

Training for a Vision & Dream



Train for every condition possible



Fall training ~ Algonquin Park



Aster enjoying play yard time
FUN is a huge part of our equation.



Training includes developing new leaders



Practice makes perfect. The team will train 2500 miles before starting the race.



1000 lbs of steak, salmon, chicken & liver
.....for the dogs!



Hank's food



Booties & gear packed to be shipped onto the trail



Over 1700 lbs of food & gear head to Alaska for the race before we leave



Truck loaded for the 6500 km drive to Alaska & the 5 week journey



Iditarod ~ 1000 miles across remote Alaska Anchorage to Nome “The Last Great Race”



Our family at the start line



A dream comes true! Iditarod ceremonial start Anchorage, Alaska



Official re-start Wasilla, Alaska



Leaders Lily & Strider launch us onto the trail & an epic new adventure



The team of 16 dogs heading into the Alaska Range



Climbing Rainy Pass, team members look back for reassurance



Andy frosted up in McGrath -35F



Strider, Ebony & Sapphire fly out of remote Alaska back to Anchorage



5000' sq ft heated Winterdance kennels Home sweet home.....



2011 Yukon Quest ~Whitehorse to Fairbanks 1000 miles “The World’s Toughest Race”



Training run ~ Yukon



New trails, challenges & adventures the team live for it!



Gem & Andy ~ Yukon



The Start of the Yukon Quest!



Nervously awaiting our turn to start





Lily, Strider & team explode out of the starting gate



Nerves are gone, now it's just me,
the dogs & the trail



Sun sets on day 1



Checkpoint #1 - Braeburn Lodge

100 miles down - 900 to go



Lily, Aster & Hosta howling at the front of the team to get back on the trail.



Checkpoint #2 – Carmacks 170 miles down



Breathtaking wild country, sunrises, sunsets & northern lights



Frost coats absolutely everything



Pelly Crossing- 250 miles down Everyone, even the RCMP get involved



The race doesn't stop it goes 24 hours a day. I actually prefer running at night



The mighty Yukon River



Welcome to Dawson City 500 miles, ½ way there



Running down Main Street, Dawson City



A warm ½ way reception after 200 miles of vast wilderness



Ice roads crossing the Yukon River



In Dawson the dogs get 36 hours of rest & TLC



Trail Hazards



Circle 750 miles covered
Coldest night of the race ~ -60 F



Circle's checkpoint. The best sleeping spot? The fire truck close to the heater!



Brother & sister, Zeus & Scully



School children cheer for the mushers coming through their remote towns.



2000 booties are used to protect dogs feet over 1000 miles



A cold -50 F morning to head down the trail to warnings of water....



Checkpoint #7 – Central 825 miles covered, Eagle summit ahead



Snack Time ~ Steak



Eagle Summit



The team nears the peak of the infamous 3650' Eagle Summit



Victory! Coming off of Eagle Summit



JAY ~ NOT A LEADER BUT MY ROCK!



Checkpoint #8 – Mile 101

Rosebud Summit ahead, 100 miles to go



A short nap in the late afternoon sun before heading up to Rosebud Summit



The safe, calm haven of 101, as
northern lights dance.



The last team to leave 101, heading over Rosebud summit into the grip of a storm



Checkpoint #9 – Two Rivers Jester rests, finish line 77 miles away



45 miles to go!



Hank's headlamp shining the way as the team cross the 1000 mile finish line.





Yukon Quest Finishers!
2011- 13 days, 10 hours
2014 - 12 days, 18 hours





Winterdance Race Team: 13th Place in the 2011 Yukon Quest!



Hank



Andy



Aster



Blitz



Charlie



Gem



Hosta



Jay



Jed



Jester



Lily



Maverick



Scully



Strider



Zeus

My heroic, inspiring leader ~ Lily!
She is the definition of the words heart, focus & determination



"It's the kind of run you don't focus completely on the end.
You focus on the next checkpoint. The next problem. The next 5 miles.
You focus on the end; you might not make it."

HANK DeBRUIN - 2011 Yukon Quest Red Lantern
2014 Yukon Quest 8th place



It's all about the Adventure!

