

**Jeff Schultz Q & A
with the 2016 Iditarod Class:**



Q: How many years have you been taking pictures for the Iditarod?

A: I photographed my first Iditarod in 1981 and I've been the Iditarod's official photographer since 1982

Q: In the Iditarod, do you go to every checkpoint?

A: I've been to every checkpoint. Each year I try to go to each one. Sometimes I miss one or three.

Q: Have you ever taken a picture under water?

A: no



Q: How did you get inspired to take photos of the Iditarod?

A: I met the "Father of the Iditarod" Joe Redington Sr. in 1979 and he got me interested in it.

Q: Why do you like to photograph the northern lights?

A: It's a unique phenomenon that does not happen everywhere. So it's fun and a challenge to make photos of them.



Q: Who inspired you to be a photographer?

A: I found that I had a God-given talent of composing photos and I was good at it. My brother-in-law Reggie Miller encouraged me to follow my passion when I was 14.



Q: How many pets do you have? Are dogs your favorite?

A: No pets, but dogs are my favorite



Q: How many books about the Iditarod have you taken pictures for?

A: My photos have been published in 8 or so books on the Iditarod.

Q: What colors have you seen in the northern lights?

A: Red, purple, green and yellow



Q: When did you start taking professional pictures?

A: I was 14 when I got paid for my first assignment... taking photos at a 25th year wedding anniversary, but I became a full-time professional in 1982.

Q: Have you ever been in an airplane while filming the northern lights?

A: No, but that'd be cool.



Q: Have you ever gotten frostbite on the trail?

A: No, by the grace of God.

Q: When you were a kid, did you follow the Iditarod?

A: No. I had no idea what the Iditarod was until I met Joe Redington Sr. in 1979.



Q: Do you take pictures outside of Alaska? Where?

A: Not really. Only when I'm on vacation and it's just for fun then.



Q: Have you ever been a musher in the Iditarod?

A: no



Q: Do you live in Alaska? How long have you lived there?

A: Yes, I live in Anchorage. I've lived here since I was 18. I moved up 3 months after graduating from High school.



Q: Who flies you around during the Iditarod?

A: Great volunteer pilots fly me. I typically have one dedicated pilot fly me. Over my 35 years, I've had 3 main pilots... Dr. Von Mitton DDS, Sam Maxwell and most recently Danny Davidson. Sometimes I get rides from other volunteer **Iditarod air force pilots**.



Q: Do you open the door or window to take a picture during the race?

A: 95% of the time I open the window to take photos.



Q: How long do you see the northern lights during the night? And what is the longest time you have seen them in one night?

A: I have seen them last only a few minutes sometimes, and I've seen them last for 6 or more hours.

Q: Have you ever taken a photo of a shooting star?

A: Yes. Sometimes, when making long exposures of the night sky, a shooting star will fly through the frame. It's only by luck that happens.