

Copper Basin 300  
Official Press Release

Due to temperatures near 60 and more below, Race Marshall Jon VanZyle and Head

Veterinarian, Jeanne Olson, decided to cancel the Copper Basin 300 at 11:00 a.m., on Sunday, January 14, 1996. The race organizers and officials unanimously agreed. In keeping with the race policy of excellent dog care, an over-whelming majority of mushers were in agreement. Frost bite of dogs was becoming a problem pointed out by Head Veterinarian Jeanne Olson. "We have a paramount obligation to the dogs", she said. There were nine scratches prior to the decision to terminate the race.

Martin Buser, two time Iditarod Champion, and seven time Copper Basin 300 competitor said, "I certainly support the decision made by the officials and vets for the greater good care of all the dogs in the race." John Schandelmeier who has been instrumental in the race since its inception and a long time veteran said, "I am in whole hearted agreement with the decision made by the officials due to temperatures beyond our control. At Excelsior Creek it was 60 to 68 below. I am not willing to risk my dogs for any reason, much less a dog race.

Our decision was based strictly on the immediate circumstances at that particular point in the race. We hope to see all the mushers back next year.

Jon VanZyle  
Race Marshall