

TRAPPERS TRAIL

10 YEARS



2009 -2018



This pamphlet bring a little of the **TRAPPERS TRAIL** history, the winners, the challenges and the joy of mushing in the Arctic!

(The pamphlet is made by memory and double checked by a few persons. Photos are stolen from Internet and facebook. Sorry! And Thank you! – Enjoy! © Regards, Elise Strømseng 2018)

HISTORY 2009 - 2018

The reason for making Trappers Trail

Trappers Trail was made as a social, low key sled dog race in Svalbard as mushing was an increasing activity among inhabitants of Longyearbyen and Ny-Ålesund. The first year there were only 11 teams participating, but already in 2010 there were 16 teams signed up for the race. A couple of years 2-3 teams came from Ny-Ålesund to participate. And several years participants from the mainland have taken part in the race. As the interest of mushing and sled dogs increased in Norway and also in Svalbard, more and more dogs and mushers became active in Longyearbyen. In 2016 there were 25 teams participating in the race. The niveau of the mushers (and the dogs) has also increased. The total race time results have decreased in all classes throughout the years, although this is also a little dependent on weather and snow conditions.

Trappers Trail is an important "season goal" for many local mushers – inspiring many to train for participation in the race. The 70km race has always been a low-key race and had a social profile. And it still has. However, longer, alternative routes and alternative race classes have been suggested. In the future of Trappers Trail we might see that the distance will increase or new competing classes appear.

The logo used since 2009



Since the very start a photo taken by Stefan Claes (many years participant of Trappers Trail – 9 years in 2018) was used as the logo. Throughout the years there has been t-shirts made with both the logos presented here. Currently there are no more t-shirts so a new era for t-shirts or other gadgets are possible. In 2016 Trappers Trail buffs were made with this logo. We still have some of these left.

The first t-shirt logo – modified to 10years edition

Trappers Trail 2009-2018

The world's northernmost dogsled race



The first logo of Trappers Trail illustrated the evolution of mushing. For the 10th anniversary we modified the logo a little, but did not have time to make new t-shirts ☹.

5 years anniversary diploma and badge – launched in Trappers Trail 2014

For the 5th Trappers Trail a badge looking like the number 5 was made. Currently (2017) 11 people have received this badge. After 2018 race 17 will have received the badge. A total of 93 individual mushers has competed in the race in the period 2009-2017. After 2018 there will be more than 100 participants that have taken part in the race. In 2018 one person will have completed all of the 10 Trappers Trail as the first and one and only person: **Tina Faust Sølvsten**.



HISTORY 2009 – 2018 cont.

Initiativ-takers, committees and volunteers

The race was initiated by Sebastien Barrault and Harvey Goodwin in 2009, Elin Lien Blixhavn joined the organizers from 2010. For several years they all took part in the committee for the race. In addition a few other people has also been members of the organizing committee for more than 2 years; Kirsten Kahler, Elise Strømseng, Troels Ørsted Yttredal, Kai Ketil Sand. Also there has been other committee members helping out for 1 or 2 years. Ever since the start of the race persons from Longyearbyen Hundeklubb, inhabitants of Longyearbyen and especially UNIS-students have volunteered during the race. Volunteers typically receive a t-shirt or a buff for helping out. A couple of years UNIS students have competed in the race as well.



Sponsors throughout the years

Throughout the years Trappers Trail have had several sponsors. Companies in town have supported the race by giving prizes, making food (stew or burgers served for free at Bikkjebu the first years), providing soft drinks, providing equipment, allowed committee members to use working time on race preparations, and giving nice prizes on food/drinks during our prize ceremony evening. Telenor financed the current start bibs which are the same bibs as used in Finnmarksløpet.

Special happenings in Trappers Trail history

Soft drinks and cookies: The first few years there were a manned checkpoint at Fritthamn. Soft drinks were served to mushers both at Fritthamn day 1 and Passet on day 2. In the start area LHK served "saft" and cookies to the audience.

