

## STAGE RACE INFO PACKAGE 2012

### INTRODUCTION

To celebrate the 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the Gold Rush Trail Dog Sled Mail Run in 2012, organizers wanted to do something a little different....why not include a stage race as part of the weekend's events? For the first five years, going back to the 1990's, the Mail Run was in fact a race.....actually there were several race classes, with the highlight event being a 235 mile mid-distance race that was a qualifier for both the Iditarod and the Yukon Quest.

The Stage Race is a 140 mile three day Stage Race run over three different looped trails. The respective courses run over logging roads and bush trails located in the central interior of B.C. The intent of this race is to promote the sport of dog mushing and to provide mushers with an opportunity to challenge themselves and their dogs in a stage race style event. This competitive Stage Race is one component of the Gold Rush Trail Sled Dog Mail Run and will be staged in conjunction with the separate non-competitive participation Mail Run Event. Details of the trail, the purse and the schedule of events will be posted on the Mail Run website by January 5, 2012 and this information will also be sent to all registered competitors.

The Stage Race will be limited to 15 teams. The total distance will be approximately 140 miles run on three separate looped trails over three days. The Stage Race and the Mail Run will use the same trail network but organizers are confident that there will be absolutely no head-on passing although there is a chance that the faster stage racers may catch the tail end mail runners. If and when this happens, the stage racers will always be given the right-of-way.

Organizers are working towards a \$10,000.00 purse but this amount is not yet confirmed. The actual purse will be announced on January 15<sup>th</sup>. All payouts will be made in Cariboo gold and the purse breakdown/payout will be 1<sup>st</sup> – 10<sup>th</sup> place in order

1. 18%
2. 17%
3. 15%
4. 11%
5. 9%
6. 8%
7. 7%
8. 6%
9. 5%
10. 4%

Registration and Waiver (Release of Liability) forms can be found elsewhere on this website. The stage race is considered to be part of the Mail Run event and all stage race competitors will be sworn in as official mail carriers and must carry a bag of mail on their sled. Finishing time for the third stage (Sunday) will be taken when the racer crosses a pre-determined line but the real race won't be over until the racer hands his bag of mail off to the Postal Superintendent in front of the Barkerville Post Office.

Race rules are printed in full elsewhere on this website. The Race Marshall for the 2012 Stage Race is Warren Palfrey. On Thursday evening (January 19<sup>th</sup>) there will be a separate musher's meeting (for stage racers and handlers only), to be held away from the A&W Restaurant where the formal welcome and registration will take place for those participating in the Mail Run as well as for fans and family.. The location for the stage racer's musher's meeting will be determined and all registered competitors will be informed of the location. There will be a vet check on the Thursday afternoon and again, competitors will be informed of location and time.

## **QUICK OVERVIEW FOR STAGE RACE PARTICIPANTS**

### Thursday January 19<sup>th</sup>

Afternoon (location and time to be announced)....Vet Check

6:00 p.m.... location to be announced—Musher's meeting for mushers and handlers

7:30 p.m.....A&W Two Mile Flat -- Formal Registration, Pick Up Information Package, Participation awards and Bibs, Have Supper (no host), Meet Old Friends, Buy and Mail Envelopes (last chance), Buy Souvenirs

8:30 p.m....Swearing In of All Mail Carriers

### Friday January 20<sup>th</sup>....Umiti Pit Road North of Quesnel

7:30 a.m....Teams (Stage Race and Mail Run) may start arriving at parking lot...pre-assigned parking spots

9:00 a.m....Start of Stage Race (Timed Starts)

9:30 a.m....Start of Mail Run....each participant will have a pre-determined start time

12:30 p.m..Teams should begin to arrive at finish

3:00 p.m.....Free hotdogs and hot chocolate for all participants and volunteers (at the finish line)  
The evening is open for everyone to do as they wish

### Saturday January 21<sup>st</sup>....Troll Ski Resort, Hwy 26, 40 kilometres east of Quesnel

8:30 a.m....Teams (Stage Race and Mail Run) may start arriving at parking lot...pre-assigned parking spots...breakfast available for sale in lodge

10:00 a.m..Start of Stage Race (Timed Starts)

10:30 a.m...Start of Mail Run...each participant will have a pre-determined start time

1:00 p.m.....Teams should begin to arrive at finish

3:30 p.m.....Fun Weight Pull

4:15 p.m.....Musher's Sports Competition

5:30 p.m.....Begin Social Time in Lodge

6:30 p.m.....Banquet and Auction

### Sunday January 22<sup>nd</sup>....Barkerville, Main Parking Lot

8:30 a.m.....Teams start arriving at parking lot...pre-assigned parking

10:00 a.m...Start of Stage Race (Timed Starts)

10:30 a.m...Start of Mail Run...each participant will have a pre-determined start time

1:00 p.m.....Teams should begin to arrive at finish in Barkerville

3:00 p.m.....Awards and Wind-up.

