

ISDRA's 'East Meets West Dryland Challenge'

Back in the late '60s and early '70s, there was a sled dog race in St. Paul, MN called the 'East meets West'. Big names of the time, like Lee Fishback, Bob Levorsen, Debbie Molburg, Eddie Sylvain, Art Allen, Frank Hall, Jean Bastien, Wilfred Lepine and others converged at the St. Paul, Minnesota Winter Carnival not only to duke it out on the trails but to present their sport to the public. The event was one of the legacy events heralding an era of rapid growth in sled dog racing and contributed greatly to communication, commerce and, of course, competition between the eastern and western United States as well as the Canadian provinces.

Now fast forward to 2006 and global warming. We have not only a new era of rapid growth in what is modernly called 'dog powered sports', we have Dryland racing. Enthusiasts in the 'Far East', Europe and South America are all gearing up and having a blast running (Canicross), Scootering, Bikejoring or Carting with their dogs.

ISDRA's inaugural '**East Meets West Dryland Challenge**' is an exciting new event and a call to arms for our sport. The venue, the **Brainerd International Raceway**, is a prestigious showcase frequently seen on television with top fuel dragsters, the National Hot Rod Association and muscle cars. All in an awesome show of speed, color and good times!

November 18 & 19th, 2006 will give plenty of time for competitors to get some basic conditioning on those top notch canine athletes (or even Fido, for that matter), get a good handle on equipment and try out that new dog truck, or plane, or train... Brainerd is served by the **Brainerd International Airport**, which has daily flights connecting to the international Minneapolis/St. Paul hub, **Amtrak** train service and **Interstate 94**, an east-west major interstate route.

Lodging is abundant and the food is incredible (restaurants don't last long otherwise, the competition is just too great). Throw in the beauty of the North Wood's Lake Country and you have an event that can't miss!

The canine challenge is tremendous! What happens when once again the best of the East and the West unite once again? Throw in some serious competitors from overseas and you have the making of another awesome show of speed, color and pageantry.... Ok, so maybe the speed isn't comparable, but the excitement sure is! Anyone that has heard the din of a couple of hundred excited canine athletes preparing to hit the chutes can attest to that!

But remember this event is for everyone! First-timers, novices, seasoned pros and grizzled veterans will all be rubbing elbows. Novice and Pro groups will be competing in dual-start Canicross, Scooter, Bike-joring and Cart classes on the fully enclosed 800 acres of the centrally located **Brainerd International Raceway** (<http://www.brainerdinternationalraceway.com>).

Check the event website at <http://www.isdra-dryland-racing.info> often for new information regarding groups, classes, distances, travel and lodging information, links to suppliers and more.

See you there!

(Thanks to Cindy Molburg for the race info)