Sprint and climb: Since the first race there has been "side-prizes", and two of these has been to the fastest team and the best climbers. The first years the "winner of the climbing" and "winner of the sprint" from the previous years had to carry a t-shirt during the race to show that they were the "defenders" of these prizes. The sprint-price: Day 1 - From the START to road-crossing to Todalen + day 2 – from Passet to FINISH. The climb-price: From bottom of Todalen canyon to Frithamn + bottom of Fardalsbakken to Passet. Prizes was handed out for the fastest team, timing for the distances on both days added. Sprint was eliminated after 2015, but was reintroduced for one year in 2017 due to change of route. Climb was changed from 2014 to only being the climb up Fardalsbakken on day 2.

The northernmost sled dog race: Because of Trappers Trail the well-known "Finnmarksløpet" in Norway had to change their title from "The northernmost sled-dog race" to "The northernmost *long-distance* sled-dog race".

The weather: In 2017 and 2018 poor weather conditions and snow conditions made it necessary to change the original route to Kapp Laila.

The dates: The race has been held in March, April and May. The first TT was in May, however, time has shown that the weather and snow conditions are best in April.

Kennel cough: In 2015 a break out of kennel cough happened almost at the same time as the race. Several participants got affected and could not participate. The committee organized with Mattilsynet and Svalbard Vet. to make sure the race had professional help for checking of dogs during the race. The veterinarian also participated in 2016. These are the only years with veterinarian in Trappers Trail. Still – Harald Os in Mattilsynet, has been taking part in the "social part" of Trappers Trail in many of the 10 year history. Photo show Harald Os and participant Lena Danielsen after the race in 2015.

