

Agency: Commerce, Community and Economic Development**Grants to Municipalities (AS 37.05.315)****Grant Recipient: North Pole****Federal Tax ID: 26-4149078****Project Title:****Project Type: Other**

North Pole - International Federation of Sleddog Sports World Championships Hosting Costs

State Funding Requested: \$80,000**House District: Fairbanks Areawide (1-5)**

One-Time Need

Brief Project Description:

North Pole Economic Development Corporation is requesting \$200,000 in support from the State of Alaska to host the 2013 IFSS world Championships

Funding Plan:

Total Project Cost:	\$400,000
Funding Already Secured:	(\$320,000)
FY2014 State Funding Request:	<u>(\$80,000)</u>
Project Deficit:	\$0

Detailed Project Description and Justification:

The IFSS is a federation of national sled dog sports associations and other national or international organizations contributing to sled dog sports on an educational, scientific, or technical level. One of the IFSS objectives is to gain Olympic recognition of sleddog sports. Our event brought in mushers and skijorers from throughout the world. The previous event was held in Norway, two years ago and prior to that in Daquam, Quebec four years ago. The IFSS World Championship alternates between North America and Europe every two years.

To put on this World Championship, in proper form, North Pole Economic Development Corporation has made a commitment to raise \$400,000.00. We are raised \$320,000.00 from the business and public sectors from across the state in cash and in-kind and request \$80,000 from the state of Alaska to make us whole. The World Championship held a series of 24 events in North Pole, Fairbanks, and Salcha, during February and March 2013, and facilitated the entry of international sled dog mushers in other events throughout the State. The associated economic impact to the affected communities was significant.

Project Timeline:

Spring 2013

Entity Responsible for the Ongoing Operation and Maintenance of this Project:

North Pole Economic Development Co

Grant Recipient Contact Information:

Name:	Buzz Otis
Title:	Executive Director
Address:	PO Box 55872 North Pole, Alaska 99705
Phone Number:	(907)488-4558
Email:	Buzz@Buzzotis.com

Has this project been through a public review process at the local level and is it a community priority? Yes No

RESOLUTION 2012-20

A RESOLUTION ESTABLISHING 2013 CAPITAL PROJECT PRIORITIES FOR THE CITY OF NORTH POLE

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole seeks to provide its residents with a quality level of service and has levied property and sales tax to cover the cost of most city services, but with a small residential base is not able to keep up with the entire costs of maintaining an aging infrastructure without grant assistance; and

WHEREAS, the City of North Pole desires to receive funding from the State of Alaska and the Federal Government for local capital projects designated as the most urgent; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 12-18 established the priority Utility project request for calendar year 2013 as the North Pole Waste Water Treatment Plant Rehabilitation Project and this Resolution establishes other Departmental priority and Community projects as follows:

PUBLIC WORKS

Pedestrian Path Connection Project: The Public Works Department seeks state support to help develop an interconnected network of pedestrian paths throughout the City.

Cost: \$1 million for design and construction.

Brief Description and Justification: The City has made a \$52,896 matching contribution to the FMATS pedestrian path connection project scheduled to go to construction in the City in 2013. The City is requesting funding for the next phase of pedestrian path connects. The City is requesting funding to connect the pedestrian path that terminates at the intersection of the Old Richardson Highway and Homestead Road with the pedestrian path on the recently constructed extension of Homestead Road. The City will construct the pedestrian path to provide an uninterrupted pedestrian path to the North Pole High School and to the North Pole Library that is to be constructed at the intersection of North Pole High School Boulevard and Homestead Road. To expedite construction of the pedestrian path, the North Pole Public Works Department will work cooperatively with the Fairbanks Public Works Department to perform the environmental assessment and project design.

POLICE DEPARTMENT

Priority #1 = New roof for police station

Cost: \$150,000, estimated

Brief Description and Justification: The police department roof cover has been repaired extensively but has not been replaced since the building was built in the 1980's. The condition of the roofing material is poor and we are experiencing some leaks. The cost of replacing the roofing material is substantial; much of this is due to the antenna system mounted on the roof. This antenna must be removed in order to properly fix and repair the roofing material. The city's communication system is housed in the police department and it is vital that we keep this equipment dry.

Priority #2 = Redesign and installation of a heating and cooling system for the police station.

Cost: \$75,000, estimated

Brief Description and Justification: The police department is currently housed in the old City Hall building and this building has inadequate heating and cooling. In the winter the rooms inside the building get to hot. This is due to heating controls being in the wrong locations. The police department personnel experience very hot conditions requiring windows to be open at -20 degrees and colder. This is an inefficient practice and wastes energy. In many of the rooms there is no cooling. During the summer months the rooms are unbearable. Portable air-conditioning units have been placed in several rooms in order to make working conditions tolerable.

FIRE DEPARTMENT

Priority #1: Grant request for Type One 4x4 ambulance: A grant award to the North Pole Fire Department would help ensure a timely EMS response and provide for the safety of our responders and citizens

Cost: \$160,000

Brief Description and Justification: The North Pole Fire Department is the third busiest ambulance provider in Interior Alaska and provides the only ambulance service to an area incorporating the City of North Pole and the North Star Volunteer Fire Service Area; it provides secondary service as a mutual aid response elsewhere in the Fairbanks North Star Borough. The City is applying for funding to purchase a 2012 or newer type one 4x4 ambulance. The new ambulance will meet current standards and address firefighter and patient safety. We have estimated the base cost of the new ambulance at \$160,000, which is based on information from ambulance manufacturers and from a recent delivery to the Fairbanks North Star Borough.

Our current first out ambulance is a 2006 and has 99,000 miles on it. Our back up ambulance is a 2002 that has over 100,000 miles on it, and our reserve ambulance is a 1993. Our high mileage and long service life requires the need for a replacement ambulance. With the purchase of the new ambulance it is the intent of the North Pole Fire Department to move the 2006 ambulance to second out status and place the 2002 ambulance in reserve status. The reserve ambulance is brought online anytime one of the front line ambulances is down for repairs.

Priority #2: Grant request for 100 foot Aerial Platform

Cost: \$980,000.00, estimated

Brief Description and Justification: North Pole Fire Department is applying for funding to purchase a 100-foot aerial platform to replace a 1983 75-foot Tele-squirt. The new apparatus will meet the requirements of NFPA 1901 Annex D, which addresses firefighter capabilities and safety, and adds emphasis to required firefighter safety and operating capabilities of the apparatus. The current aerial that will be replaced does not meet the NFPA requirements and is well beyond its 20-year service life. This purchase would provide a safe, functional, and cost-efficient apparatus.

