

<http://www.worldbeardchampionships.com/>

Every two years, the owners of the world's most elaborate facial hair come together for the World Beard and Mustache Championships. On May 23, 2009, the championships will return to the United States for the second time in their history, as the City of Anchorage, Alaska plays host to the world's bearded and mustached elite.

The championships feature competition in a variety of categories that include everything from the delicate Dali mustache to the outrageous full beard freestyle. The competitors appear before a panel of distinguished judges charged with the responsibility of awarding the coveted world titles to the best of the best.

When I **first** arrived at the World Beard and Mustache Championships, the contestants were warming up. "Beard-ups and Mustache stretches are very important to keeping your hair in good shape." said one heavily bearded man **authoritatively**.

Then the contest started. The crowd clapped as two men stepped up to compete in the longest beard category. Both men's beards were **exactly** the same length, and they **angrily** began to beard-fight for the championship. When the contestant in red managed to **skillfully** knock out his opponent with his handlebar mustache, he claimed victory. But the crowd, who had been rooting for the other guy, rioted. The contest had to be called off for that day.