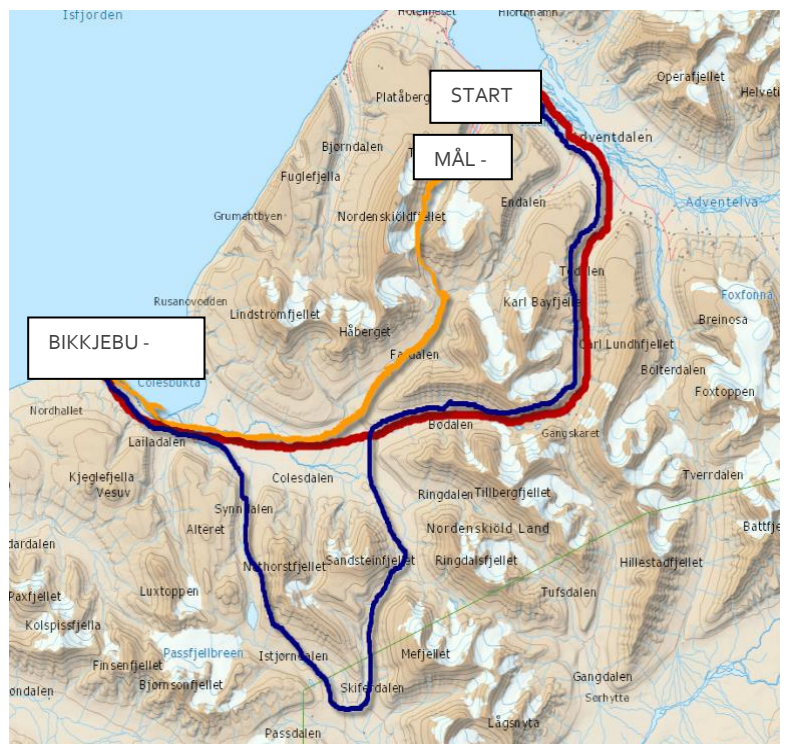


Route

The route – new routes – cancelled routes

The route of Trappers Trail has always been 70km, 40km day 1 (red line) and 30km day 2 (yellow line). The first years an additional route was made (longer distance), however few teams signed up for this route and it was thus cancelled. In 2016 the committee tried to include the long route again (blue line). 5 teams drove the route which was approx. 60km on day 1. Day 2 was still the same. In 2017 this class was cancelled due to few participants. Also, in 2017 the whole race had alternative routes due to bad weather conditions. This is the only year since 2009 that Trappers Trail did not end at Bikkjebu on day 1 or had a climb up Fardalen on day 2. Instead the route of 2017 was put in Adventdalen, 35km to the a pingo by Janssonhaugen (same route both days). The three fastest teams got to do an alternative route on day 2, 40km, Bleikumbreen-Tellbreen. In 2018 the route had to change due to icy conditions at Kapp Laila and Bikkjebu. This year the race went Forskningsparken – Todalen – Bødalen – Semmelbu (open class goes Gangdalen – Reindalen - Semmelbu) on day one, and Semmelbu – Fardalen – Passet – Huset on day 2 (all teams). In 2017 when the race had to change route, a sprint leg was included. This leg was from the pingo to "jernsenga". In 2018, the standard climb competition up Fardalsbakken was kept as normal.

The standard routes for day 1 - blue (open class) and red line (all other classes), day 2 – yellow (all classes)



1.dag for Stor spann, lille spann, ski og pulk

Adventdalen, Todalen, Colesdalen, Skiferdalen, målgang ved Semmelbu



1.dag for Åpen klasse.

Adventdalen, Todalen, Gangdalen, Reidalen, Semmeldalen, målgang ved Semmelbu



2.dag for alle

Skiferdalen, Colesdalen, Fardalen, Longyear breen, målgang ved huset



← Routes for 2018 due to poor and icy conditions at Kapp Laila and Bikkjebu.

Winners

Price categories:

In all classes: 1.place to last place – all get prices, winner sprint, winner climbing, blue lantern (last team). Since 2014 there has also been a price for «ideal time». The one team getting closest to a given time – set by the committee after drawing a random time somewhere between the fastest and the slowest race time *in the previous year*.

*= In 2017 there was no regular Trappers Trail due to weather conditions. Everyone drove in Adventdalen. The three fastest teams on day 1 drove Beikumbreen - Tellbreen on day 2.

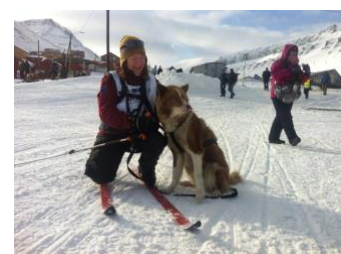


Year and date	Ski/pulk	3-5dogs / 4-6 dogs	6-8 dogs	6-10 dogs
2009	Harvey Goodwin and Marzena Kaczmarska 07:39:32	Linn Novis and Emilie Guegan 05:35:26	Janne Søreide 04:30:00	<i>No competitors</i>
2010	Pernilla Carlsson 09:07:12	Marzena Kaczmarska 05:01:58	Tommy Jordbrudal and Janne Søreide 04:14:36	<i>No competitors</i>
2011	Håkon Brandvold 06:02:48	Elin M. Lien and Sebastien Barrault 04:40:26	Solfrid Håkenstad 03:47:52	<i>No competitors</i>
2012	<i>No competitors</i>	Tommy Jordbrudal and Janne Søreide 04:19:26	Liv Bjørsvik 03:36:52	<i>No competitors</i>
2013	<i>No competitors</i>	Lena Danielsen and Fredrik Lindgren 03:47:22	Erik Rodesjö and Solfrid Håkenstad 03:36:18	<i>No competitors</i>
2014	Linda M. Vassdal 06:28:59	Janne Søreide 04:32:36	Fredrik Lindgren 03:48:34	<i>No competitors</i>
2015	Linda M. Vassdal 06:03:12	Laura Vourma and Tommy Jordbrudal 04:41:54	Lena Danielsen 04:10:18	<i>No competitors</i>
2016	Linda M. Vassdal 05:48:00	Troels Ø. Yttredal 04:46:11	Martin M. Eriksen and Kristin J. Wexhal 04:47:23	Marcos Porcires and Tina Dahl 05:40:21
2017	Jessica Jonasson* 04:51:29	Sofia Berger* 04:17:02	Marcos Porcires and Tina Dahl* 04:09:47	<i>No competitors</i>
2018	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Most 2nd places throughout the years: Janne Søreide – with and without Tommy Jordbrudal