4:00 p.m.....Heading Home

## **STAGE RACE....STAGES**

**Stage One** is run over a well-used trail that runs from the Umiti Pit (1700) Road to Ahbau Lake and return, a distance of 50 miles. This trail consists of logging roads and bush trails, the half-way point is the Ahbau Lake Forestry Recreation Site where there will be a large turn-around before teams will retrace their outward journey. There is a possibility that there could be some head-on passing between the fastest and slowest race teams. There will be no active logging along this trail. It is not known if there will be road access to the Ahbau Lake Forestry Campsite, this will be clarified closer to race time.

**Stage Two** will start and finish at Troll Ski Resort. This trail will run up Pinegrove Mountain, past Hyde Lake to the 3500 Road. Teams will turn left and then run along the 3500 Road to the 35A Road where there will be a large loop that will bring teams back onto the outgoing trail for the return to Troll Ski Resort. Again, there is a very slight possibility that there could be some head-on passing at this point between the fastest and slowest teams. The distance will be 40 miles run over inactive and abandoned logging roads, there will be no logging or mining traffic on this route.

**Stage Three** will start and finish at the main parking lot in Barkerville. Teams will head towards Wells on the trail that parallels the highway, when they reach the Downey Pass Road they will turn right and complete the Sugar Creek Loop in a counter-clockwise manner. This will bring teams onto the meadow below Wells, past the heli-pad where the trail will link up with the outgoing trail for the return to Barkerville. The total distance will be 40 miles, the trail will be groomed to a width of 8 feet by the Wells Snowmobile Club groomer. When teams reach Barkerville, the finish time will be taken at the finish line however teams must continue into Barkerville down the back service road and then loop down the main street of Barkerville where they must stop in front of the Post Office and hand off their mail bag to the Postal Superintendent before continuing to the parking lot.

## **RACE RULES**

THE GOLD RUSH TRAIL SLED DOG MAIL RUN

150 MILE STAGE RACE

RACE RULES

[www.dogsledmailrun.ca](http://www.dogsledmailrun.ca)

(Revised September 29, 2011)

## **OVERVIEW OF RACE**

The Stage Race is a 150 mile three day Stage Race run over three different looped trails. The respective courses run over logging roads and bush trails located in the central interior of B.C. The intent of this race is to promote the sport of dog mushing and to provide mushers with an opportunity to challenge themselves and their dogs in a stage race style event. This competitive Stage Race is one component of the Gold Rush Trail Sled Dog Mail Run event and will be staged in conjunction with the separate non-competitive Mail Run. The Stage Race will start before

the Participation Mail Run Event and while both will be run over some of the same trails, there will be no head-on passing. Race competitors will also be mail carriers and must be sworn in as such. Details of the trail, the purse, the vet check, the musher's meeting and the schedule of events will be posted on the Mail Run website by January 5, 2012 and this information will also be sent to all registered competitors.

### **ENTRY/QUALIFICATIONS**

1. Entries will be accepted until the 12th of January.
2. Entry fee for the Stage Race is \$200.00 (Canadian funds), payable at time of entry submission
3. Each participant must also complete an Entry Form and Release of Liability (Waiver) Form, these documents are available on the Mail Run website
4. The Gold Rush Trail Sled Dog Association reserves the right to reject any entry for just cause

### **MANDATORY MUSHERS' MEETING AND DRAW**

1. The Mushers' Meeting will take place on Thursday January 19th at 6:00 p.m. at a location to be determined.
2. Door is locked at the beginning of Mushers' Meeting, failure to make roll call will result in monetary penalty of \$50
3. In addition to participants, handlers are strongly encouraged to attend
4. Driver must be named no later than the Mushers' Meeting
5. Only drivers, handlers, and selected race volunteers will participate in the rules discussion
6. Drawing for official starting number will take place at this meeting, the order of the draw will be determined in the order that paid entries are received

