



Community Policing at the

KUSKOKWIM 300



During the weekend of January 20, 2017, three mushing events were held on the Kuskokwim River: the Kuskokwim 300, the Bogus Creek 150 and the Akiak Dash. The temperature lingered between 25 to 40 below zero as more than a hundred people clustered along the banks of the river to cheer on their favorite mushers during the days of races.

Trooper Josh Rallo recently returned to the Alaska State Trooper Bethel Post after working 10 years in other parts of Alaska. With the mushing events happening outside of town, call for service coming into the post were lower than usual so Trooper Rallo braved the cold to do some community policing.

“I got to reintroduce to myself a lot of familiar faces and let people know I was back in the area.” said Trooper Rallo.

Trooper Rallo noted that the weekend events had a positive effect on pretty much everyone in the area.

“The crowds were very cheerful. It was like New Year’s Eve,” said Trooper Rallo. “Everyone was hugging, giving high fives and walking around shaking hands. Dozens of vehicles—trucks, four wheelers and snowmachines— stretched out for a couple hundred yards as the mushers went by.”

The Kuskokwim 300 was championed by Bethel Musher Pete Kaiser, making this year his third consecutive win.



The last musher of the Bogus Creek 150 passes by Trooper Rallo's patrol truck.



Mushers head out on the trail at the start of the Bogus Creek 150.



Trooper Rallo parked along the trail of the Akiak Dash while meeting up with spectators.