North Pole Fire Department maintains the only aerial apparatus covering the eastern portion of the Fairbanks North Star Borough covering over 120 square miles. The nearest mutual aid aerial are located 15 to 20 miles away which could lead to serious delays for fire and rescue operations. North Pole is home to two oil refineries and three electric power generation facilities that provide electrical power to the Interior of Alaska, as well as the bulk of the area's schools, commercial occupancies, and apartment complexes. Daily operational needs for responding to fire and rescue operations at these target hazards clearly show the need for a dependable aerial device. The new platform will replace the only aerial apparatus on the east side of the Fairbanks North Star Borough, catering to approximately 35,000 citizens, protected by three departments. This aerial responds as a part of the mutual aid agreement to Eielson Air Force Base which has no aerial device within its department. Within the gates of the Air Force Base are many four story or larger buildings and aircraft hangers, as well as a tank farm holding the aviation fuel for their aircraft. The new platform will be available for all participants when needed, which will increase the interoperability between departments.

CITY CLERK

City Administration Archival System:

Cost: approximately \$150,000.

Brief Description and Justification: The City has invested \$50,000.00 in basic archival equipment, phase one. The second phase of this project is to acquire the electronic equipment and scanners, supplies, and training necessary to implement a document archival system. This system will enable city administration personnel, under the guidance and direction of the City Clerk, to develop an efficient, compliant archival system and secure records in the event of a disaster, as well as expedite retrieval of archived documents.

COMMUNITY

Priority #1: Support Request by North Pole Economic Development Corp (NPEDC) for State Assistance to fund International Federation of Sleddog Sports (IFSS) World Championships to be held in North Pole February 26 – March 3, 2012

Request: \$200,000.00

Brief Description and Justification: The IFSS is a federation of national sled dog sports associations and other national or international organizations contributing to sled dog sports on an educational, scientific, or technical level. One of the IFSS objectives is to gain Olympic recognition of sleddog sports. Our event will bring in mushers and skijorers from throughout the world. The last event was held in Norway, two years ago and prior to that in Daquam, Quebec four years ago. The IFSS World Championship alternates between North America and Europe every two years.

To put on this World Championship, in proper form, North Pole Economic Development Corporation has made a commitment to raise \$400,000.00. We are raising \$200,000.00 from the business and public sectors from across the state and request a 50% match from the state of Alaska. The World Championship will begin a series of 24 events to be held in North Pole, Fairbanks, and Salcha, during February and March 2013, and facilitate the entry of international sled dog mushers in other events throughout the State. The associated economic impact to the affected communities will be significant.

Priority #2: Support Request by the Arctic Winter Games 2014 Host Society for State Assistance:

The Fairbanks 2014 Arctic Winter Games Host Society requests that Governor Sean Parnell include \$1 million in the FY2014 budget for the planning and implementation of the Arctic Winter Games which will be held in Fairbanks on March 15-22, 2014.

Request: \$1,000,000.00

Brief Description and Justification: In February 2011, Fairbanks was awarded the bid to host the 2014 Arctic Winter Games by the Arctic Winter Games International Committee. Since that time, the Host Society has received \$1.5 million in state funding (\$1 million in FY2012 and \$500K in FY2013). The Fairbanks AWG Host Society requests an additional \$1 million in FY2014 to adequately fund their overall budget. The total estimated budget is \$6,504,852.00; the balance is being raised by municipal and non-government grants, cash donations and sponsorships, admissions and sales, and other fundraising.

The funding will be used to continue the work of planning the Games; to hire additional personnel in the 6 months preceding the Games, establish our Volunteer Program, implement our marketing plan, acquire the necessary IT equipment and software and to maintain current administrative expenses.

Since January 2012, when a Sponsorship Manager was hired, the 2014 AWG Host Society has made significant progress in raising funds from the state's corporate community and individual donors, and believes that our goals for cash and in-kind donations, as shown on the attached overall budget, from these sectors are achievable. Nevertheless, it is a heavy lift in the current economic climate so we do not expect to surpass these goals, making our request for additional state funding critical to our overall success. The associated economic impact to the Fairbanks / North Pole areas will be significant.

Priority #3: Support Request by the North Pole Economic Development Corporation (NPEDC) for Funding Improvements at the Corner of Fifth Ave. and St. Nicholas Drive within ADOT&PF Right-of-Way.

Cost: \$100,000.00

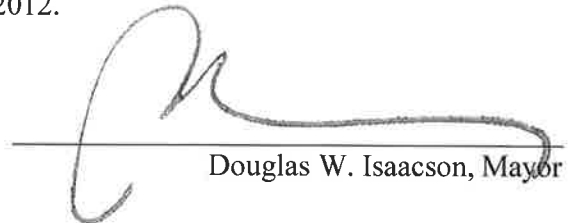
Brief Description and Justification: The City of North Pole has embarked on a multi-year landscape and beautification improvement effort and has identified the area between St. Nicholas Drive and the Richardson Highway along Fifth Avenue as being a major focal point and gateway to our community that would be greatly enhanced with landscape improvements. The area was recently changed by the State of Alaska to accommodate the highway improvements required as part of the Dawson Road Interchange Project with no beautification enhancements being completed. The City of North Pole and NPEDC have completed several phases of major improvement projects at Santa Claus Lane and the Richardson Highway. NPEDC, with a permit from ADOT&PF Northern Region, has completed a professional design for the landscape improvements at the corner of Fifth Ave and St. Nicholas Drive. Projected total cost of the improvements is \$200,000.00, the balance coming from private donations.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the North Pole City Council endorses and requests consideration by the Governor and the Alaska State Legislature for the projects herein.

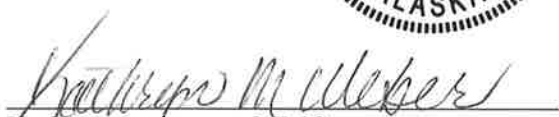
PASSED AND APPROVED BY A DULY CONSTITUTED QUORUM OF THE NORTH POLE CITY COUNCIL this 17th day of September, 2012.

ATTEST:





Douglas W. Isaacson, Mayor



Kathryn M. Weber, MMC
North Pole City Clerk

IFSS starts with festivities



Sam Harel/News-Miner

The Pavva Inupiaq Dancers lead the parade of athletes during the opening ceremony for the International Federation of Sled Dog Sports World Championships on Thursday evening, at Pike's Landing. Participants from 13 countries, including the United States, will compete in four-, six- and eight-dog class sprints and the one and two-dog skijoring events at Morning Star Park in North Pole.

By **BOB ELEY**
beley@newsminer.com

It's time to let the dogs out.

The International Federation of Sled Dog Sports World Championships officially opened with a gala ceremony at Pike's Waterfront Lodge Thursday evening, now it's time for the racing to begin.

Beginning this morning at Morning Star Park in North Pole there will be 10 days of World Championship racing in North Pole, Salcha and Fairbanks during the next three weeks.