Fastest throughout the years – Trappers Trail 70km:

- Erik Rodesjö and Solfrid Håkenstad in 2013: **03:36:18** (8-dogs – big dog team)
- Lena Danielsen and Fredrik Lindgren 2013: **03:47:22** (5-dogs – small dog team)
- Linda M. Vassdal 2016: **05:48:00** (3-dogs – ski/pulka)
- The longest trip – all classes: Linda Bakken in 2014: **11:11:44** → 1 dog, ski/pulk
* 2017 is not included due to alternative route.





Marcos Porcires and Tina Dahl has won both the «long routes» of Trappers Trail. 75km in 2017 and the 90km in 2016.

Linda Vassdal, only participant that have won three TT races in a row, in the class ski/pulka.



Sofia Berger (15 years in 2017) is the youngest person winning a class in TT. She won small class/5-dog team, 70km in 2017.



Janne Søreide wins the first Trappers Trail in 2009, since that time Janne alone or with teammate Tommy Jordbrudal have won 5 TT in different classes. They also have 5 secondplaces, and are the ones that have participated with most teams and dogs throughout the years (often 2 teams each year).



Team Novus with Fredrik Lindgren and Lena Danielsen have won TT in different classes, in total 3 times.



GALLERY – BEST OF (?) PHOTOS



Johan Berger, Sofia Berger and Gunn Beate in 2014.



Solfrid Håkenstad won in 2013.



Gunhild Lutnæs did not get much help from her dog up Fardalen in 2016.



Troels Ø. Yttredal are eager to start day 2 of TT in 2016.



← Janne Søreide have won and come 2nd several times. Often she flies up Fardalsbakken. IN 2016, with 5 dogs... she had to work hard...



Teams coming up Fardalen in 2016. Sigrid Ekran and Tommy Jordbrudal is leading the way.

Kristin J. Wexsahl and Martin M. Eriksen (on their homemade sled) won the big dog team class in 2016.



The famous photo of Stefan Claes which got a volunteer into the dog-team (fan-style) during the start of the race in 2011. Amazingly the volunteer popped out of the lines and all 4- and 2-legged was shocked but uninjured 😊

Sebastien Barrault and Fredrik Lindgren discussing tactics? and preparing for start of the race in 2014.



The UNIS-team that participated in 2014.



←Marianne Hegle at start in 2016.



Willy Martinsen at the start in 2017. →



Ingild S. Vatn and Team Parafin on their way to the finishline!



Alexander Hovland and Team Villspor, with his little puppy Tussa in the sled, starting TT outside UNIS in 2016.



Starting area outside UNIS. At maximum 25 teams have lined up for the start throughout the years. The first year 11 teams participated. As of now 27 team signed up for the race in 2018.

Coming down Bødalen!

Tina Faust Sølvsten

and

Stefan Claes



Colessletta

Johan and Sofia Berger... Johan desperately(?) trying to keep up with his daughter.

Fredrik Lindgren in the lead.



Tina Sølvsten kicking haaaard!

Elin Lien / Blixhavn reducing wind resistance.



BIKKJEBU

An important part of this low-key race. A lot of fun histories has been told, lovely music and some joik has been heard, audience and volunteers have joined in and slept together with 150 dogs, 30-50 mushers and handlers, two camping wagons / weasels... in the cabin and in tents at Kapp Laila.

Results from day 1 being announced!



The two and only best Trapper Trail friends equipment: Stig and Jan Arnes wagons!



Results from day 1 being announced!



Social gathering at the fire!



Camp site!



Sofia and her dogs!



Social gathering at the fire!



Karolina and Harvey enjoying the sun at Bikkjebu!

