



Zuma's
Paw Prints

FINAL RACE REPORT FOR 2006 IDITAROD RACE

March 21, 2006

Hi boys and girls,

The red lantern has been extinguished for 2006 as all our teams are now officially off the trail. I was surprised when I checked the standings this morning and found that Katrina Pawlaczyk was not the Red Lantern musher. I was just sure that she would be when I went to bed last night. Here is how the final group arrived in Nome.

Randy Cummins	3/21/06	1:46 a.m.
Kim Kittridge		1:52 a.m.
Eric Rogers		4:17 a.m.
Katrina Pawlaczyk		7:37 a.m.
Steve Madsen		8:07 a.m.
Glenn Lockwood		8:08 a.m. 15 dys 18 hrs 8 mins 56 secs

These six mushers will be treated to a banquet tonight in their honor just as the other mushers were. This is always known as the "second banquet". In the early years of the race, there were often three or four banquets because the last mushers would arrive so far apart. Now days, the mushers are arriving pretty close together at the end. I watched the last teams arrive and then headed to the airport for my flight back home.

I totally forgot to give you the awards information last night when I wrote. I am sorry, I can only say that I am still catching up on my rest and not thinking as well as I will be after I catch up on my sleep.

Millennium Alaskan Hotel's 1st Musher to the Yukon Award
Wells Fargo's Gold Coast Award (1st musher to Unalakleet)
GCI's Dorothy G Page Halfway Award
PenAir's Spirit of Alaska Award (1st musher to McGrath)
GIT Satellite Communication Most Improved Musher Award
Alaska Airline's Leonhard Seppala Humanitarian Award
Chevron's Most Inspirational Musher Award
Fred Meyer's Sportsmanship Award
Nome Kennel Club's Fast Time Safety to Nome in top 20
Lolly Medley's Golden Harness Award

Paul Gebhardt
Jeff King
Doug Swingley
Doug Swingley
Rick Casillo
Paul Gebhardt
Tove Sorensen
Tollef Monson
Cym Smyth
Salem (Jeff King)

There are a couple awards that do not go to the mushers. One of these awards is the Golden Clipboard Award. This award is voted on by the mushers and is awarded to the checkpoint that the mushers felt put great effort into making the checkpoint as comfortable and efficient as possible for the teams. This year the Golden Clipboard Award went to the Takotna checkpoint where many mushers took their 24-hour layover. The other award that the mushers vote on is the Golden Stethoscope Award that is the top honor a veterinarian on the Iditarod can receive. The 2006 Golden Stethoscope Award went to Paul Pifer, DVM of Sylvania, Ohio. He is a really neat guy; I am really pleased that he was chosen this year.

Before I forget, I want to tell you about the *Iditarod Insider* videos. Lois and I have been watching them now that the race has wound down and we have some time. I have to tell you that the coverage was terrific. There were some problems that need to be worked out but I would recommend *Iditarod Insiders* to everyone and I am hoping that the Iditarod has it again next year. If they do, Lois and I will be the first to sign up! If you are one of the *Iditarod Insiders*, use your membership to watch the films again and catch all the things you missed the first time.

It has been a great race, boys and girls, and I have enjoyed reading your email and replying to them and look forward to sending you reports throughout the year on the happenings in preparation for the 2007 Iditarod. Right now, though, I think I will go back to sleep for a couple days. My paws are sore and I am exhausted.



Until next time,



Lots of Tail Wags,
Zuma