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Sentinel

# Watsonville trekker is heading for home

Watsonville's Brad Petty, trekking home on horseback from above the Arctic Circle to raise funds for crippled children, checked in with the Sentinel this morning from Williams Lake in British Columbia, 325 miles above the U.S. border.

"I'm traveling south about 20 to 22 miles a day, and making very good time. Yesterday, though, I made a right turn when I should have made a left, and went five hours out of my way," he said this morning.

Petty and his two horses, Reveille and Roamer, left Fairbanks, Alaska, at the end of May. Petty says he was the first horseman to follow the Alaskan Pipeline north of the Arctic Circle.

He turned south, and along the nearly 6,000 miles he has traveled he has handed out more than 1,000 envelopes in which to send donations to the Shriner's Hospital for Crippled Children in San Francisco.

The 61-year-old farrier and retired history teacher stays with families and farmers he meets along the way as he cuts cross-country or follows the roads through the forests and fields of the Pacific Northwest.

He rides one horse, while the other carries his 200 pound pack, and he changes horses each noon.

The horses are the same two Petty rode north to Fairbanks last year, to benefit the fight against cancer.

"Without the help of the people who support me when I stop, I couldn't make this ride," he said.

Petty won't be home before the snow begins falling. He has marked mid-November to December as his return date.

Those wishing to donate to the hospital in Petty's name may send checks to the Shriner's Hospital, 1701 19th Ave., San Francisco, Calif., 94122.