

***Kinds of Winter: Four Solo Journeys by Dogteam in Canada's Northwest Territories***  
by Dave Olesen

**Preview by Will Steger, polar explorer and educator**

“In the late '70s Dave was my first employee for a dogsledding and skiing school that I operated in the Boundary Waters north of Ely, Minnesota. What drew us together was our mutual interest in winter and sled dogs. During those winters we spent many long nights around the fire laying out plans for our first Arctic Expedition.

In 1980 we cobbled together a good team of ten dogs and left Churchill, Manitoba on Hudson Bay. Our route took us 700 miles up the west coast of the Bay and then inland to the Inuit village of Baker Lake. Along this journey we were introduced to the brutal storms and the vast horizons of the Canadian Barrens.

On our return home by rail from Churchill I remember the two of us sitting by the open door of the box car, our bare feet dangling out as we silently watched the tundra roll by. Our dogs, drugged by the perfume smell of spring, slept peacefully behind us in their wooden boxes.

At the time, neither of us had a clue of the profound influence that the Barren Lands had cast upon us. After the expedition our lives went in two separate directions. Inspired by the open spaces I went on to lead international dog sled expeditions across the Arctic and the Polar regions. I was fortunate to explore some of the last 'unknown' land on the Planet. David followed a dream that I had, which I never fulfilled. He moved into the Barren Lands to build up a homestead with his wife Kristen, where they raised their two daughters, Annika and Liv. To support his family he became a well-known bush pilot. But like myself, Dave was hooked on dogs, winter and traveling the open spaces. He always had dogs, which he has raced and continued to travel on expeditions.

*Kinds of Winter* is a chronicle of the beauty, the lore, the why, and the dog sled adventure of travelling across the Barren Lands. It is written by a master of winter travel by dogteam. To anyone who loves the north or who has a curiosity about living in the cold this is a must-read.”