



Dear musher,

My name is Anna Odintsova and I represent the **North Hope Sled Dog Center** (www.nordhope.com) and the race organizing team of the annual **International North Hope Stage Sled Dog Race for the benefit of children** (race.nordhope.info), Russia.

We encourage you to **take the opportunity and experience a unique adventure in Russia and make this world a better place by running the North Hope Race 2014 for the benefit of children.**

CHALLENGE THE RUSSIAN SNOW.

MUSH FOR A CAUSE.

EXPERIENCE THE REAL REMOTE RUSSIA.

And get the most out of your visit to our country on favorable terms.

The **North Hope Stage Race for the benefit of children** is the second major stage sled dog race in the European part of Russia that has been held since 2007 to **raise awareness and support for children's programs** within the **Sled Dogs Helping Children Project** of the **North Hope Sled Dog Center**. Most of the money raised at the race goes to the **Sled Dogs Helping Children** fund and implementation of the children's programs of the **North Hope Center**. The race is held each year in February on the territory of the North Hope Sled Dog Center, Kostroma region in a remote village of Dement'yev. This part of Russia is known for perfect snow conditions and according to the mushers from North America (e.g. the 24-Iditarod veteran **Terry Adkins**, International Pedigree Stage Stop Sled Dog Race director **Frank Teasley** and Iditarod musher **Pat Moon**) is similar to Interior Alaska in respect of terrain and weather conditions.

The **North Hope Race** was the first race in European part of Russia to attract *foreign mushers from the USA, Great Britain, Canada and Australia*. Thus, since 2007 many foreign mushers have successfully participated in this event. Among them are: a 24-Iditarod veteran and vet **Terry Adkins** (USA), an Iditarod veteran and the IPSSDR race director **Frank Teasley** (USA), **Pat Moon** (participant of two Iditarod races), **Barbara Shaefer** (the author of the "Be the Lead Dog"), **Robert Stevens** (musher and the race director of The Altitude 5000 Sled Dog Challenge, Australia), and many more. Traditionally since 2007 the Race Marshal of the North Hope Race has always been an experienced musher and race marshal from the US, Iditarod veteran **Terry Hinesly** and the Chief Vet - Iditarod vet, the president of the ISDVMA, holder of 3 golden stethoscopes - **Dr. Caroline Griffitts**. Among the NH Race officials were

professionals from all over the world: Blake Freking, USA (musher, Iditarod and Yukon Quest veteran and John Bargease Marathon champion), Richard Long, Canada (veterinarian, the Yukon Quest Head Vet), Jaime Martinez Salles, Spain (veterinarian, Pirena Race Head Vet), etc.

Race Dates: Feb.16-22, 2014

Your experience at **North Hope** will allow you to:

- run a major race of the country
- meet legendary mushers and race officials from all over the world
- meet Russian mushers and compare training and racing strategies and make new friends
- attend the educational program within the frameworks of the race
- discover a remote snow region of Russia with its pristine nature and get the real feel of the country with its culture, people, food, etc inaccessible for a regular tourist
- contribute to a non-commercial project for the benefit of children, helping the under-privileged children of the region and supporting the childrens programs of the North Hope Center

The aim of this project is to help foreign mushers come over and *race their dogs in Russia with less expense and strengthen international cooperation in sled dogs*. We know how hard and costly the dog transfer is and we'd like to help mushers decrease their expenses and contribute to making this possible with **the North Hope Sled Dog Center's offer to** open their home to mushers and their dogs for free for the period of the race.

In addition, this is a **unique chance to learn our country from the inside** *being immersed in its everyday life with its traditional food, people, nature, culture, etc. and get a TRUE story, not its refined version which a real traveler is rarely searching for.*

We are convinced that the **bond of a human being with sled dogs is deeply international by nature** and we'd like the borders of the countries to fade and open up a **whole world to unite and help our sport to evolve.**

Looking forward to having you at our events!

Experience the cold of the Russian winter and the warmth of the Russian hearty hospitality!

Best regards,

Race organizing committee of the North Hope Sled Dog Race,

Race President Mother Paraskeva,

Race Marshal Terry Hinesly

Head Vet Dr.Caroline Griffitts