

# 2015 YUKON QUEST

Coverage inside and at [www.newsminer.com](http://www.newsminer.com)

FAIRBANKS

**Online Banking**




newsminer.com

Rock Solid Since 1965

Apps - for your iPhone, Android or Blackberry  
Visit [mtmckinleybank.com](http://mtmckinleybank.com) for more info

FDIC LENDER

# Daily News-Miner

THE VOICE OF INTERIOR ALASKA SINCE 1903

**Inside Today** Longtime Fairbanksan Bob Bettisworth dies in Arizona at age 88. » INTERIOR, A6

## GOOD MORNING



### The weather.

Mostly cloudy with highs in the low 30s.  
High today ..... 31  
Low tonight ..... 13

WEATHER » A9

### Aurora forecast.

Auroral activity will be moderate. Weather permitting, displays will be visible overhead from Barrow to Talkeetna.

This information is provided by aurora forecasters at the Geophysical Institute at the University of Alaska Fairbanks. For more information about the aurora, visit <http://www.gi.alaska.edu/AuroraForecast>

...



## HOOPS LEGACY

Former Nanooks women's basketball players honored.

KRIS CAPPS  
Page A3

...

## LOOKING AHEAD

Marijuana, budget on Legislature's plate this week.

INTERIOR  
Page A7

...

## CURLING NATIONALS

Vicky Persinger and team are tied for second at nationals.

SPORTS  
Page B1

...

## SOURDOUGH JACK: "Alaska lost a legend today."



# Legendary musher George Attla dies

By Weston Morrow  
WMORROW@NEWSMINER.COM

George Attla Jr., unmatched sprint racing champion and one of Alaska's most decorated mushers, died Sunday at the Alaska Native Medical Center in Anchorage at age 81.

Attla, known as the Huslia

Hustler, was widely considered the best sprint sled dog racer to ever compete. He won the two premiere sprint races — the Fur Rendezvous World Championship Sled



Attla

Dog Rage in Anchorage and the Open North American Sled Dog Championships in Fairbanks a combined total of 18 times.

Members of the family confirmed that he died Sunday evening. He had been diagnosed with B-cell lymphoma just one and a half weeks ago.

In many ways, Attla's

mushing career is intertwined with his medical history. When he made his debut in the Fur Rondy at age 25, spectators made note of him as the unknown musher from Huslia with the fused leg.

Attla, who suffered from tuberculosis as a boy, spent much of his childhood in the hospital, where they straight-

ened and fused his knee. He refused to let that keep him from racing competitively, instead turning it into his trademark.

He was born to Eliza and George Attla Sr. on Aug. 8, 1933, in Koyukuk, a village near the confluence of the Yukon and Koyukuk rivers.

ATTLA » A3



Quest veteran Brent Sass, of Eureka, and his team make their way out of the Central checkpoint during the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race on Sunday in Central. Sass had about a two-hour lead over two-time Quest champion Allen Moore when Moore left the checkpoint. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

# Moore takes lead in Quest at Mile 101

By Jeff Richardson  
JRICHARDSON@NEWSMINER.COM

**MILE 101 CHECKPOINT** — Two-time defending champion Allen Moore claimed the lead in the Yukon Quest on Sunday night at this desolate Steese Highway checkpoint, saying his team "chugged right over" the daunting Eagle Summit.

Moore arrived at about 10:20 p.m., about two hours after Brent Sass at Mile 101, but chose to cruise through the checkpoint after picking up supplies. Sass had remained behind to rest after arriving drenched in sweat and blanketed in snow but hustled to leave after seeing that Moore wasn't staying.

Moore said at the checkpoint that the summit was "the best I'd ever seen it" and that his dogs had been able to make the climb with him running behind the sled.

Sass had to work much harder, hoisting his team over the top of Eagle Summit, then surviving a harrowing ride down the far

QUEST » A5



Two-time defending champion Allen Moore, of Two Rivers, feeds his team before they leave the Central checkpoint about two hours behind leader Brent Sass during the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race on Sunday in Central. ERIN CORNELIUSSEN/NEWS-MINER

## MORE QUEST COVERAGE

TRAIL WATCH: RACERS HIT THE HOME STRETCH. » A4

LOW ON THE LEADERBOARD, MACKEY ENTHUSIASTIC ABOUT TEAM'S GROWTH. » A4

# Program to help cancer patients needs volunteers

By Amanda Bohman  
ABOHMAN@NEWSMINER.COM

Rene Orr and her husband scrape by on a limited income, which made her battle with cancer two years ago particularly challenging.

The Orrs own no car. The retired wildlife rehabilitator didn't know how she was going to get to chemotherapy and radiation appointments at Fairbanks Memorial Hospital.

Then volunteers with the American Cancer Society's Road to Recovery program stepped in to help. "It was a lifesaver," Orr said. "Transportation would have been very, very difficult."

The program provides free rides to cancer treatment appointments to people in need. Volunteers in the community provide the transportation. More volunteers in Fairbanks are needed.

Prospective drivers must have a valid driver's license, a good driving record, proof of insurance, a reliable vehicle and must consent to a background check. A 90-minute online training course is also required.

Volunteers more or less set their own schedule, according to Kathy Archey, mission delivery specialist with the American Cancer Society's Great West Division in Anchorage.

Anyone interested in volunteering with the program can reach Archey at 273-2077 or [kathy.archey@cancer.org](mailto:kathy.archey@cancer.org).

Beverly Kersey, a retired school secretary and breast cancer survivor, has been providing transportation to cancer patients in Fairbanks through the Road to Recovery program for four years.

Kersey works her driving responsibilities into her daily routine, she said. Some of the patients she has helped have become friends.

"It's at your convenience," Kersey said. "I like to get to know them. I get as much out of it as they do if not more. I highly recommend

it because of the joy of helping others and hearing about their life."

Charles Dekranis, a 59-year-old retired chef, had to seek treatment for head and neck cancer in Anchorage. He'd fly down and stay in a hotel. His Road to Recovery driver lost a loved one to cancer.

"Anyone who has been through it, it's a lot easier to talk about it," Dekranis said. "He was a terrific guy. You recall that there are a lot of good people out

there."

On the last day of Orr's chemotherapy, two of her regular drivers took her out to lunch to celebrate.

"It was the first time I had been to a restaurant all winter," Orr said.

She still sees her drivers from time to time when she needs a ride to a cancer follow-up appointment.

The Road to Recovery program has made dealing with cancer more bearable, she said. "It's just a really beneficial thing for people with cancer who can't afford to get back and forth to their appointments," Orr said. Contact staff writer Amanda Bohman at 459-7587.



Dekranis