This weekend's races feature two-dog skijoring for men and women and the four-dog sled class today and Saturday. The six- and eight-dog classes will race today through Sunday and there is a mass-start four-dog race also on Sunday.

Today's schedule calls for the men's two-dog skijoring to begin at 10 a.m., followed by women's two-dog mushing at 11 a.m., the four-dog sled class at noon, the six-dog sled class at 1 p.m. and the eight-dog sled class at 2 p.m.

More than 80 athletes and hundreds of sled dogs will be competing in the events that include skijor, pulk and relay races next week on the Salcha Ski Trails and wraps up with the Open class race March 15-17 in conjunction with the Open North American Championship sled dog race on Second Avenue in downtown Fairbanks.

The list of participating nations has grown to 13 with the addition of Russia.

Thursday evening's ceremony included the parade of athletes led by the Pavva Inupiaq Dancers that started on the frozen Chena River and went up the boat ramp at Pike's Landing and into the Binkley Room at Pike's Waterfront Lodge.

After a performance by the dance group, which included audience participation, welcoming speeches from Fairbanks North Star Borough Chief of Staff Jeff Jacobson and North Pole Mayor Bryce Ward, the athletes' and officials' oaths, IFSS president Bengt Pohten of Sweden officially opened the games

to thunderous applause for all the participants and others who were on hand for the event.

"And now let me officially open the IFSS World Championships 2018," he said.

During his comments before declaring the event open, Pohten mentioned a line from an article in a Swedish newspaper following the Swedish Championships a couple of weeks ago.

"Isn't having the world championships in Alaska like having the soccer world championships in Brazil," he quoted the article as saying.

"I think it's wonderful to see people from all over the world come together for this event," Pohten said. "You could see the intensity and fun the juniors were having today and let's hope we have 10 days of the same kind of weather as today."

Information: www.northpolechampionships.com.

A list of athletes through Feb. 18 is in today's Sports Scoreboard on page D2.

Contact the News-Miner sports department at 459-7581.



Sam Harel/News-M

Sprint dog musher Arleigh Reynolds, Salcha, and skijorer Andy Warwick, of Fairbanks, lead the U.S. team in the parade athletes during the opening ceremony.

FSS races kick off at noon Friday

By **BOB ELEY**
beley@newsminer.com

The pomp and circumstance is tonight, the all-out racing starts on Friday morning.

Welcome to the International Federation of Sleddog Sports World Championships.

The opening ceremonies for the event are scheduled for 5:30 tonight at Pike's Waterfront Lodge with the parade of athletes scheduled for 6 p.m., followed by the draw for starting positions in the four-, six- and eight-dog class and the one and two-dog skijoring events.

Participants from a dozen countries, including the United States, are involved in this year's event, which is being sponsored by the North Pole Economic Development Corp.

Other countries include Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, South Korea and Sweden.

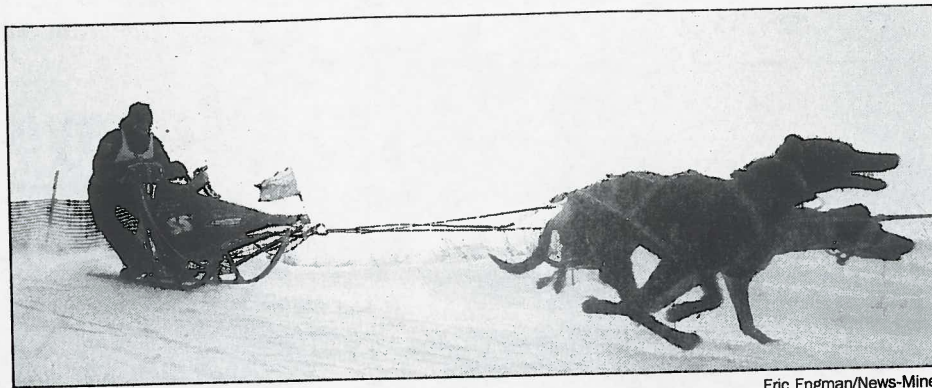
There are at least 19 teams in the four-dog class, which starts at noon Friday and Saturday. Sunday there is a separate four-dog mass-start race, also scheduled for noon.

The six-dog class will have a minimum of 15 teams and starts at 1 p.m. Friday, Saturday and Sunday, with at least 13 teams competing at 2 p.m. each day.

Saturday's schedule opens at 10 a.m. with 13 participants in the two-dog skijor race, which is a two-day event. There are 13 entrants in the women's two-dog skijor event, starting at 10 a.m. on Friday and Saturday.

Racing in the one-dog skijor class, one-dog pulka, one-dog combined skijor and pulka and one-dog skijor relay will take place next Monday through Thursday on the Darrell Coe Nordic Racing Trails at Salcha Elementary school.

Races are scheduled for 11 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. Monday through Wednesday and the relay is set for 1 p.m. next Thursday.



Eric Engman/News-Miner

Amanda Byrd leans into a corner while competing in the six-dog class in North Pole.

SLED

Continued from Page D1

"I had a nice clean run, the gates were up and the fences were where they were supposed to be so it was very nice.

Jay Olmstead, a four-dog musher from New York, had one little hobble in the four-dog class. He went off the trail by a couple of sled lengths, but he wasn't complaining one bit.

"I like it and the dogs seemed to enjoy it," Olmstead said. "It was all flat and the dogs really like that."

Today's schedule calls for the men's two-dog skijor at 10 a.m., the women's two-dog skijor at 11 a.m., the four-dog class at noon, the six-dog class at 1 p.m. and the eight-dog class at 2 p.m.

As far as the competition goes, the women's two-dog skijor event is the closest with Norway's Yvette Hoel leading Finland's Marika Tiiperi by six seconds after Hoel won the opening heat in 18:38.

Vesa-Pekka Jurvelin of Finland is the men's skijor leader after a winning time of 18:03. Svein Ivar Moen of Norway is second in 18:38.

Canadian Kati Dagenais grabbed the eight-dog lead in 35:38, with Jason Dunlap of Fairbanks second in 36:01.

Jessica Doherty of Team USA leads the six-dog class after a run of 17:01, while teammate Ami Gjestson has the runner-up spot in 17:43.

Lena Boysen Hillestad of Norway topped the four-dog class in 15:02, while Catarina Sodersten of Sweden was second in 15:49.

Complete results are in today's Sports Scoreboard on page D2.

Contact the News-Miner sports department at 459-7581.

Gold Medal Mayhem



Casey Thompson photo

Dog teams battle for position in the first turn of the International Federation of Sleddog Sports Winter World Championship four-dog mass start race on Sunday afternoon at Morning Star Park in North Pole. Norway's Lena Boysen Hillestad won the race to earn her second gold medal.

Mass start race adds a bit of excitement to IFSS World Championships

By **BOB ELEY**
beley@newsminer.com

Out of the mayhem came the group of medalists at the International Federation of Sleddog Sports Winter World Championships on Sunday afternoon.

