

## Gin Gin 200 Mushers;

The start of the 2007 Gin Gin 200 is a week away. The race is coming together nicely. We have snow. Good snow. The trail out the Denali Highway is as good as it ever gets. There are no pavement or gravel spots between Paxson and Maclaren River. The trail is good enough to hook down a 12-dog team almost everywhere. The mountain loop has 2-3' of snow cover with some windblown areas on the big lakes. The loop trail out of Maclaren was icy with overflow in spots; we will look at the Maclaren again this weekend and reroute where/if necessary. Look for trail updates Monday on the website. Our purse will be a minimum of \$7500. Payout is top 5 in the women's division and top 3 in the men's. We will have a veterinary award. All finishers will receive prizes. Weather; come prepared for wind, esp. on the Paxson end of the trail. The forecast for the next week isn't too bad; lows zero- minus 10, highs zero- 10 above. Cloudy. Full moon is Sunday the 23<sup>rd</sup>---so bring lots of battery power as we will be easing toward the dark side of the moon.....

Maclaren checkpoint; make sure you have 2 hooks as you will be parking on the River. ½ bale of straw per team. You need not carry all your food and such out on the loop from here---take what you need and leave the rest to use on your return—you can have your same parking area on the way back. Water is available at Maclaren and should be warm unless something breaks. You will have designated sleeping quarters here. No sleeping in the Lodge common area. You will be responsible for you own food while at Maclaren. Your vet at Maclaren will be Jan Bullock. She is very good with a lot of experience and dog/musher friendly. There will be 3 judges and the Race Marshall, (Joanne Potts), at Maclaren as well and I will be there to answer trail questions and trouble shoot. Alan Echols, (owner of Maclaren) will also be available for trail questions. You may drop dogs at Maclaren subject to a \$50 drop fee. We will snowmobile them out to Paxson for you. I know the rules say \$75... that's wrong.

Sign-up/Start /Finish; there will be a sign-up table at Paxson Thursday night and Sat. morning. You will need to show your rabies certificates. Those of you whom have signed up already, will need to provide rabies proof also. You may sign-up right up to the pre-race driver meeting. Parking is going to be interesting. There is plenty of room, but mushers will be coming in all thru the evening and morning. Try, Try, Try, to park so that you can hook a team up and go out one of the driveways without running anyone over. Be considerate. There will be no start draw---teams go out in the order of sign-up. We will start going straight out the Denali Highway. We will have an informal awards ceremony at Paxson around 3:00 pm. on Sunday. We are expecting the first finishers 8-9-10 Sat. evening. Good luck and see you here. john