

AVIATION

Life Styles



Winter 1998

Alaska

- Iditarod
- Village Girls
- Kevin Ahl — Bering Air

Crewmember Updates...

Weddings, Upgrades, Babies, and Contracts

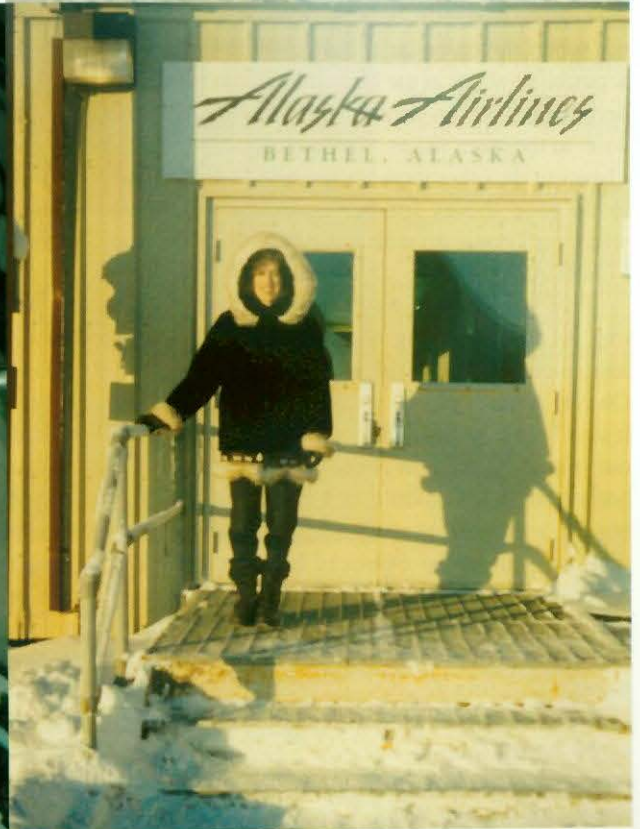
When Life Gives You Lemons...

Make Lemonade

The Magazine for Aviation Families

MORE WINTER SCENES FROM ALASKA

Alaska Airlines Flight Attendant Anita Davis sporting the "real winter uniform." Anita's husband Ray is a pilot with *Alaska Airlines*.





THE VILLAGE GIRLS

by Joy Berger, Alaska Airlines

The idea for the Village Girls came about in 1980 in Nome, Alaska during the Iditarod, by a very select group of Alaska Airline employees (most worked in Nome at the time). Ken Skidds, Vice President of Services for Alaska Airlines (now retired), was in Nome every year for the start and finish of the Iditarod.

This is a very busy and hectic time of the year for Alaska Airline Employees. We transport not only spectators who want to witness the finish of the race, but entire dog teams as well. Alaska Airlines sets up a "ticket booth" in the Nome Convention Center complete with computers for booking passengers and dogs alike.

In the evenings when things finally settled down, Mr. Skidds would accompany the employees (mostly females) out for a much deserved libation — but only if they had their liberty cards in hand (permission slips from husbands and boyfriends). The Village Girls idea sprung from these evening outings.

Over the years the Village Girls concept has developed into a much larger organization, complete with an official logo, shirts, hats and pins. Pink and black are the official colors. The Village Girls are not without men and have formed the Village Girl Escorts from a select group of men. This select group of men "escort" the Village Girls about.

From dues collected along with the money earned from selling shirts "I've been pawed in Nome" the Village Girls Sponsor a rookie musher each year from the proceeds. You must be in Nome and experience the Iditarod fever to become a Village Girl.

The annual board meeting is held at the Bering Saloon at 1:59 a.m., usually on the Saturday prior to the Musher's Banquet. The group is now made up of many airline employees; pilots, flight attendants, customer service agents, mushers and their wives, sports coverage crews, and veterinarians — a wide and varied collection of humanity.

The Village Girls newsletter which is fun and informative catches members up on the latest news about other members on a bi-yearly basis.

Visit the official Village Girls Headquarters conveniently located across from the street from the Iditarod headquarters.

