit the rest of the Iditarod website at www.iditarod.com where you will be able to find the latest updates plus terrific stories about the race.