



# Wildlands Update for March

## Alaska Public Lands

Information Center

## Your Adventure Starts Here

Cheer on your favorite mushers as they race down Fourth Avenue beginning at 10a.m. on Saturday, March 7, at the ceremonial start of Iditarod 37. There are currently 67 mushers taking part in this year's race from Willow to Nome. View the dog profiles, canine reporter, blogs and videos on <http://www.iditarod.com> Fur Rondy festivities overlap the Iditarod. Checkout the schedule of events at <http://www.furrondy.net>

2009 marks the 20th anniversary of the Exxon Valdez Oil Spill. Heads up for programs and news items concerning this historic event.

### Winter Safety

Before you head out onto lake ice, be sure to follow these safety guidelines. Carry two large nails to use as ice picks to pull yourself out should you fall through thin ice. Never drive on the ice at night. While driving on ice, keep windows down and doors partially open to avoid becoming trapped if your car breaks through. Many ice drownings involve children, so when your child is near the ice, you should be near your child. For minimum ice thickness requirements, visit <http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/safety/ice/index.html> Check thickness of local lakes at <http://www.muni.org/iceimages/parks/RinkIceStatus.pdf>

When recreating in the mountains, be sure to check out the Chugach National Forest Avalanche Information Center website at <http://www.cnfaic.gov>

For information regarding road conditions around the state call 511 from within the state or 1-866-282-7577 from outside the state, or visit <http://511.alaska.gov>

Check out Redoubt Volcano's seismograph activity at <http://www.avo.alaska.edu>

### Alaska State Parks

Due to the warmer weather, most of Chugach State Park is closed to snowmobile use with the exception of Bird Valley. Denali State Park, Nancy Lake, and Hatcher Pass remain open. For more information, current trail conditions, closings, and openings, call (907) 269-8400 or visit

<http://www.alaskastateparks.org> and proceed to "Current News." Check out campground host and other volunteer positions under "Park Jobs."

### National Park Service

Ideas for summer in Southcentral Alaska's national parks:

2009 Summer Teacher Trainings and Field Seminars in Denali NP& Preserve are listed at <http://www.murieslc.org>

Book your summer visit to Brooks Camp Campground in Katmai NP at

<http://www.recreation.gov>

Wrangell-St. Elias NP has lots of resources about visiting the park this summer. See how to drive, ride, or fly at <http://www.nps.gov/wrst>

Interested in a winter backcountry trip in Lake Clark? Check out outdoor activities at

<http://www.nps.gov/lac>

Check out downloadable maps on each park's web site at <http://www.nps.gov/alaska>

Many park newsletters are available for free download at <http://www.alaskageographic.org>

Be sure to check the publication date for current fees.

*Kenai Fjords* is taking reservations for their public use cabins for the summer of 2009. The three cabins located in and around Resurrection Bay are accessible by water or air. For more information and reservations, call (907) 644-3661 or toll free at 1-866-869-6887 or visit

<http://www.nps.gov/kefj>

### Chugach National Forest

Due to recent warm temperatures, the Forest Service closed the Twentymile River and Placer River Drainages to over-snow motorized vehicles. These areas will be may reopen with additional snow. For more information, visit

<http://www.fs.fed.us/rio/chugach>

Public use cabin reservations in the Chugach Forest can be made 180 days in advance (thru August at this printing) at

<http://www.recreation.gov>

Book 50th Statehood Anniversary specials on the Alaska Railroad or book a 2-for-1 Whistle Stop or Grandview through May 31 at

<http://www.akrr.com>

See the Tongass National Forest by purchasing a *SeeAlaska Pass* for a one-way walk-on passenger

travel to or from Prince Rupert and Haines or Skagway. The pass allows for three stops along the way. Visit

<http://www.dot.state.ak.us/amhs>

## Alaska Department of Fish and Game

The Wildlife Viewing Calendar for January to June is available by visiting “wildlife calendars” at

<http://www.wildlife.alaska.gov>

## Bureau of Land Management

The Iditarod Trail is one of 18 national historic trails and the only winter trail in the entire nation. The trail celebrates the 2,300 mile system that first connected native villages and helped to bring vital serum to Nome during an outbreak of diphtheria during the winter of 1925.

The Bureau of Land Management now coordinates cooperative management of the trail by state and federal agencies. View the current race at Campbell Tract on Saturday, March 7, from 10a.m. to 3p.m.