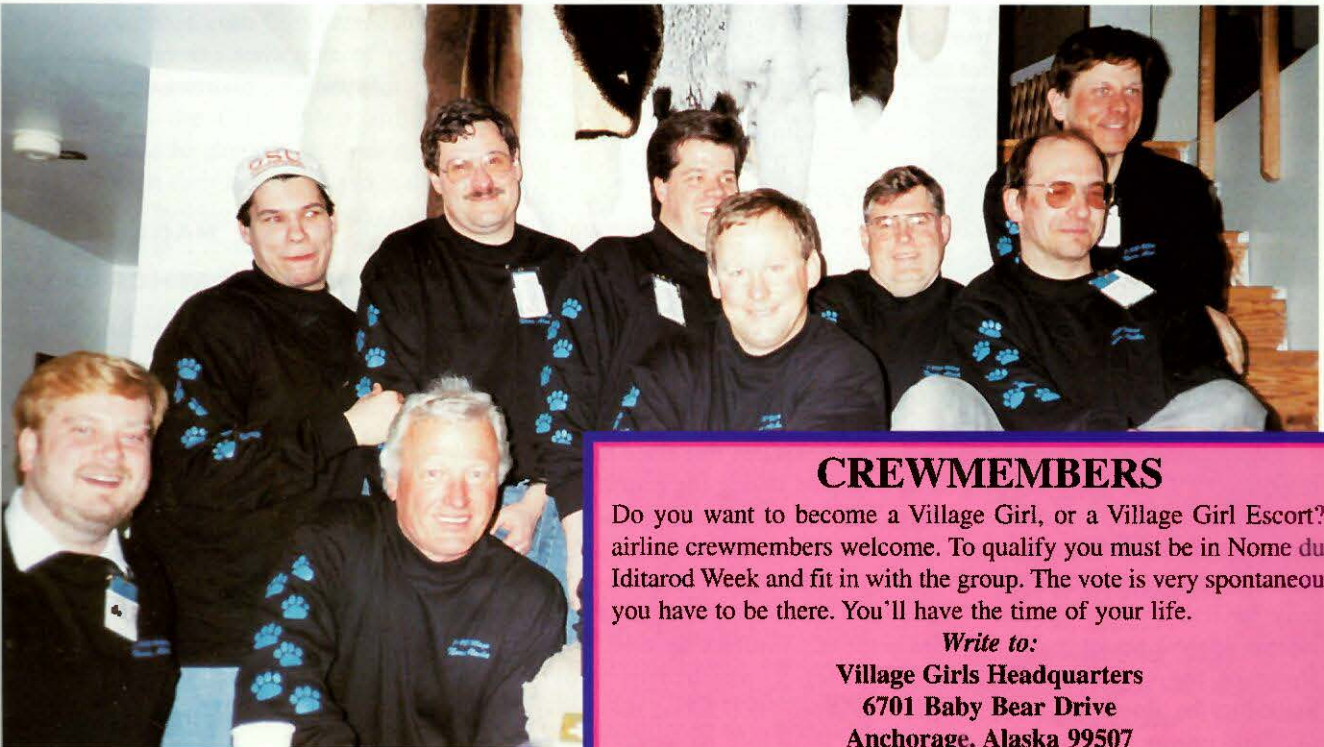
Above (top row left to right): Terri Smith, Kristin Kirschbaum, Marina Jarvis, MaryLou Whitney, Sue Greenly, Joy Berger, Jill Warburton (bottom row left to right): Sue "Maybell" DuVal, Kathy Chapaton, Ken Skidds, Donna Rocker, Nancy Annitone.



Top: Terri Smith waiting on musher in Safety (last check point before Nome).

Middle: Kristin Kirshbaum (Village Girl - President) and Joy Berger (Village Girl - Vice President) heading to Nome on Alaskom Jet... "we know how to travel!"

Bottom: Village Girl Escorts



CREWMEMBERS

Do you want to become a Village Girl, or a Village Girl Escort? All airline crewmembers welcome. To qualify you must be in Nome during Iditarod Week and fit in with the group. The vote is very spontaneous — you have to be there. You'll have the time of your life.

Write to:

**Village Girls Headquarters
6701 Baby Bear Drive
Anchorage, Alaska 99507**

EVENTS IN NOME DURING IDITAROD

Lonnie O'Connor Basketball Tournament—largest tournament held anywhere.

Bering Sea Ice Classic—a golf tournament held on the Bering Sea.

Village Girls sponsored "Fun Races" on the Bering Sea for both kids and adults.

Business Man's Race—small, five-mile race for novices trying out dog racing with three dogs.

Wet T-Shirt Contest at the Polaris Bar—not very tasteful, but entertaining.

...AND with a little haggling, you can borrow a snowmachine and drive out to Safety (last checkpoint before Nome) and watch the mushers come in. This little town comes alive for two weeks during the Iditarod. You'll see some of the most beautiful sunsets in the world.