On another perfect day for racing at Morning Star Park in North Pole, medalists were crowned in three more events, including a 16-team four-dog mass start race, something never before seen in the Interior.

"It was something I've never done before and it was definitely exciting," Fairbanks musher Jennifer Probert-Erhart said Sunday evening after the awards ceremony at the Hotel North Pole.

Sixteen teams of four lined up on the starting line and when the flag dropped they all charged across the field and headed for the first turn, a sharp right where they met the groomed trail.

"It was crazy at the starting line," Probert-Erhart said. "It was so loud with 64 dogs on the starting line. It was way louder than hooking up a regular team."

Probert-Erhart said she took a cautious approach

finished 11th in the 5.7 mile race with a time of 16 minutes, 38 seconds.

"Once they dropped the flag I knew there was no turning back," she said. "I didn't dare look to either side. I just stayed focused on going straight ahead."

"It was a good experience," she added. "I would do it again, maybe with a little more strategy next time."

Norway's Lena Boysen Hillestad won her second gold medal of these world championships posting a winning time of 14:58. That was 22 seconds ahead of silver medalist Elin Bjork of Sweden. American Lilly Stewart won the bronze medal in 15:29.

After the snow had settled from the mass-start race, the six- and eight-dog classes finished up their events.

American Jessica Doherty captured the six-dog gold medal with a three-day time of 53:09, finishing almost four minutes ahead of silver medalist Ami Gjestson of Fairbanks, who made three trips around the 6.6-mile trail in 56:52. Rachel Kinzig of Canada captured the bronze medal in 57:13.

American Kourosh Par-



Dave Partee/Sleddogstudio.com

Teams charge across the athletic field at Morning Star Park at the start of Sunday's four-dog race.

Canadian Kati Dagenais won the eight-dog class gold medal in 1:46:30.

five were Probert-Erhart in 1:51:40 and Chistochina's Evelyn Beeter in 1:51:55.

ing Trails at Salcha Elementary School today through Thursday, for the one-dog

and the women's 10K race at 12:30 p.m. There are 18 men and 15 women scheduled to

Sled dog championships off to good start

By BOB ELEY
beley@newsminer.com

You couldn't have asked for a much better day than Friday to open the International Federation of Sled Dog Sports Winter World Championships.

Thousands were in the tents, the trail was in good shape, there was a bit of snow in the air and the competition was keen on the first of 10 days of racing during the next two weeks or so.

"There are some really good teams out here," Amanda Byrd, of Fairbanks, who is racing for her native Australia, said Friday afternoon following her 6.6-mile run in the six-dog class.

Forty-six mushers and 25 skijor-

ers were on the trail at Morning Star Peak in North Pole for the start of the world sled and skijoring championships.

"It's fun to race against the best mushers in the world," she added. "It makes a whole new dynamic."

This weekend's competition, hosted by the North Pole Economic Development Corporation, features the limited class — four, six and eight dogs — races as well as two-dog skijoring at Morning Star Park.

One-dog skijoring, pulk and combined competitions and a national relay will be held next week at the Darrell Case Nordic Racing Trails in Saatchi.

The open class world championships will be held in conjunction with the GCI Open North American

on March 15-17 in downtown Fairbanks.

Most of the mushers in the six-dog class seemed to find Friday's trail conditions to their liking.

"I thought the trail was nice and interesting," said Patricia Hestmark, deputy mayor of Messey, Ontario, who is skijoring for Team Canada. "They're not as straight and boring. They have some curves and keep you alert."

Kimberly Wells was the first team to run the six-dog class.

"I was nervous because I've never seen this trail before today," Wells said. "It's scary when you're the first one out there and have never been on the trail before."

Wells didn't have any trouble negotiating the trail.

Please see SLED, Page D3



Eric Engman/News-Ming

John Perry cringes down to cut on wind resistance while competing in the six dog class during the IFSS World Championship Sled Dog Races on Friday at Morning Star Park in North Pole.

SLED DOG: Races start

Continued from Page D3

outle apart. Andrew Noble leads with a two-day time of 41 minutes 58 seconds, the top finishers in each event, according to Buzz Chu, executive director of the NFEEDC and organizer of the event.

For more information go to www.northpolechampionships.com.

The Open class of the World Championships will be held in conjunction with the GCI Open North American Championship Sled Dog Race March 15-17 in downtown Fairbanks.

Mya Hartman lead the four-dog class in 35:26, while Keith Dunlap is just 15 seconds behind in 35:43.

There's only 31 seconds separating the top four two-dog racers, with Adeline Farry taking the lead in 5:08, followed by Noah Hartman in 5:26, Hannah Wappet in 5:39 and Isabel Olofsson in 5:35.

DOG MUSHING

IFSS World Championships

Friday's Results Four-Dog Class (5.7 Miles)

1. Lena Boyesen Hillestad, Norway, 15:02; 2. Catarina Sodersten, Sweden, 15:49; 3. Quentin Soulier, France, 33:50; 4. Elin Bjork, Sweden, 16:17; 5. Susi Gronberg, Sweden, 16:22; 6. Amy Cooper, USA, 16:22; 7. Jennifer Probert-Erhart, USA, 16:36; 8. Lilly Stewart, USA, 16:37; 9. Amy Maclean, USA, 16:52; 10. Ken Bernard, Canada, 16:58; 11. Jennifer Sterling, USA, 18:58; 12. Rachel Kinvig, Canada, 17:05; 13. Jay Olmstead Jr., USA, 17:23; 14. Kourosh Partow, USA, 17:23; 15. Kathy Faryniartz, USA, 18:13; 16. Clint Graham, Australia, 18:34; 17. Grace Bailey, USA, 22:30; 18. Debra Castro (NB), USA, 25:26; 19. Jessica Doherty, USA, Scratch.

Six-Dog Class (6.6 miles)

1. Jessica Doherty, USA, 17:01; 2. Ami Gjestson, USA, 17:43; 3. Rachel Kinvig, Canada, 17:53; 4. Phillip Friedlander, Australia, 18:04; 5. Kourosh Partow, USA, 18:21; 6. John Perry, USA, 18:22; 7. Ken Bernard, Canada, 18:27; 8. Kimberly Wells, USA, 16:31; 9. Brooke Hartum, Canada, 18:32; 10. Beverly Stevens, 18:43; 11. Aleksandr Moskvichev, Russia, 18:27; 12. Amanda Byrd, Australia, 18:59; 13. Christian Taveau, France, 19:12; 14. Patricia Hnatuik, Canada, 19:53.

