

Race to the Sky Awards and Wrap Up
Press Release

TO: All Media
FROM: Pam Beckstrom, 406-881-2909
RE: Race to the Sky Finish and Awards Ceremony

The 37th year of Race to the Sky finished and will be forever etched in our minds. Board VP Pam Beckstrom spoke about this year's race saying that Saturday's crowd at Hi-Country Snack Foods in Lincoln was the biggest crowd in years. The mushers had a technical trail due to the melting conditions and freezing night temps making for a hard, icy trail. The mushers took their time, paying close attention to their dogs and rested them often. The International Sled Dog Veterinarians were at the race assisting and answering questions from dog mushers. It is a team effort all the way around.

The organizers would like to thank the sponsors, volunteers, officials and race veterinarians for their service and assistance to Race to the Sky. It really takes a village to put this race on with several different checkpoints.

Jack Beckstrom Sportsmanship Award went to Jed Stephenson of Sand Point, Idaho. Stephenson won this award for catching Morgan Anderson's team when she lost it the first night of the 300 mile race. Stephenson lost his team and saw that Anderson's dogs were coming toward him, stopped them and everybody was rejoined with their teams safely. Jack Beckstrom, one of the original founders of the Race to the Sky received many sportsmanship awards so it is fitting that we honor him through this award. Beckstrom passed away in March 2018 after devoting his entire life to mushing and organizing and running Race to the Sky since its beginning in 1986.

The coveted Jack Beckstrom Best Cared for Team Award went to Cindy Gallea of Wykoff, Minnesota. This award goes to the team that takes the best care of the award. It was voted on by the veterinarians and given by Dr. Kathy Topham, lead veterinarian. She said it is getting harder and harder to give out this award because the dog mushers are taking such good care of their dogs and there are usually many mushers who stand out.

The Triple Crown Trophy was given to Clayton Perry of Power, Montana for the highest place finisher in the 300 mile Race to the Sky, the 300 mile Idaho Challenge Sled Dog Race and the 300 mile Eagle Cap Extreme. Jed Stephenson received a patch for finishing all three races, too.

Twelve mushers started the 300 mile race on Saturday, 8 finished. Awards in order of place for the 300 mile finish:

1 st	Jessie Royer	Seeley Lake, MT	6:33 p.m. Monday	10 dogs
2 nd	Josi Thyr	Olney, MT	11:08 p.m.	8 dogs
3 rd	Cindy Gallea	Wykoff, MN	12:16 a.m. Tuesday	10 dogs
4 th	Clayton Perry	Power, MT	1:13 a.m.	8 dogs
5 th	Bailey Vitello	Milon, NH	1:26 a.m.	6 dogs
6 th	Bryce Mumford	Preston, ID	5:28 a.m.	8 dogs
7 th	Jed Stephenson	Sand Point, ID	7:26 a.m.	10 dogs
8 th	Jesse Flory	Hesperus, CO	8:55 a.m.	8 dogs

Rex Mumford of Huntsville, Utah, Morgan Anderson of Enterprise, Oregon, Bino Fowler of Bend, Oregon and Wade Donaldson of Coalville, Utah withdraw from the race before finishing.