

WDMA Board

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1st Annual Sled Dog Mini-Symposium



September 6, 2008
Willow Community Center

Special Thanks To...

<i>All our terrific presenters!</i>	<i>WDMA Board of Directors</i>
<i>Becca Moore</i>	<i>Carolyn Purser / Sign Post</i>
<i>Helen Hegener</i>	<i>Willow Running Club</i>
<i>Dr. Harry Banks</i>	<i>All the fantastic volunteers!</i>
<i>Mushing Magazine</i>	<i>Theresa Daily</i>
<i>Silent Auction Donors</i>	<i>Door Prize Donors</i>
<i>All the great vendors</i>	<i>Linda Oxley</i>
<i>The super cooks!</i>	<i>WACO</i>
<i>Alaska Dog News</i>	<i>Natalie Norris</i>
<i>Paul McLarnon</i>	<i>To all those who attended!</i>

1:00 PM—Welcome, Alaska Flag Song, Opening Remarks and Special Award

Erin McLarnon, WDMA President

Alaska Flag Song - Lanier / Bondarenko Family

1:15 PM—2:30 PM—Lance Mackey, Keynote Speaker

Lance Mackey—The world's first and only 2 time Iditarod / Quest champion. Lance was born with mushing in his blood since both his father, Dick and brother, Rick have won the Iditarod. Lance and his wife, Tonya operate Comeback Kennel in Fox with their four children. The kennel name came to be after Lance fought throat cancer and other setbacks. Mackey's Comeback Kennel is a small, low budget kennel that have the want and will to do their very best.

30 Minute Break

3:00 PM—3:45 PM

Nutrition/Feeding Panel—WCC—Dr. Harry Banks, Moderator

Kelley Griffin, Vern Halter, DeeDee Jonrowe, Lance Mackey, Linwood Fiedler and Ed Wood

Spinning with Sled Dog Hair—OCC—Susan Whiton, DVM

15 Minute Break

4:00 PM—4:45 PM

Common Sled Dog Injuries / Treatment Panel—WCC—Dr. Harry Banks, Moderator

Sandi Farris, DVM, DeeDee Jonrowe, and Susan Whiton, DVM

Sled Repairs on the Trail—OCC— Dr. Jim Lanier and Paul McLarnon

15 Minute Break

5:00 PM—5:45 PM

Training Panel—WCC—Dr. Harry Banks, Moderator

Kelley Griffin, Vern Halter, Erin McLarnon, Ramey Smyth and Ed Wood

Skijoring—OCC—Anchorage Skijor Club

6:00 PM—Closing Remarks

Speaker Biographies

Sandi Farris, DVM—graduated from Colorado State vet school in 1995; her large animal and sled dog ambulatory service and clinic keeps her traveling from Talkeetna to Girdwood regularly and flying to Kenai and Kodiak every 6 months to see clients. She started running dogs in Gunnison, Colorado in 1992, moved to AK in 1996, and began raising, training and racing sprint dogs. She currently lives in Willow.

Linwood Fiedler— has twice won the 500-mile Montana Governor's Cup Sled Dog Race, finished in the top three of the Beargrease and Klondike 300's, and has multiple top 10 finishes in the Iditarod, coming in second in 2001. He operates Alaska Heli-Mush, a seasonal dog sled touring camp based on the Juneau Ice Field outside of Juneau, Alaska. Linwood's permanent residence is located in Willow.

Kelley Griffin—began mushing in 1979 and has become a very accomplished musher. Kelley has competed in many mid-distance races and she has run the Yukon Quest six times, and the Iditarod twice. Kelley's kennel is located in Knik.

Vern Halter—won the Yukon Quest in 1990 and has run the Iditarod over 20 times, with nine top ten finishes. Vern and his wife, Dr. Susan Whiton, own Dream a Dream Kennels in Willow. Over the past 10 years Vern has visited and spoken to over 400,000 students and teachers in South Dakota, North Dakota and Minnesota.

DeeDee Jonrowe—has run the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race over two dozen times, finishing in second place twice and in the top ten over a dozen times. She is also a tri-athlete and a bike racer residing in Willow. DeeDee is a breast cancer survivor.

Dr. Jim Lanier—came to Alaska in 1967, began mushing in 1977, and has run the Iditarod a dozen times, finishing in the money ten times in the last ten years. He is married to Anna Bondarenko, also an Iditarod finisher. Jim, Anna, and their son Jimmy (10) enjoy singing together in the Lanier family trio and all reside in Chugiak.

Lance Mackey—is the reigning champion of both the Yukon Quest (05, 06, 07, 08) and the Iditarod (07, 08), and he's been nominated for many special awards for his incredible racing accomplishments over the last two years. Lance comes from one of mushing's oldest families: his father, Dick Mackey, helped found the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race in 1973. Lance and his family live in Fox.

Erin McLarnon—has been running dogs for 12 years and considers herself an expedition musher because she is preparing for her 6th Serum Run. She and her husband, Paul care for 54 dogs and 2 cats at Broken Runner Sled Dog Kennel in Willow. Erin works full-time, managing Powercorp Alaska.

Paul McLarnon—has been running dogs with his wife, Erin for 12 years. Paul has participated in many mid-distance races such as the CB 300, Don Bowers 200, Knik 200 and has ran the Serum Run once. He has hopes to run the Iditarod here in the next couple of years. Paul is a fisheries biologist with HDR Alaska, Inc.

Ramey Smyth—born in Alaska, the son of Iditarod veterans Bud Smyth and the late Lolly Medley. He ran his first Iditarod in 1994 and has only skipped one year since, finishing in fourth place in 2004 and in third place in 2008. He and his family live in Willow.

Ed Wood—is an accomplished sprint musher who resides in Chugiak. Ed won the 2008 Earl Norris Memorial Sprint Race and his main focus is to place in the Top 10 for Fur Rondy. Ed likes to compete in the Earl Norris, Eagle River Classic, Su-Valley Championship, and the Tok Race of Champions.

Susan Whiton, DVM—is an Iditarod / Yukon Quest finisher whose interest in sled dogs led her to obtain a degree in Veterinary Medicine from Washington State University in 1992. In 1998 she completed the animal chiropractic course offered by the A.V.C.A. In 2001 she completed the animal acupuncture course offered by I.V.A.S. Susan has taken animal osteopathy and animal physical therapy courses. Upon completion of her 1987 rookie Yukon Quest run, Susan received the "Challenge of the North" Award,