Eight-Dog Class (12 miles)

1. Kati Dagenais, Canada, 35:38; 2. Jason Dunlap, USA, 36:01; 3. Christian Taveau, France, 36:18; 4. Mari Hoeraitto, Norway, 36:30; 5. Jennifer Probert-Erhart, USA, 36:42; 6. Kris Rasey, USA, 46:42; 7. Evelyn Beeter, USA, 36:46; 8. Brooke Hartum, Canada, 37:01; 9. Edward Arobio, USA, 38:00; 10. Michael Tetzner, Germany, 38:05; 11. Seo Hyunchul, South Korea, 28:15; 12. Jennifer Sterling, 38:44; 13. Lisbeth Brax Olofsson, (NB), Sweden, 43:37.

Men 2-Dog Skijor (6.6 Miles)

1. Vesa-Pekka Jurvelin, Finland, 18:03; 2. Svein Ivar Moen, Norway, 18:38; 3. Yngve Hoel, Norway, 18:43; 4. Samuli Ninnanen, Finland, 19:37; 5. Greg Jurek, USA, 20:15; 6. Kale Casey, 21:24; 7. Mike Christman, USA, 21:36; 8. Ivar Appelman, Netherlands, 21:59; 9. Andrew Warwick, USA, 22:39; 10. Chuck Pratt, Australia, 24:40; 11. Larry Nichvolodov, New Zealand, 34:05; John Eriksson, scratch.

Women 2-Dog Skijor (6.6 Miles)

1. Yvette Hoel, Norway, 18:38; 2. Marika Tiipari, Finland, 18:44; 3. Sara Johansson, Sweden, 19:47; 4. Kelley McGrath, 20:26; 5. Stephanie Dwyer, USA, 20:51; 6. Christina Turman, 20:58;

Mush madness



Christian Taveau, of France, hits the trail during the eight-dog class at the IFSS World Championship sled dog races Saturday afternoon at Morning Star Park in North Pole.

Scandinavian competitors take first three IFSS gold medals

By BOB ELEY
beley@newsminer.com

Two skijorers from Finland and a musher from Norway were the first three gold medalists in the International Federation of Sled Dog Sports Winter World Championships at Morning Star Park in North Pole.

Marika Tiiperi and Vesa-Pekka Jurvelin captured the women's and men's skijoring titles on a brilliantly sunny Saturday afternoon, while Lena Boysen Hillestad captured the four-dog skijoring titles.

Meanwhile, Jessica Doherty of Team USA and Kati Dagenais of Canada increased their leads in the six- and eight-dog classes, which conclude this afternoon at Morning Star Park off Badger Road near the intersection of Hurst Road, behind the Star of the North Academy charter school.

Today's action starts at noon with a four-dog mass start event, followed by the six-dog class at 1 p.m. and the eighth-dog class at

2 p.m.

Mushers and skijorers from 13 countries are competing in the event that continues next week with skijoring, pulk, combined and relay races at the Darrel Coe Nordic Racing Trails at Salcha Elementary School.

The IFSS Open class race will be run in conjunction with the GCI Open North American on March 15-17 in downtown Fairbanks.

Tiiperi overtook Yvette Hoel of Norway in the women's two-dog skijoring to claim the gold medal with Sara Johansson finishing third, just ahead of Americans Kelly McGrath and Stephanie Dwyer.

Tiiperi went into Saturday's second 6.6-mile heat trailing by eight seconds, but she had the fastest time of the day Saturday, finishing in 18:40, while Hoel crossed the line in 18:58.

Those results gave Tiiperi a two-day time of 37:24, just 10 seconds ahead of Hoel.

Johansson finished two days of racing in 29:50, followed by Johans-



Eric Engman/News-Miner

son in 39:50, McGrath in 40:13 and Dwyer in 41:10.

son in 39:50, McGrath in 40:13 and Dwyer in 41:10.

Jurvelin had the fastest time both days in the men's two-dog skijoring event giving him a 45 second advantage over silver medalist Yngve Hoel of Norway.

Norway's Svein Ivar Moen captured the bronze medal.

Jurvelin made two trips around the 6.6 mile trail in 36:24, followed by Hoel in 27:09 and Moen in 37:58.

Saamuli Nissanen of Finland was fourth in 39:28 and Greg Jurek of Fairbanks was the top American, rounding out the top five in 39:58.

Boysen Hillestad ran away with the four-dog class, finishing 1:36 ahead of French silver medalist Quentin Soulier. Amy Cooper of Team USA earned the bronze medal, finishing just two seconds behind Soulier.

Boysen Hillestad logged a two-day time of 30:13. The four-dog class raced 5.7 miles each day. Soulier finished in 31:29 and Cooper posted a 31:41.

Please see RACE, Page C6

RACE: Battling for silver

Continued from Page C1

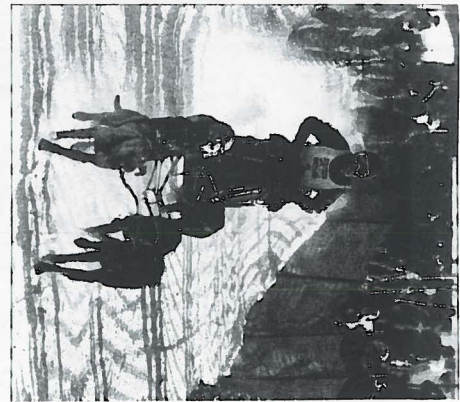
Sweden's Elin Bjork was third in 32:03 and Lily Stewart of the United States was fifth in 32:24.

Doherty will take a lead of more than two minutes in the six-dog class. She's made two trips around the 6.6 mile trail in 36:34.

The real battle appears to be for the silver and bronze medals where Ami Gjesten of Fairbanks leads a pack of six mushers within 1:02 of each other.

Gjesten has a two-day time of 37:55, followed by Australia's Phillip Friedlander in 38:15, Canada's Rachel Knivig in 28:15,

American John Bernard Dager hanks J. Dagen in 1 of 1:12.1 Boeter o nifer Pr rounding came 455-7581.



Brook Hartum, of Canada, leaves the start chute in IFSS World Championship sled dog races Saturday in North Pole.

Salcha skjoring



Dave Partee/sled dog studio.com

Norway's Svein Ivar Moen, left, and Victor Carrasco Carrero, of Spain, cross the finish line on Monday in the International Federation of Sleddog Sports Winter World Championships men's one-dog skijor event at the Darrell Coe Nordic Racing Trails in Salcha.

Jurvelin, Hoel win skijor titles on Darrell Coe trails in Salcha

By BOB ELEY
beley@newsminer.com

Skijorers from Scandinavian countries dominated the podium Monday as the International Federation of Sleddog Sports Winter World Championships shifted from North Pole to Salcha.

Vesa-Pekka Jurvelin, of Finland, won his second gold medal of these world championships. Yvette Hoel, of Norway, earned the women's title in the one-dog skijor competition on the Darrell Coe Nordic Racing Trails at Salcha Elementary School.

