

# TWO RIVERS Solstice 50 – 2017 Race Rules

The date of the 2017 TRDMA Solstice race will be **Saturday, December 23rd 2017**.

## **PRE-RACE RULES**

**Qualifications:** All drivers must be members in good standing with the TRDMA. Drivers must be at least 18 years of age by the start of the race. Exceptions for juniors can be made by the race marshall and with 2 recommendations from experienced mushers with board approval. No one convicted of animal abuse or neglect will be eligible to enter the race. TRDMA may honor censure by any other sled dog racing organization.

**Fees:** Entry fee for the 50 mile race is \$75. If not all slots are filled before race day, race day sign-ups will be available for a fee of \$100. Drivers need to buy an individual membership for the 2017/18 season (\$30).

**Purse:** The purse will be \$1200. It will be distributed among the 1<sup>st</sup> to 3<sup>rd</sup> placed mushers as follows:

1<sup>st</sup> : \$600 – 2<sup>nd</sup> : \$360 – 3<sup>rd</sup> : \$240

**Limitation of entries:** The maximum number of entries accepted will be **30**.

**Registration: Online** on the web site <http://trdma.info> with online payment (PayPal, which accepts common credit and debit cards), closing on Thursday, December 14, 2017 at midnight.

All fees (both membership and race fee) are due at the time of sign-up. Race spots will be allocated to the in-person sign-ups first, and then to online signups on a first-come-first-served basis. After all spots are filled, signed-up mushers will be added to a waiting list.

There will be no sign-up by postal mail.

**Refunds:** Any entry fee paid by a musher who was not allotted a starting spot will be refunded. Teams that withdraw will forfeit their entire entry fee.

**Check-in:** Racers need to check in with the organizing team on Saturday, December 23, 2017 starting at 9 A.M. at Pleasant Valley Store and confirm their presence.

**Draw for start position:** Start position will be determined by luck of the draw on Saturday, December 23, 2017 at 9:30 A.M. at Pleasant Valley Store. The order of the draw will be determined by the order entries are received. Race bibs will be distributed at that time.

**Mandatory Driver's meeting:** Attendance at the drivers' meeting is mandatory. Any driver not in attendance is subject to penalty or disqualification. The drivers' meeting will be held immediately following the bib draw.

**Awards:** The winners who are placed in the money will have their check waiting for them at Pleasant Valley Store.

**Race cancellation:** If the temperature at the Pleasant Valley Store is colder than -44 degrees Fahrenheit at 9:00 A.M on Saturday, December 23, 2017, the race will be postponed or

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cancelled at the discretion of the race officials. After the race is started, it will continue regardless of temperature.

**Proof of vaccinations required:** All dogs must have current rabies, distemper, and parvo vaccinations with proof available to be presented to the race officials upon request prior to the start of the race. Copies of rabies certificates and purchase receipts for distemper/parvo vaccines are acceptable as proof.

**Vet check:** Dogs may be checked for health and fitness by a licensed veterinarian or veterinary technician starting at 10:00 A.M. on race day. Dogs considered unfit will not be allowed to start the race.

### **GENERAL RACE RULES**

#### **Mandatory gear:**

- Cooker with three gallon capacity
- Cooking gear, including fuel sufficient for at least one feeding
- Food sufficient for at least one feeding of driver and team
- Cold weather sleeping bag
- Hand ax with an overall length of at least 22 inches
- A pair of snowshoes with bindings and at least 250 square inches of surface area
- Headlamp
- Snow hook
- Assigned starting bib which, must be visible at all times

Mandatory gear will be checked starting at 10:00 A.M on race day.

Lost mandatory gear must be replaced prior to signing in, or a penalty will be assessed for each item.

**Keep the trail clear:** Drivers resting their team must keep the trail clear of their dogs, food and gear at all times, i.e. you must not interfere or obstruct the passage of other teams and must camp at least 10 feet off the trail.

**One driver per team:** Only one driver per team.

**Following the trail:** All teams must follow the trail as marked. Deviations/shorter routes will be assessed a time penalty. Every effort will be made to keep trail markers in place, but TRDMA cannot be responsible for acts of nature or malicious acts. Two stakes on the side of the trail the turn is on will mark turns; e.g. a left turn will have two markers side-by-side on the left hand side of the trail; a right hand turn will have markers on the right. Intersections that are to be traveled straight through will have a single marker on the right and left side of the trail.

**Trail right-of-way:** When one team approaches to within 50 feet of another team, the team behind shall have the immediate right-of-way upon demand, except within one mile of the finish line. The driver ahead must stop his or her dogs and hold them to the best of his or her ability for a maximum of one minute or until the other team has passed, whichever occurs

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first. The passed team must remain behind at least five minutes before demanding trail right-of-way.

**Littering prohibited:** A minimum thirty minute time penalty will be assessed for littering on the trail or at checkpoints (start/finish). Booties are considered litter.

