



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Homecoming for Race Marshal Harris for the 2018 Yukon Quest**

**August 15, 2017 (Whitehorse, YT & Fairbanks, AK)** – The Yukon Quest 1,000 Mile International Sled Dog Race will see a former Race Marshal return for the 2018 race.

Doug Harris joins the race team as Race Marshal to head up the officials. Harris comes with ample experience having served as a Race Judge in 1999, Race Marshal in 2000 and 2001, YQ300 Race Marshal in 2009, and a Rules Committee member in 2003.

Harris also brings his passion for long distance travel by dog team with him. He has participated in a one-month cross country sled dog journey from Dawson City, Yukon to Fort McPherson, NWT, return, and is a finisher of the Yukon Quest having completed the race in both 1996 and 1998.

“The Yukon Quest has evolved over the years, and thrived to improve the support and safety to the mushers and their dogs on the trail,” says Harris. “In that spirit, I am looking forward to working in collaboration with the mushers, volunteers on the trail and in the checkpoints, veterinary team and the Yukon Quest organization to ensure the 2018 Yukon Quest race is a success.”

Harris will be joined with familiar faces on the race team including Head Veterinarian Nina Hansen, Race Manager Alex Olesen, and Assistant Race Manager Briana Mackay.

Head Vet Dr. Nina Hansen brings eight years of specific Yukon Quest experience to her role, with the 2018 race being the fourth year as Head Vet. Additionally, Hansen has worked with other mid-distance races in Alaska, including a 10-year run with the Copper Basin 300, to date.

Race Manager Alex Olesen is returning for the sixth year in a row in his position but has been involved with the Yukon Quest for many years, serving as the Assistant Race Manager for both Yukon and Alaska, past board member, and volunteer. With three years’ experience under her belt, Briana Mackay returns as Assistant Race Manager. Similarly, Mackay brings additional knowledge from her time as a volunteer and sitting on the Board of Directors.

The Yukon Quest would like to thank outgoing 2017 Race Marshal Fabian Schmitz for his excellent work and commitment to the job.

The 2018 Yukon Quest 1,000 Mile International Sled Dog Race starts Saturday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> in Fairbanks. For up-to-date information and news about the race, [visit www.yukonquest.com](http://www.yukonquest.com).

Media interested in attending or covering the 2018 Yukon Quest are invited to register for accreditation by visiting [yukonquest.com/media/media-accreditation](http://yukonquest.com/media/media-accreditation).

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