

Kobuk 440 Racing Association
PO Box 410
Kotzebue, AK 99752



June 12, 2024

Dear Valued Sponsor,

On behalf of the Kobuk 440 Racing Association, I would like to thank you and your company for your generous sponsorship of the 2024 Kobuk 440 Racing Association events and activities.

Our Association's mission is to, "Enhance and perpetuate the Inupiaq tradition of distance dog mushing in the Arctic". The Association has no employees, and all activities are conducted by an incredible group of hardworking volunteers.

The following is a short rundown of the 2024 racing season.

Taaqpak 120: This year the Taaqpak 120 was held March 9th and 10th. The race course went from Kotzebue up the river to the Aggie River and across the Noatak Flats to the village of Noatak. The mushers then returned to Kotzebue along the same route. The mushers received a warm welcome from Noatak residents during their six-hour layover at the checkpoint based out of the Noatak school. An awards potluck was held at the NWAB offices with the first-place award presented to Bristol Huffman.

Kobuk 440: On the morning of April 4th, after a break in a week-long series of snow and wind storms, the weather broke and a large crowd greeted ten mushers at the 2024 Kobuk 440 race start line. As the race progressed, the weather continued to provide plenty of challenges for the mushers. The race received extensive media and internet coverage on the Kobuk 440 Facebook page (11,000+ followers), and our race Track Leader feature. All the village checkpoints provided great hospitality to the mushers. As has become the custom, hand-crafted prizes were awarded by the villages including several beaver and fox fur hats, knitted yarn socks and wristlets, seal skin mittens. This year skin sewers in Ambler gave prizes to every musher regardless placing! Children in the villages had their names drawn by each of the mushers to receive Easter baskets. For the second year in a row, Jessie Holmes team finished first early Sunday morning to win the race, followed by Hunter Keefe and Eddie Burke Jr.

The banquet/awards ceremony was held with a large crowd at the Kotzebue High school cafeteria. The event was filled with fun stories and a special presentation honoring the late Louie Nelson Sr., a well-known musher and beloved friend to many in the region. The first three finishers received Kobuk valley jade trophies. A cash purse totaling \$61,500 was also awarded to the mushers.

2023 Juniors: For the second year in a row, our region had a musher participate in the Junior Iditarod race. The Kobuk 440 Association was pleased to be able to sponsor this junior musher with cash awards of \$1000.

The 2024 Kobuk 440 Juniors race was held April 20th and featured a 50-mile trail with an overnight stay at the Itens camp near Fish Creek. This year six juniors, including youth mushers raced tandems (two sleds/mushers trailing each dog team). The team of Bristol Huffman and Aqattaq Padilla were first to finish the race.

Community support: Kobuk 440 Racing Association, in partnership with our freight sponsors Alaska Marine Lines and Everts Air Cargo, offered straw and dog food to mushers and the public at an affordable price.

The Association also made donations to each of the village checkpoint Search and Rescue crews to thank them for their support and efforts to set our race trails.

In 2024 the Association also continued our support of veterinary clinics in Kotzebue and Selawik.

Finally, it goes without saying that none of these events and activities would not be possible without your support. We try hard to make sure your organization receives recognition through social media, on our website, during radio coverage of our events and on banners displayed at the races and awards banquets.

We greatly appreciate the donation your cash and in-kind resources to help make our non-profit organization successful.

We look forward working with your organization again for the 2025 racing season.

Best Regards,

Kobuk 440 Racing Association

Kobuk 440

2024



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TOUGHEST RACE ABOVE THE ARCTIC CIRCLE