It was another brilliantly sunny and relatively warm day for the

competitors as temperatures again rose into the teens and low 20s as 17 men and 17 women tested their skills on the well-groomed trails in Salcha.

The finish order for the top three men was exactly the same as the finish order in the two-dog skijor event last weekend at Merning Star Park in North Pole.

Jurvelin captured the gold, while Norway's Yngve Hoel and Svein Ivar Moen came through to collect the silver and bronze medals.

Jurvelin completed the hilly 15-kilometer course in 30 minutes, 11.9 seconds, beating Hoel by 21.8 seconds.

Hoel crossed the line in the

interval start even in 30:33.2, while Moen posted a time of 32:52.6.

Samuli Nissanen, of Finland, garnered fourth place in 32:12.9 and Spain's Victor Carrasco Carrero was fourth in 33:53.2.

Mike Christman, of Neenah, Wis., was the top American finisher in sixth place with a 34:46.0, while Greg Jurek, of Fairbanks, finished eighth in 35:29.6.

Norway's Yvette Hoel won the women's title, covering the 10-kilometer course in 19:07.5, with her teammate Susannah Kelly finishing just 6.4 seconds off the pace in 19:14.0.

Marika Tiiperi, of Finland, gold medalist in the two-dog event, earned the bronze in 19:31.1.

Rounding out the top five were Sweden's Sara Johansson in 20:36.4 and Salcha's Jamie Johnson as fifth in 21:41.2 to lead the Team USA contingent.

Racing resumes at 11 a.m. today in Salcha with the one-dog pulka events. The men start at 11 a.m. and the women race at 12:30 p.m.

In a pulka race, a pulka sled containing 70 percent of the dog's weight, is attached to the dog and the skier is hooked up to the pulka.

There are 10 men and seven women registered for today's races.

Contact the News-Miner sports department at 482-7321.

The other Quest:

Goldstream Valley's little-known sportstacular race



This Alaska Life
Lynn Lot

Last Saturday, thousands turned out for the ceremonial relay of the Hibernian in Anchorage. In North Pole, hundreds from across the circum-polar north competed in the International Federation of Sledding Sports Winter World Championships. Young cheer squads in the Flat Hills Town Race Series at Birch Hill. About noon, Ivory Jack, a, in the Goldstream Valley, welcomed a different sort of competitor for a different sort of race: The Ivory Quest.

"I was about to go ski-jor on my own and friends told me about the race," Drew Harrington said. "So I thought, 'Why not do it with a group?'"

The Ivory Quest doesn't show up in many official calendars or sanctioned event listings. Held in late February or early March, the approximately 9-mile

race consists of two jumps, both ending at Ivory Jack's hour layover at the bar in between. You may ski, hike, run, bike or run. You may drink. In fact, drinking might improve your chances of winning. More on that in a minute.

Saturday's race drew 35 entrants, if not for the competition, than perhaps for the participant's quest to become a popular Ivory Quest fixture. One woman wore a blue wig. Another wore sported tight crisscrossed in glitter. Billy McCall, a snake jimmer, had waxed the ends of his mustache

into fine curls. "The goal is just to have fun," said Jeff Eriksson, one of the race organizers. Eriksson held the pre-race meeting in the bar. A group of friends had watched the course with surveyor stakes the night before. Eriksson made sure everyone knew the route, which varies a bit each year depending on trail conditions.

It was billed as the 15th annual Ivory Quest, though that may not be entirely accurate. Race veterans agree that the original Quest happened, probably maybe, in 1998. A group of friends were living in a rental on Lotta Street, in the Goldstream Valley. As winter dragged on, they looked for ways to pass the time. "We wanted to start a race from our house to Ivory Jack's and back to our house," said Bill Schnabel, another race organizer.

"We wanted to make it a party," The racemates devised a formula. If you skijored or hiked to the bar, you'd get a 15-minute penalty for the first dog you employed, five minutes for the second, two minutes for each additional dog. That evening the trail, so to speak. Someone without dog power could still win the race.

Then they came up with the beer bonus: a two-minute deduction for each beer a racer consumed. They both a spreadsheet to do the math.

"The purpose of the drinking in the race is not to encourage drinking," Schnabel said. "But to discourage competition."

No one can say whether the race has happened every year since that first run-ning. But it's been pretty consistent for the past several. In 2009 or 2010, Erik-

sson said, the Ivory Quest drew nearly 70 competitors — almost too many. "We don't want it to get so big that it becomes a burden on anybody," Eriksson said. Everyone involved with the race volunteers. The race has no entry fee, no medals and no T-shirt. Advertising is limited to word of mouth and a Facebook page. Still, for a group of disheveled fans and Goldstream residents, it's become something of a cultural institution.

Like all cultural institutions, the race changes and adapts. Since its beginnings as an innovative house party, many of the race organizers have started families. That means a new formula: take a child on your sled and you'll get a 15-minute deduction from your final time, but no deductions for consuming alcohol. One

year, participants could purchase two minutes off their time for a donation to a friend's medical bill.

Last Saturday, racers hiked, skied, skijored and hiked for evening night's and an Ivory Jack's gift certificate. Some tracked their mandatory hour at the bar closely. Others drank Pabst Blue Ribbon and seemed to forget they were competing at all. The day warmed into the low 20s and became the sort of easy-going afternoon that smells like clean laundry and a brilliant sun that battles every hill, beam and trail.

"People are having fun," Eriksson said as he took in the racers during the layover. "They're having a good time. That's what it's all about."

Lynn Lot teaches Journalism at UAF. You can reach her at lnlote@alaska.edu.

It was a photo finish



Eric Engman/News-Miner

Norway's Yvette Hoel, left, and Susannah Kelly lead the pack from the starting line of the mass start combined skijor pulka race during the IFSS Winter World Championships Wednesday at the Darrell Coe Nordic Racing Trails behind Salcha Elementary School. The pair stayed neck and neck through the race, treating the spectators to a photo finish. Each competitor completed two laps around the course, men's 7.5K and women's 5K, one lap pulka and one skijor.

Kelly beats Norwegian teammate Hoel by one-tenth of a second

By BOB ELÉY
beley@newsminer.com

There's only one way Wednesday's women's combined race at the IFSS Winter World Championships could have been any closer and that's if it would have finished in a dead heat.

Susannah Kelly and her Norwegian teammate Yvette Hoel finished just one-tenth of a second apart in a mad sprint to the finish at the Darrell Coe Nordic Racing Trails in Salcha.

The combined race for women features skiers in a 5K mass start pulka race, then a switch to a 5K skijor. The same dog is used for the entire race.

Kelly made up a five-second deficit in the skijor event to overcome Hoel and claim the gold medal, while Sara Johansson of Sweden earned the Bronze medal another 20 seconds off the pace.

