



Zuma's  
Paw Prints

## Zuma's Party in Nome

March 20, 2006

Howlo boys and girls,

We had a great party in Nome last night. We ate pizza, drank water, munched on great treats provided by several of the mushers and listened to the tales from the trail. Rachael Scodoris' dogs told how they beat Tim Osmar's dogs into a checkpoint. They laughed at Tim and his team who were Rachael's eyes because he had lost them somehow on the trail. (Tim's dogs were somewhat embarrassed by this story.) What fun that was. It was not as much fun when several of the mushers got up close and personal with trees along the way. I'll tell you boys and girls, I believe, after listening to the stories, that those trees jump into the trail in front of teams and their musher's. That has to be why so many mushers collide with trees.

We listened to some of the broadcast from the banquet for the mushers and Jeff King's dogs commented that Jeff said he didn't realize that they were going to win until he got to Unalakleet. They said that they knew way back in Cripple that they were going to take the championship this year. Sometimes, you just know these things.

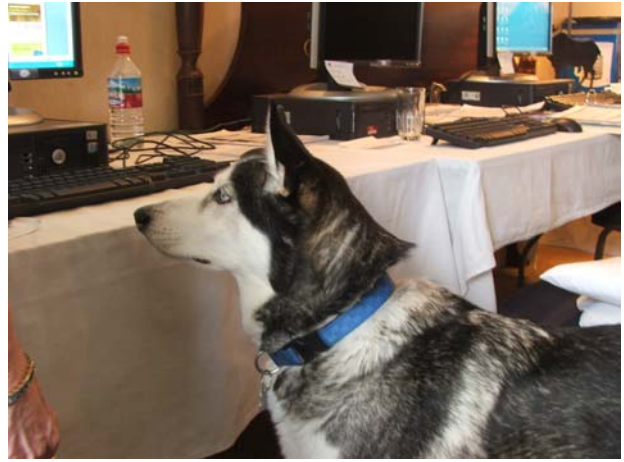
About 2 in the morning, someone suggested that we sing a few trail songs. There is nothing like the sound of hundreds of sled dogs singing in the night. I was really enjoying myself when I spotted a human heading toward the dog lot. It was DeeDee Jonrowe, she had come to tell us that we were going to have to quiet down and go to bed now because a lot of humans were trying to sleep and our songs were keeping them awake. It was a great party though.

There are six teams still on the trail. All six teams are out of the White Mountain checkpoint having completed their layover and are headed toward the checkpoint at Safety.

Ben Valks, the last place musher all the way from Rohn was withdrawn from the race in Shaktoolik due to rule 56, (read about it in the press release by clicking on this link <http://iditaweb-1.gci.net/pdf/files/media/pr2006-03-18.pdf>). The Iditarod Air Force transported him and his dogs out of the checkpoint. Katrina Pawlaczyk became the Red Lantern musher at that point. Katrina left White Mountain at 5:20 tonight with 12 dogs. She is expected to cross the line in Nome tomorrow. The other five teams are expected in Nome tonight sometime.



Explaining something on the website to volunteer, Joan.



Checking the answer that one of my helpers was sharing with a student. I checked all of the messages.

Here are a couple of pictures that I hadn't shared with you before. They were taken in the email room in Anchorage where Lois and Pauline Potter helped me answer questions for the volunteers.

I will have one more report that will be posted after Katrina gets into Nome. My paws are getting pretty worn and I am really tired. Maybe I should not have stayed at the party so late last night (Sunday).

More next time,



Lots of Tail Wags,  
Zuma