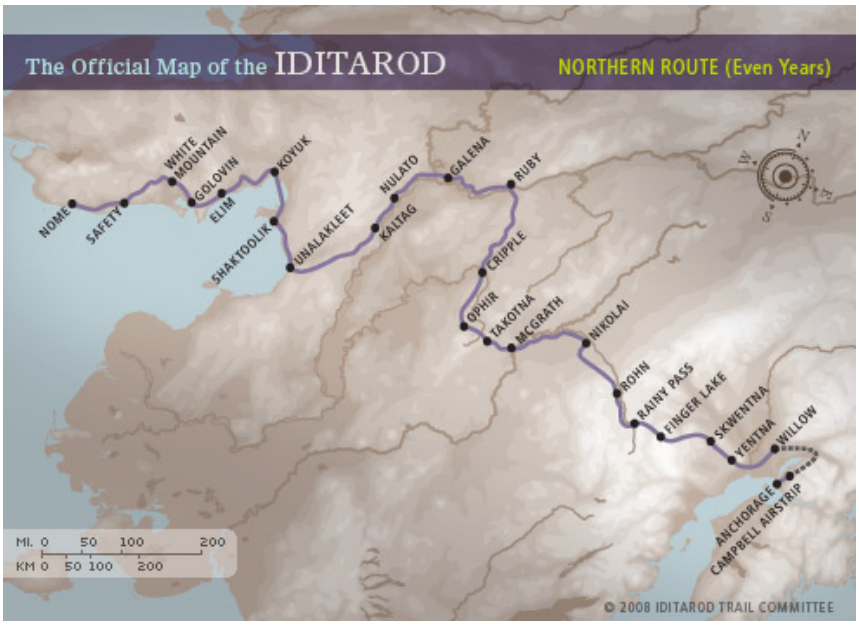
Heather's HARDCORE HUSKIES

2008 RACE EDITION



This year the Iditarod travels the northern route to Nome.

LOOK OUT NOME, HERE WE COME AGAIN!

The start of Iditarod 36 is less than 48 hours away and Heather and her 16 member Hardcore Huskies Team are ready to go!

"I've done all of the preparation and training I could do and now it's time to race," said Heather from her home in Talkeetna, AK. "The dogs look good and are ready to run."

Heathers says she and the team have run over 2000 miles of trails getting ready for the race. Training began shortly after last years race ended and the pace really picked up since December.

"We've done longer runs this year which should mean less time at the checkpoints," says Heather.

Heather says her goal this year is to make the trip to Nome in less than 12 days.

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"Thank you all for your help!"

"It is important for everyone to know that you are all with me in spirit as I run this race. Without you I would not be here."

Those are Heathers words as she prepares to embark on the 2008 Iditarod. She says that she hopes to make everyone proud and run a faster race than last year.

Heather says she especially wants to thank the hundreds of school kids that have written her from across the country, especially the ones she was able to visit in the Bismarck/Mandan area after last years race.

"Thank you for rooting for me. It helps the dogs and I keep going through all of the hard parts of the trail knowing that you are following me. I hope I make you proud."

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SUPPORT THE HARDCORE TEAM!

Get your Hardcore Huskies Hat or Shirt

There is still time to show your support for Heather and the Hardcore Team.

We still have a limited quantity of Hardcore Huskies t-shirts, sweatshirts and hats available. The t-shirts run $20.00 plus $5 for shipping for sizes up to 2X. Sizes 3X or larger are $3 more. Sweatshirts are $30 plus $5 for shipping and again sizes range from S to 2X. Tees and sweatshirts are available in a red, forest green and black.

Hats are available for $20 plus $5 for shipping in black, one-size fit all.

For more information, or to place an order, call the Hardcore Team; Jim or Karmen at (701) 258-5922 or Dale at (701) 258-3403.

Please allow four weeks for delivery.

Nome Bound con't

Weather can always be a factor during the race. Last year Heather and many other teams were caught in a blizzard at Rainy Pass for more than 24 hours. When asked about the weather for this years race Heather said "I've heard the trail is bare just outside of Rohn with dirt showing, but that it gets better after Bison Camp on the way to Nickolai. It's been really cold along the Bering Coast with the temps from Kaltag to Nome well below zero. When I check the weather for Unalakleet the other day the wind chill was nearly 50 below"

Heather says the view along the trail is simply beautiful.

"It's nice to be out there with no distractions, just me and the dogs," Heather says. "It's is a hard feeling to describe but it is beautiful. The mountains, the Yukon, I could go on and on. As far as seeing wildlife, I only saw a fox last year, but I saw wolf prints outside of the Iditarod checkpoint. And in case anyone asks, no moose!"

The moose reference was in response to a recent article in the Bismarck Tribune recounting her encounter with a moose during her training for last year's race.

Heather says as she travels down the trail she usually focuses on the dogs and the weather.

"I watch the pace the dogs travel and observe their spirit," says Heather. "I also have to keep an eye on the trail to make sure I see the markers so I know we are headed in the right direction."

The markers are the only thing mushers have to navigate. They are 2X2 inch wooden stakes with red painted on the top. They are not allowed to use GSP's or anything like that. Just the stars and stakes!

Thanks con't

Heather also offered a "shout out" to the USDA employees across North Dakota she met during their meetings last July in Fargo, Grand Forks and Minot.

She says "I hope I continue to motivate you all with my effort in this year's race."

Heather says "Thanks to everyone who sent a donation. I'd like to thank my Mom, Dad, Dann, Karmen, my Grandparents Dale and Darlyne Ennen and Dorothy Phillips, my sis Dusty and my Aunts and Uncles for helping me and selling t-shirts. To my friends all over the country a big thank you. To everyone in North Dakota please know that North Dakota has been a great big boost for me and the team mentally and financially. I couldn't have been able to afford all of this without the help I got from everyone in the Peace Garden State."

Heather leaves the starting line in Willow at the start of last years Iditarod.