**Number of dogs:** Drivers must start the race with no more than twelve (12). Drivers must finish with all dogs they started with, on the line or in the basket. No dogs can be added to a team after the start.

**Dog marking:** The Two Rivers Dog Musers Association may mark all dogs leaving the starting line.

**No loose leaders:** Loose leaders are not allowed. A driver must make every effort to secure a dog that becomes loose.

### **RUNNING THE RACE**

**Race start:** Race will start at 11 A.M. on Saturday, December 23, 2017.

**Starting interval:** Teams will leave the starting line at two-minute intervals. Any team that cannot leave the starting line within one minute of its designated time will be required to start two minutes after the scheduled departure of the final team. Any team that cannot leave the starting line within 30 minutes of the last team's scheduled departure will be disqualified.

**Checkpoints:** There will be no checkpoints other than the start/finish at Pleasant Valley Store.

**Dogs Entering and Leaving Checkpoints:** All dogs must leave checkpoints in harness and attached to the towline. A dog may arrive at a checkpoint in the sled but must leave in harness, attached to the towline.

**Time penalties:** All time penalties accrued will be applied at the finish.

**Protests:** A driver may protest any action of a competitor that he/she feels is contrary to the intent of these rules. To be recognized as a legitimate protest, the infraction(s) observed by a musher must be presented to a race official in writing at the musher's earliest convenience (preferably the finish), and in no case more than twenty-four (24) hours after a musher finishes the race.

**Appeals:** Drivers may appeal Race officials' decisions or penalties assessed by submitting, in writing, an account of the circumstances surrounding the decision or penalty being appealed. The appeal must be submitted to a race official no more than 24 hours after the incident or driver's race finish, whichever is later. An Appeals Board will be convened within 24 hours of the appeal being received. The Board will consist of an Association Director, a Rules Committee member, a Race committee member and, if veterinary issues are involved, a Race Vet. An informal hearing will be held at that time. Decisions of the Appeals Board will be final.

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## DOG CARE

**Mistreatment prohibited:** Mistreatment of dogs will cause immediate disqualification from the Solstice 50. Such an action will also be reported to all major race organizations. The race marshal will have absolute authority over this matter.

**Signal whips:** Signal whips will not be permitted.

**Dog drops:** There are no designated dog drops. Drivers must have the means to safely carry dogs in the sled bag. Dogs cannot be led behind a sled. Drivers will be responsible for any veterinary fees incurred by an injured, sick, or expired dog.

**Drugs and drug testing:** No injectable drugs may be used unless administered by the race veterinarian. Oral or topical drugs that may suppress the signs of illness or injury may not be carried or used. No drugs or artificial means may be used to drive the dogs beyond their natural ability. Race officials may require urine or blood samples for random drug testing. Drivers will be required to cooperate with race officials to accomplish the gathering of samples.

**Expired dogs:** Any dog that expires during the race for any reason must be taken to the finished and submitted to the race marshal, a judge, or a race veterinarian. A licensed veterinary pathologist or veterinarian will perform a necropsy on all expired dogs. The driver will be responsible for necropsy expenses. The death of any dog may result in the disqualification of the driver, and/or prohibition from entering future races.

**Tampering:** No driver may tamper with another driver's dogs, food, or gear.

**Sleds:** Only one sled may be used during the race. Sled must have brush bow, sled bag, and braking device. Any repairs must be done exclusively by the driver. No significant alterations as to weight or size will be allowed. Sled and equipment must be in good repair. Equipment will be inspected before the musher will be permitted to start the race.

**Race assistance:** No planned help is allowed in the race. No driver may receive outside assistance between or at checkpoints (start/finish) unless an emergency exists. The driver must not accept assistance in the feeding or care of his or her team or for sled repairs.

No driver will accept any assistance from a motorized vehicle, including pacing. A lost team will not be disqualified if the driver regains control of it, provided the team and driver complete the course and comply with rules. A driver may receive assistance from another driver in recovering a lost team. Motorized assistance will not be allowed, or disqualification will result.

Outside assistance will be allowed only if a team is unmanageable. The race marshal's decision concerning this will be final.

**Withdrawal from the race:** A driver wishing to withdraw may do so only at the checkpoints (start/finish).

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**Courteous behavior:** All drivers shall conduct themselves in a courteous and honorable manner at all times. Officials, media, volunteers and fans are all equal participants in the race and it is the driver's responsibility to maintain a courteous rapport with them at all times.

### **Solstice 50 Mile Race Description, by, trail boss**

This year's Solstice Race, though shortened from previous years, promises to be fun, scenic, and challenging. It offers a little piece of every type of terrain available in Two Rivers with the exception of river travel. I clocked the trail at 50.5 miles with both my GPS and the snogo, so it should be fairly accurate.

