



Zuma's
Paw Prints

THE PARTY GOES ON

March 16, 2006

Hi Boys and Girls,

My friends keep arriving at the finish line in Nome and it is like a K-9 convention here on the Nome dog lot. We are planning a big bash for this weekend while the mushers have their banquet. All of the dogs are invited and I have been getting all kinds of things donated. There will be plenty of good cold clean water to drink and all kinds of snacks. We will eat and drink and hear the tales of the trail. Even dogs that were dropped at checkpoints along the way are welcome to attend. It's going to be the biggest bash of the year. I can hardly wait. I will be flying back to Wasilla late on the evening of the party and it will be back to work on the day-to-day planning of the next "Last Great Race".

There are now 39 teams in Nome and more on the way. This is so exciting. The most recent arrival is Ryan Redington, grandson of Joe Redington, Sr., Father of the Iditarod. To see who all has arrived in Nome, go to <http://www.iditarod.com/1-1.html> and click on the link to "Current Race Update".

Bill Pinkham and Jim Lanier left Safety just four minutes apart at 6:47 and 6:51 p.m. tonight. They should be arriving in Nome any time now. Dave Sawatzky left Safety at 8:00 p.m. Judy Currier is in Safety and should be heading for Nome shortly. There are three teams out of White Mountain and four teams in White Mountain. Two teams have departed from Elim on their way to White Mountain and four teams remain in Elim at this time. Koyuk checkpoint reports two teams out and two teams in at this time. There are two teams in Shaktoolik.

Glenn Lockwood, Katrina Pawlaczyk and Ben Valks are all between Kaltag and Unalakleet tonight. These are the last three teams on the trail. I wonder if they are all stopped at the Old Woman Cabin. I wonder if they have seen the ghost of the Old Woman. Of course, she only makes an appearance when she is needed and I certainly hope that those teams don't need her help.

My friend, Jeff Schultz gave me some more pictures to share with you tonight. These pictures will show you what the teams see as they approach Nome.



Aliy Zirkle on the Bering Sea nearing Nome



Aliy Zirkle passing pressure ridges on Bering Sea near Nome



Aliy Zirkle on the Bering Sea sees Nome ahead. Notice the "ice heaves".



Race fans cheer on Aliy Zirkle as she runs up the ramp from the Bering Sea into Nome.



Sonny Lindner on the Bering Sea nearing Nome.



Mitch Seavey arrives at the finish line in Nome.



Sonny Lindner crosses the finish line in Nome

Page 2

There will be teams coming into Nome tonight and tomorrow and I will tell you about them when I write tomorrow night. I hope you noticed that I jumped on Sonny Lindner's sled going to the finish line so I could experience the finish first hand (great picture of the finish line). Let me tell you, boys and girls, crossing that finish line must be the greatest feeling in the world to the dogs and mushers who have traveled the trail. It was great for me and I only rode a few yards up the chute.

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. Most of these pictures are from the Ruby checkpoint today.