Hoel was in the lead after the pulka competition with a time of 9 minutes, 34.5 seconds compared to Kelly's 9:39.7, but Kelly registered a 9:05.0 in skijoring for a total of 18:44.7 and Hoel posted a 9:10.3 for an 18:44.8.

Johansson notched a pulka time of 9:56.1 and the second-fastest skijor time of 9:08.6 to cross the line in 19:04.7.

A pair of Finnish skiers rounded out the top five at Kati Mansikkasalo Jurvelin took fourth in 20:46.1 and Marika Tiiperi was fifth in 20:47.6.



Eric Engman/News-Miner

Ludovic Coulaux, of France, switches from pulka to skijor.

The next five finishers rounded out the field with Canadians Karen Koehler (24:51.0) and Karen Koehler (30:17.1) finishing sixth and seventh, followed by Americans Kristen Lippmann (30:42.3), Rebecca Voris (32:16.1) and Sunnifa Deehr (34:48.1).

Canada's Erin Trochim did not start the race.

Finland's Vesa-Pekka Jurvelin made it a clean sweep of all four men's Nordic events, picking up the men's 15K combined victory with a 26.4-second win over Norway's Svein Ivar Moen. Yngve Hoel of Norway captured second place

in 30:06.

Jurvelin won the two-dog skijor event last weekend at Morning Star Park in North Pole and followed that up with a one-dog skijor win on Monday and a two-dog skijor victory on Tuesday, both the on the Coe Trails at Salcha.

Jurvelin finished in 29:19.6, Moen crossed the line in 29:46.0 and Hoel finished in 30:06.5.

Hoel actually led the race after the pulka with a 15:06.4, followed by Moen in 15:09.6 and Jurvelin in 15:11.5. However Jurvelin pulled away in the skijor with a run of 14:08.1, while had a 14:36.5 and

Hoel at 15:00.2.

Fourth place went to Finland's Samuli Nisanen in 30:38.0, followed by France's Ludovic Coulaux in 34:15.9, American Kale Casey in 38:39.5, American Scott Aimone in 39:15.9 and New Zealand's Larry Nichvolodov in 1:18:37.1.

Sweden's Mats Johansson and American Jason Sperry did not start.

The Nordic events wrap up at 11 a.m. today in Salcha with a national mixed relay — skijor, pulka, skijor.

Contact the News-Miner sports department at 459-7581.

Salcha Gold mine



Eric Engman/News-Miner

Susannah Kelly, of Norway, leaves the starting chute of the women's 1-dog pulka during the IFSS Winter World Championships on Tuesday at the Darrell Coe Nordic Racing Trails behind Salcha Elementary School.

Finland's Jurvelin gathers first-place medals at IFSS championships

By BOB ELEY
beley@newsminer.com

The 2013 International Federation of Sled Dog Sports Winter World Championships have been golden for Finland's Vesa-Pekka Jurvelin.

He captured his third gold medal of the event Tuesday afternoon when he sped away from rivals in the men's 15-kilometer pulka competition at the Darrell Coe Nordic Racing Trails in Salcha.

Jurvelin and Norway's Yngve Hoel and Svein Ivar Moen have finished 1-2-3 in all of the skijoring and pulka events during the first five days of racing at Morning Star Park in North Pole and now in Salcha.

It was another beautiful day for competition for Nordic events with temperatures in the 20s and bright blue skies overhead.

In the pulka race, the dog is hooked to a pulka sled containing 40 percent of the dog's weight. The skier is connected to the sled,



Eric Engman/News-Miner

Finland's Vesa-Pekka Jurvelin snowplows during the men's 1-dog pulka event during the IFSS Winter World Championships on Tuesday at the Darrell Coe Nordic Racing Trails behind Salcha Elementary School.

instead of two the dog as in a normal skijoring race.

Jurvelin completed his trip around the hilly course in 34 minutes, 32.1 seconds to win the event by more than a minute. He also won gold medals in the two-dog skijoring last weekend and

captured the one-dog skijoring title on Monday at Salcha.

Moen was the runner-up in 36:04.4, which was 1:32.3 behind the three-time champion from Finland.

Moen took the third spot in 39:15.7, more than four minutes behind the winner.

Rounding out the field in the seven-team race were Samuli Niisanen of Finland in 43:13.3, Kale Casey, the only American in the race, in 48:47.6, Ivar Appelman of Netherlands in 48:54.7 and Larry Niehvolodov of New Zealand in 48:54.7.

Hans Appelman of the Netherlands and Americans Jason Sperry and Scott Almone did not start.

The women's race also attracted seven teams and Yvette Hoel of Norway earned her second straight victory in a tight race with Finland's Marika Tiiperi, Norway's Susannah Kelly and Sweden's Sara Johansson.

Hoel finished second in the two-dog skijoring at North Pole and

won Monday one-dog skijoring race at Salcha.

In Tuesday's pulka race, Hoel completed the 10K course in 23:32.5, Tiiperi just 32.4 seconds behind in 23:59.9. Kelly took third in 23:05.9 and Johansson was fourth in 23:38.5

Canada's Karen Koehler (26:58.8) and Anne O'Donnell 38:42.8 took the next two spots and American Kiersten Lippman rounded out the field in 42:47.0.

Today is the combined skijoring pulka race, with the men starting at 11 a.m. and the women at 12:30 p.m.

