

PRESS RELEASE

TO: All Media
FROM: Pam Beckstrom
RE: Montana's Race to the Sky – February 8-12, 2019
RELEASE: Immediately

The Race to the Sky will celebrate its 34th year starting on February 8, 2019. The 300 and 100 mile racers are lining up to see how their teams stack up with the rest of the dog mushers at the start of the race on Saturday, February 9th.

With snow being an issue earlier this month, Mother Nature cooperated and the Race to the Sky will have all the pre-race events and start of the race in and near Lincoln.

Pre-race events on Friday, February 8 will go on planned. The vet check for the 300 mile mushers will be at Hi-Country Snack Foods near Lincoln from 1:00-3:00 p.m. The Pre-race Banquet will be at the Lincoln Community Hall from 6-8:00 p.m. that evening. Chef Barbie will be making enchiladas three ways, beans, salad and dessert. It is free and the public is invited to meet the mushers and learn about the race.

This year's Race to the Sky will be dedicated to Jack Beckstrom, who was an original organizer of the race in 1986 and has been part of every single race until his death last year. He competed in the 500 and 350 mile races numerous times, was a race marshal for several years and was the chairman of the board and a treasurer for Montana Sled Dog, Inc., the parent nonprofit that organizes Race to the Sky for the last over 30 years. There will be several awards named for Beckstrom including the Jack Beckstrom Sportsmanship Award and the Jack Beckstrom Best Cared for Award as well as dedicating the race to him and his lifetime commitment to the sport of mushing and bringing distance mushing to Montana.

There are 21 mushers already signed up to run this year's Race to the Sky. This year's field of mushers break-down are 7 in the 300 mile, 1 in the 100 mile junior and 13 in the 100 mile adult. To date, there are 4 teams coming from Minnesota, 2 teams from Washington, 1 from Oregon, 1 from Utah and the rest are from Montana. Mushers have until February 1st to enter.

Watch for updates at www.racetothsky.org. This year all the press releases and times will be posted on the website 3 times a day rather than sending copies to every media contact. Last year, the race server shut down the mail for 12 hours because there were too many emails in a 24 hour period. All media and public can pick up press releases from there or call 406-881-DOGS, if additional information is needed. If you want us to send you an email with press releases, please send an email to info@racetothsky.org and you will be added to an email list, otherwise, everything will be kept up to date and posted in time for newscasts and deadlines at 9 a.m., 5 p.m. and 9 p.m. GPS units will once again be used on all teams so you can see exactly where they are on the loops this year.

A copy of the 2019 schedule is attached. Please feel free to share it. Everyone is invited to come to all the events. We do, however, ask that you keep your pets either in your car or leave them at home.