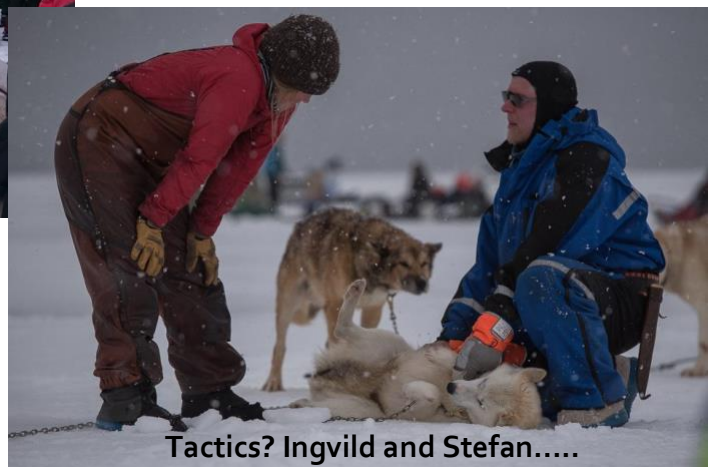


Mads and Liv being interviewed by NRK in 2013. Trappers Trail was highlighted in "Sportsrevyen"

Henrik, Eike, Elin and Rico at Bikkjebu!



Results from day 1 being announced!



Tactics? Ingvild and Stefan.....

More Happy (?) Moments!



Elise and Marianne on their way to Bikkjebu!



Team Sava Vit og Sava Sakte on their way to the race



Team Sava Vit from Ny-Ålesund



Great skier hero 1: Linda



Great skier hero 2: Karolina



Great skier hero 3: Snorre



Irene Kastner in german? mushing style?



Ingvild and Team Parafin!



Fardalen and Passet



Start and finish!



Erik Rodesjø and Solfrid Håkenstad ready to start in 2013.

← Stefan Claes heading off in 2017 – in a Grandiosa t-shirt.



← Stefan Claes heading off in 2013 in his polar bear trousers!

Tommy Jordbrudals dogs are ready to start. Tommy is never stressed... →



Tommy Siikavuopio ready to rumble... preparing for his Bikkjebu-joik also perhaps? He is also not stressed... ←

←

Margit & Team Voi Voi. →

→

← Eike Müller restart at Bikkjebu.



Karoline Bælum starts with Team Qanik in 2009! →



A tired Urban Forsberg at restart Bikkjebu Sunday morning (Afternoon ☺) ←





Sigird Ekran participated in 2016.



Liv Bjørsvik and Mads Leidal won the race in 2012.



Though race for skier Tore Storm Jortveit in 2017.



Stefan Claes towards the finish line in 2009.



Irene Welle at the "new finishline" at Huset in 2016.



Team Sava Sakte at the finish line – Gunn Oftedal.



Happy mushers

Team mates

Audience

Finish!

Elise/Irene ←

Troels →



After Mush!

At Svalbar 2009-2014, at Gruvelageret 2015-2016, at Svalbard Hotell 2017!



Participants getting their custom made Trappers Trail diploma!

A Few Fun facts:

- **Most participations in Trappers Trail:** Tina Faust Sølvsten – 10 of 10 races
- **First participant from the mainland:** Irene Kastner
- **Youngest participants:** Emil Johnsen (7) in 2018, Sofia Berger (10) in 2012.
- **Special breeds:** Shiba inu (Karolina Karas), Irish setter (Gunhild Lutnæs), Alaska Malamut x2 (Lars H. Moila)
- **Best DJs at Bikkjebu:** Stefan Claes and Tommy Siikavoupio
- **Most impressive scratch of the race:** Einar Eliassen and Stian Hansen.... on Colessletta (2014).

And finally – some heros we will always be grateful to:

Stig Henningsen and Jan Arne Johansen (including friends) – always helping out with e.g. fixing windhole in Bødalen, transporting equipment and wood to Bikkjebu, providing good company and funny moments – and cheering!