### **DRIVERS**

1. The driver starting at the beginning of the race shall drive the team throughout the race
2. The driver must be 18 years of age or older
3. An experienced musher younger than age 18, whether or not he/she may have completed a similar race, may apply to the race committee in writing before the race begins to ask for permission to waive the minimum age rule
4. The application must include written consent from a guardian

### **TEAM SIZE**

1. Stage Race mushers may use a pool of 12 dogs and may begin each stage of the race with no more than 10 dogs.
2. Teams must start each stage of the race with no fewer than 6 dogs in harness and on the gangline.
3. At no time may a team travel with fewer than 6 dogs in harness and attached to the gang line.
4. The use of loose leaders is not permitted
5. No "new" dogs may be added to the team after the start of the race.
6. Dogs must be in musher's control at all times
7. Switching of dogs between mushers is NOT permitted

### **RACE START**

1. Races will start Day One at 9:00 a.m. at Umiti Pit Road approximately 20 kms north of Quesnel
2. All teams must be in designated staging spot one hour before the start of each stage.
3. The race is a timed interval start format, all teams will start in order of bib draw on day one of the race, on successive days start order will be determined by finish order of the previous day (i.e. the last team place team of the previous day will start first the next day).
4. Any team not ready or prepared to leave at the official start time will be given a time penalty of 20 minutes. If their start time is missed and they are impeding the start of the next team they will be sent out of the start chute at the next available time at the convenience of the Race Marshal.

### **TREATMENT OF DOGS/OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE**

1. There shall be no cruel or inhumane treatment of dogs (as determined by the race officials)
2. No whips or jinglers permitted
3. No outside assistance is allowed during the race, unless an emergency is declared and judged so by the Race Marshal. In the event of a lost team, mushers may ask for spectator assistance and try to get their team back any way in their means. Any penalty will be determined by the Race Marshal after the incident is reported, if there is a perceived benefit to the lost team in question
4. Teams will be assessed by the Race Vet and Race Officials as necessary
5. Teams may not be allowed to proceed until cleared by Race Official

### **MANDATORY GEAR/EQUIPMENT**

Every musher will have in their possession during the entire race the following items:

- Dog bag suitable for expired dog (sled bag is adequate)
- Race bib (to be worn by the musher at all times)
- Harnesses - all harnesses shall be padded around the neck and chest areas. It is recommended that each harness have two inches of reflector tape on each side of the neck and on each side farther back to reflect snowmobile lights from the front and side
- Some type of sled shall be drawn that is equipped with an adequate brake, brush bow and snow hook
- Mushers are required to be in possession of functional necklines for the entire team at all times
- All gang lines must be made of cable or have a cable core in the center line

Participants in the Race must also have the following items on their sled

- Hand axe with overall length of 22 inches (56 centimetres)

- One pair of snowshoes and bindings
- Light (flashlight or headlight)
- Equipment for feeding and watering dogs
- Vet record book
- 1 lb of food for each dog on the line at the start of a stage
- 4 booties for each dog (at start of race)
- Food for musher

Penalty - One hour per missing item will be added to musher's total running time. Teams missing any of these items at start will not be allowed to leave until they are present. Race bib must be worn at all times and must be returned in good condition.

### **VACCINATIONS AND DRUGS**

1. Proof of current rabies, parvo and distemper vaccinations must be available for each dog (signed certificates or proof of purchase of vaccine)
2. Drug use of any sort will not be tolerated. No injectable, oral or topical drug which may suppress the signs of illness or injury may be used on a dog. No other drugs or artificial means may be used to drive a dog or cause a dog to perform or attempt to perform beyond its natural ability. A musher may not inject any substance into their dogs, this includes water
3. The veterinarian shall have the authority to collect blood or urine samples at random any point prior to the race and immediately after the race.
4. The following drugs will be prohibited
  - Analgesics
  - Anti-inflammatory drugs including but not limited to cortico steroids, anti prostaglandins, non steroidal, calculates, DMSO, central nervous system stimulants, cough suppressants, anaesthetics, diuretics, anabolic steroids, muscle relaxants, injectable anticholinergics, antihistamines
  - The external use of topical cortico-steroids is limited to the feet
  - The use of megestrol acetate (Ovaban) and mibolerone (Cheque Drops) as an oestrus suppressant is permitted
  - The practice of blood doping is not permitted
  - Race veterinarians may utilize any of the listed drugs or other prohibited drugs necessary to maintain a dog's health; however, such dogs will be withdrawn from the race
  - Personal prescriptions written for and carried by the mushers may not be used on the dogs
  - Administration of any drugs other than those mentioned above shall only be done with the prior knowledge and consent of the race vet and the race marshal
  - Sweats will be allowed without prohibited substances