The race starts at Pleasant Valley Store at the far west end of the parking lot through the middle of the stand of trees. Within 500 yards, the trail will bend back around the back of the store, following the fence line of the baseball fields. You will follow along the side of Cory Ranch Rd, then turn left along the side of Anders, and then turn actually onto Sockeye Road. You will go down Sockeye (traffic is minimal here, but still be aware) for about a ½ mile. The road enters a field and you will immediately turn to the left. This is Shoen's Field, a local farmer who sells hay to Two Rivers mushers sometimes.

You will then travel along a series of fields for 4 miles, after the last you will pass Copper Kettle Farm and enter the trees. The road crossing is just a mile from there, at mile 5. The trail crosses CHSR at 27 mile. There will be a road crossing guards there to stop vehicles and help in case you have trouble.

Once you cross the road you are in Chena State Recreation Area. The trail is relatively flat as it travels through swamp and small wooded areas. You will travel along the foot of Twin Bears Mountain at about mile 8ish and then pass a dilapidated cabin at mile 10. Along with the club markers there are permanent markers hung sporadically in the tree shaped like orange diamonds.

At mile 11 you turn onto Colorado Creek Trail near a birch tree. The trail will now be more narrow and windier. There is a small section of side hill ice to be aware of that I will label with paper plates. It is minor but if you hit it too fast your sled might act as a ping pong ball off of some willows.

If you look ahead to the horizon, you will see a ridge, you're eventually going to end up way up there! At mile 16 you will pass Colorado Creek Cabin. It is on the right. It is rented by someone else on race day, but if you had an emergency, there it is.

Once you pass the cabin you will start your climb up to the Firebreak(aka the Dozer Line). You will go up 5 switch backs within 2 miles. They are sharp, but all up hill, so they should be easy to navigate, at worse you may have to run your sled around the bend.

At mile 18 you will get to the intersection where you can turn left onto the Compeau Trail Extension. We will travel this trail for approximately 6 miles. This trail parallels the Firebreak Trail, avoiding some of the notoriously rocky and bare areas (and unfortunately some of the best views to the North) but still provides some truly amazing vistas south, across the Chena Valley, and if it's clear all the way to the Alaska Range. Enjoy that low hanging Southern Solstice Sun while you can! The highest elevation for the race is found at mile 20, at 2454ft.

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The store is at 802 ft., so give your dogs a big thank you, especially because, though you are now headed down, there is still a lot of climbing left.

At mile 24 the trail separates from Compeau Trail to the right, and then meets the Firebreak Trail, you will be turning left towards the Two Rivers Logging Road. The trail widens and you climb up and down a series of 6 hills, some of them quite steep. The first and fifth climbs are the biggest. You will pass SP Kennel's dog camp. You will be on the Firebreak for about 6 or 7 miles. Again the views will be amazing.

At mile 32 you will go through some cement barriers and hit the Two Rivers Logging Road. You will be on it for a short time and then break off to the left onto the Public Wood Cutting Trail. After a mile you will hit the logging road for a short time again before you turn off to the left. The trail will get narrow again and eventually start going down a hill into the Jenny M Valley. The trail is quite narrow and windy for the next 4 miles. There is a creek crossing that is full of ice and tussocks. So go slow and maneuver that sled. At mile 37 you will be at the Flat Top Trail intersection. Turn towards the right and follow the narrow black spruce trail for about 3 miles. This section is full of moose holes (I call this section the Moose Highway) so gear down your team to avoid injuries. At mile 40 you will drop into Jenny M Creek. It is willowy and a steep short bank down and a really sharp bank back up, and always full of ice. SO be careful. I will have warnings again with paper plates. You will then be in the willows for a short time until you are led onto Jenny Creek again, it is always icy here, and sometimes wet, just head towards the bridge. You will be going under the bridge to the trail that heads straight ahead.

At this point the rest is easy. Your biggest challenge now is not getting lost on the many trails and racing your competitors. The trail is now significantly easier. There is only 10 miles left. You will go a few miles until you get to an intersection I call Grand Central, turn right. You are now on Baseline/Winter Trail. You will travel on it for about a mile and then turn left on onto the Wood Yard Loop. This is a short trail and you will turn left onto CD trail in about a ½ mile. You will follow up the hill a ways then turn left to head up to the Jenny M Logging Road. You will work your way back down and meet Pheasant Farm Rd. You will travel along it for a short time and leave it after crossing a One Lane Bridge. The trail then drops onto Mullen Slough. You will follow the slough on and off for a few miles. Then go into a swampy area. You cross Grange Hall Road by a junked car. You have less than 4 miles left at this point. The trail meets back up with Baseline. You will turn to the right. Past Sonny Lidner's. At mile 49 you turn onto a trail that turns into Pleasant Valley Road. This is no man's land. Race like heck! The trail will turn off the road to the right about halfway down. The trail will lead you back to the store. Congrats!