Veteran sled dog “Lily” soaks up attention from her young admiring fans.

For more information, call (907) 267-1246 or visit <http://www.blm.gov/ak>

Click on the Iditarod National Historic Trail link at the bottom of the page for a download of your own visitors guide.

## Urban Public Lands

The Alaska Native Heritage Center is open on Saturdays throughout the winter from 10a.m. to 5p.m. On Saturday, March 21, the center will host a multicultural drumming and dance celebration. Fees charged at the door. Call (907) 330-8000 or visit

<http://www.alaskanative.net>

The Tour of Anchorage 25K, 40K and 50K ski race and Daylight Savings Time takes place on March 8. Check the web site for

starting times and locations at

<http://www.tourofanchorage.com>

Anchorage Parks and Recreation will be hosting the *Luck of the Irish Bash* on Saturday, March 14, from 1p.m. to 4p.m. Children ages 5-12 are invited to come to Selkregg Chalet in Russian Jack Park to create lucky charms, play leprechaun games, and search for a pot of gold. For more information, call (907) 343-6992.

On Saturday, March 21, from 10a.m. to 4p.m., join Parks and Rec and Anchorage Rotary for the *Spring Inner Orbits Challenge*. Blast off anytime between 10a.m. and 2p.m. starting at the Sun (at 5th Avenue and G Street) and walk, run, or Nordic walk any of the inner orbit routes on the Anchorage Coastal Trail. For more information call Ronn Randall at (907) 343-4260. For planet locations, visit

<http://www.anchorageplanetwalk.org>

Check out more fun and interesting programs in the Municipality of Anchorage activity calendar at

<http://www.muni.org/parks>

## Southcentral Visitors Centers

### Eagle River Nature Center

Did you know the Crow Pass Trail connecting Girdwood with Eagle River is part of the Iditarod Trail? Come to the Eagle River Nature Center on Saturday, March 7, at 2p.m. for this Junior Naturalist Program about this historic trail. For more information and other programs, call (907) 694-2108 or visit

<http://www.ernc.org>

### Campbell Creek Science Center

On Thursday, March 12, at 7p.m., the center will host its March Astronomy Series featuring Dr. Andy Puckett from the

University of Alaska Anchorage discussing asteroids. Two Fireside Chats this month feature “*CSI meets Indiana Jones*” on March 18 and “*Something’s Rotten in our Forest!*” on March 25. Both programs begin at 7p.m. and are free to the public. For more information, call (907) 267-1247.

## Alaska Sealife Center

The 3rd Annual Miniature Golf Tournament will be held on March 27 and 28 at 7p.m. Test your skills on a course that winds through galleries of octopi, seabirds, and marine mammals. The cost is \$75 per person or \$250 per group of four and includes one round of golf, beer, wine, soda, and snacks. Participants must 21 years of age or older. Call (907) 224-6890 for more information or visit

<http://www.alaskasealife.org>

## Alaska Public Lands Information Centers

### Anchorage Alaska Center

The Anchorage Center is generally open Monday through Friday from 10a.m. to 5p.m., but will be open on Saturday, March 7, from 8:00a.m. to 2:00p.m. for the Iditarod. Stop by to warm up and watch a few dog films as well. The rest of the month, movies on the big plasma screens in the exhibit area are available on a request basis (prescheduled school groups receive priority). For more information, please call (907) 644-3661 or toll free at 1-866-6887 or check out <http://www.nps.gov/anch>

### Fairbanks Alaska Center

The Fairbanks Center is now operating from the Morris Thompson Cultural Visitors Center at 101 Dunkel Drive in downtown Fairbanks. The center is open Tuesday-Saturday from 10a.m. to 5p.m. and offers a variety of films and many special speakers year round. Check out this month’s Athabascan beading and cooking classes. For more information call (907) 883-5667 or visit the Fairbanks schedule at <http://www.nps.gov/anch>

### Tok Alaska Center

The Tok Center is open throughout the winter, Monday through Friday, from 8a.m. to 4:30p.m. For more information, call (907) 883-5667. Ferry reservations are available by calling (907) 883-5667.

### Alaska Book of the Month

The Official Iditarod Sled Dog Race Trail Map (\$8.95) and other Iditarod books are available at

<http://www.alaskageographic.org>