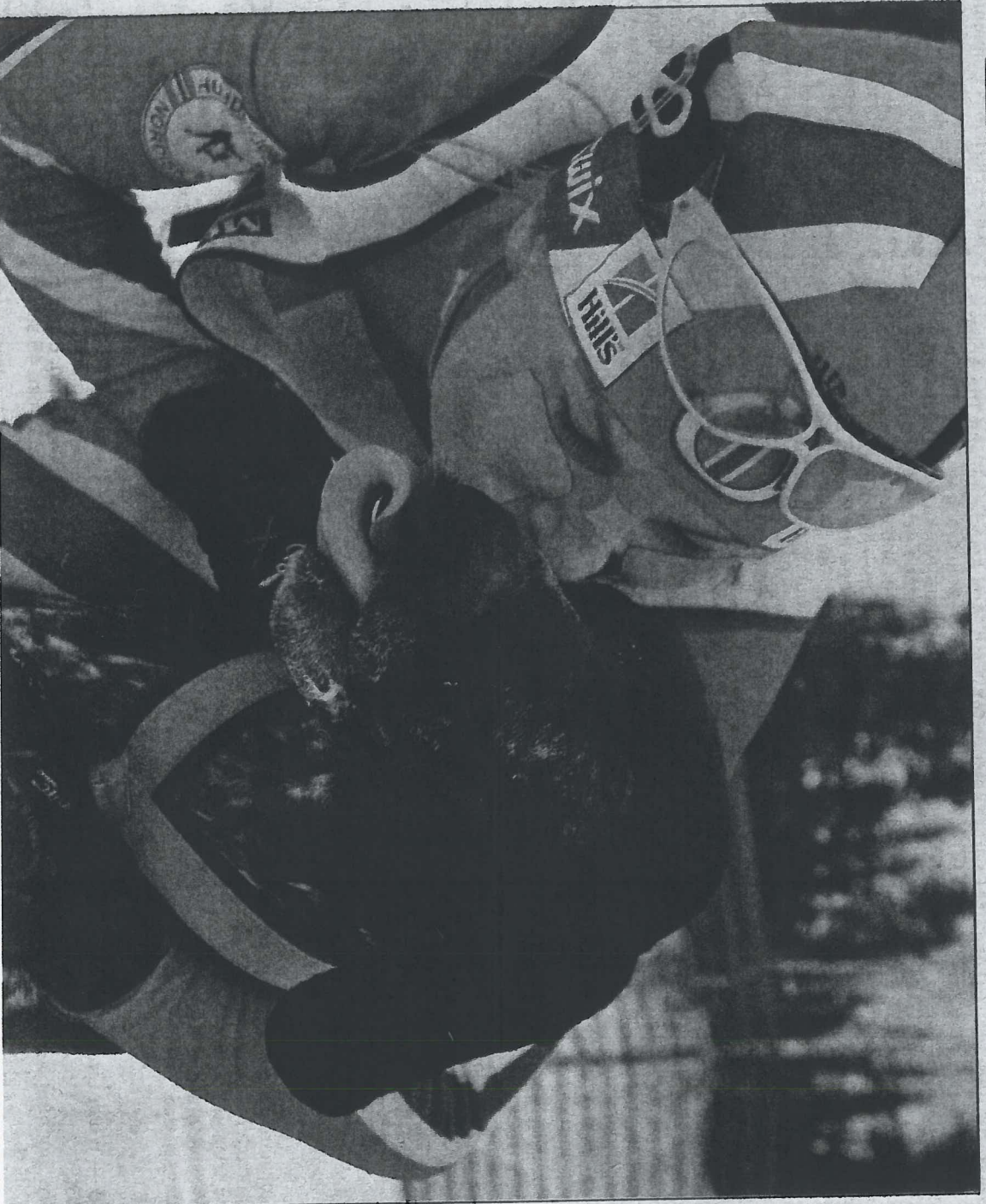
The men will pulka for 7.5 kilometers, then skijoring another 7.5K. The women will do 5 kilometers in each discipline.

The Nordic events conclude Friday with a mixed skijoring-pulka skijoring relay.

The IFSS Winter World Championships conclude with the Open class mushing on March 15-17 to be run in conjunction with the Open North American.

Contact the News-Miner sports department at 486-7851.

PUCKER UP



Eric Engman/
News-Miner

Yvette Hoel, of Norway, congratulates her dog, Giorgio, after a photo finish with Norway's Susannah Kelly while competing in the mass-start combined skijor pulka race during the IFSS Winter World Championships on Wednesday at the Darvall Coe Nordic Racing Trails behind Salcha Elementary School. Hoel finished second. Each competitor completed two laps around the course. Hoel's 7.5K and women's 5K, one lap pulka and



BOARD OF DIRECTORS

PAUL BROWN

SANTA CLAUS HOUSE



KAREN LIDSTER

SENATOR COGHILL'S OFFICE



PHIL COCHRANE

BP EXPLORATION (ALASKA) INC.



JIM JOHNSEN

ALASKA COMMUNICATIONS SYSTEMS



RAVEN RIDDLE

WELLS FARGO BANK NA



KATHERINE HOOD

HOOD AGENCY



WES MADDEN

MADDEN REAL ESTATE



PAUL ROBINSON

ROBINSON & ASSOCIATES



EX-OFFICIO

BRYCE WARD

NORTH POLE CITY MAYOR



EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

BUZZ OTIS

(907) 322-8909

BUZZ.OTIS@NPEDC.COM



PO Box 55872

NORTH POLE, ALASKA 99705

PHONE: (907) 488-4558

FAX: (907) 488-3665

WWW.NPEDC.COM

North Pole

ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT
CORPORATION

April 9, 2013
Senator John Coghill
State Capitol Room 119
Juneau, AK 99801

Representative Doug Isaacson
Capitol Room 13
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Senator Coghill and Representative Isaacson,

North Pole Economic Development Corporation put in a bid to host the International Federation of Sleddog Sports World Championship (IFSS WCh) in early May of 2012. In June of that year we won the bid to host the event, which is held every two years and alternates between Europe and North America. In 2011 the IFSS WCh was held in Oslo, Norway and in 2009, Daaquam, Quebec. We were successful in selling interior Alaska as a destination to some of the best sprint mushers and skijorers in the world.

IFSS WCh events started in North Pole on February 26 with the Junior North American held in North Pole, a first for our community. We had international, national and local teams participate in the event. Events continued with the March 1st world championship races with women's and men's 2 dog skijoring competitions and the 4 dog, 6 dog, and 8 dog mushing races. On March 3rd we had a 4 dog mass start with 20 competitors leaving the starting line at the same time, another first for the Interior mushing community and North Pole! This was followed by four days of Nordic skijoring races in Salcha – whose trails were deemed to be among the best in the country. The races were accompanied by special social and awards events at various venues in North Pole, Fairbanks and Salcha that were attended by racers, their families and their handlers.

Competitors from 13 countries attended the 2013 IFSS WCh. Represented in this year's event were competitors from Australia, Canada, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Russia, South Korea, Spain, Sweden, and the United States. There were more than 120 competitors; many of them racing more than one event. Accompanying the racers was a couple hundred support crew and hundreds of spectators (not to mention 500 dogs). The 19 days of racing activities culminated with eight IFSS mushers racing in the Open North American March 15 -17. The United States took gold and silver medals with Sweden taking the bronze!

The economic impact of this event on the community is estimated to be \$1,000,000. Bed tax and sales tax data is still being tabulated, but it is estimated direct spending by the 300 visitors was approximately \$400,000, a needed boost in the winter months. When direct, indirect and induced spending is calculated, the total economic impact from the event is \$1,000,000.



North Pole

Economic Development Corporation

NPEDC received generous community support, through cash and in-kind donations. Despite the generous support, NPEDC provided up front cash, equipment and human capital to make the event successful. We are asking for a \$200,000 capital appropriation to replace some of the capital we used to make the IFSS WCh a world class event. The past eight months have been spent on making sure the championships were conducted in a safe and professional manner that showed the communities of North Pole, Salcha, and Fairbanks in a good light.

We now have hundreds of ambassadors spreading the word about this great event and our great community. We believe this is worthy of your support in the capital budget. Your support through a capital appropriation will ensure we can support future events and grow the economy of our community.

Thank you in advance for your support. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you need further information.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Buzz Otis". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Buzz Otis, Executive Director