### **LOST TEAMS**

1. If a musher loses a team he must make every effort to recover that team as soon as possible
2. A musher who receives help from another musher to recover a team will not be

- penalized
3. A musher may request assistance from spectators to recover a lost team if he/she deems it necessary
  4. If a musher receives help to recover a lost team he/she MUST report this to the race marshal as soon as possible. Failure to report to the race marshal will result in time penalties or disqualification
  5. If a lost team leaves the trail and is recovered, the team may and continue the race from that point once the incident is reported to the Race Marshal, the Marshal will determine whether a time penalty will be incurred by that team.

### **CONDUCT AND DISQUALIFICATION**

1. Drivers shall be responsible for the conduct of their dogs, their designated handler and themselves at all times during their dealings with each other, handlers, race personnel and volunteers, officials and the public
2. Common sense and good sportsmanship shall prevail
3. If the Race Marshal determines that the actions of a driver, handler or team at any time in the race area or on the trail is detrimental to the sport or race, the team may be disqualified or subject to another penalty

### **PROTEST AND HEARINGS**

1. All protests can be submitted to the Race Marshal at the end of the day's heat. A verbal protest must be followed within one hour by a written protest and must be accompanied by a \$50.00 non refundable cash fee.

### **PENALTIES**

1. Failure to adhere to all the published rules shall allow the race officials to penalize a musher , this will be the responsibility of the Race Marshal.
2. A disqualified musher will forfeit all entry fees, placements and race winnings
3. The Race Marshal may assess penalties other than disqualification. Policy and rule infractions may result in an issuance of warnings, monetary penalties or time penalties
4. The musher so involved may request an informal hearing before the Race Marshal and Race Rules/Appeal Committee
5. A hearing shall be granted if requested
6. The Race Marshal will be responsible for judgment in such cases
7. The decisions of the Race Marshal are final

### **FINISH**

1. The official finish shall be determined by the nose of the lead dog crossing the finish line
2. In the event a driver is not with the team when it crosses, the finish time will be recorded after the musher crosses the finish line

### **WEATHER AND TRAIL CONDITIONS**

1. The race will continue under all but the most severe trail and weather conditions. Drivers must come prepared to run in cold, wind, storms, slush, above freezing

temperatures or over sections of bare ground if necessary

### **CLEARING TRAIL AND PASSING**

1. Musher setting up camp must clear the trail of their dogs and gear. Any fires must be built a safe distance off the trail
2. Slower teams must yield to faster overtaking teams and provide the overtaking team sufficient time to untangle if necessary before following
3. Musher being passed is responsible for controlling their dogs to provide a clean pass
4. The team being passed cannot pass the overtaking team for a minimum of 5 minutes
5. Ski poles are permitted in the Stage Race

### **LITTERING**

1. Absolutely no littering anywhere along the trail or at checkpoint is permitted
2. Garbage may be “packaged” and given to a checker at the start/finish venue for disposal

### **DOG DROP**

1. In this Stage Race, no dogs may be dropped on the course. All dogs that started the day must accompany the team at the end of the day

### **SPORTSMANSHIP**

1. All mushers must conduct themselves in a civil and sportsmanlike manner beginning from the Mushers’ Meeting right through to the end of the Awards Ceremony.

### **NO MAN’S LAND**

1. No Man’s Land will be marked (approx. 1 mile) before the finish line of each stage. Within this area, trail does not have to be given at the request of the overtaking musher

### **RACE OFFICIALS**

1. The intent of the rules will guide the Race Marshal and Race Judges in their decisions
2. The Race Marshal is in charge of all aspects of the race from the pre-race Mushers’ Meeting to the Awards Ceremony
3. Race Judges will act as deputies of the Race Marshal
4. The Race Marshal may waive or reduce monetary or time penalties for unforeseen calamities that may befall a musher
5. The Race Marshal or a Race Judge in conjunction with a Race Veterinarian shall have final authority to remove a dog(s) from the race for medical or other reasons
6. Race Veterinarians are present throughout the race to monitor the health and welfare of all dogs, advise mushers in caring for their dogs’ medical needs, and provide veterinary treatment for dropped dogs, if necessary
7. The Chief Timer and Assistant Timers are responsible for timing the race
8. Collectively these officials as well as the Trail Boss comprise the Race Rules/Appeal Committee