



## **MEDIA RELEASE**

### **Yukon Quest Race Team in Place for 2019**

**December 17, 2018 (Whitehorse, YT & Fairbanks, AK)** – Musher of the Yukon Quest 1,000 Mile International Sled Dog Race can count on the stability of returning faces to the race team this year.

Doug Harris returns as the Race Marshal for the 2019 race. This will be his second year in a row in this position after having served as Race Marshal in 2000 and 2001, YQ300 Race Marshal in 2009 and Rules Committee member in 2003. A resident of Whitehorse, Yukon, Harris is a veteran musher of the Yukon Quest, completing the race in 1996 and 1998.

“I’m looking forward to getting back out on the trail, meeting new people and returning to the checkpoints,” says Harris. “This role provides a unique opportunity to see the new innovations in equipment, different race strategies, and improvements in dog care that come with each running of the race.”

Joining Harris is Dr. Nina Hansen, returning for her fifth year as Head Veterinarian and tenth year as an on-trail vet for the Yukon Quest.

“This job is one I look forward to every year,” said Dr. Hansen. “It’s so great to get out there and work with the dogs. I’m looking forward to hitting the trail for my tenth year and working with returning and new members of the race team.”

Another familiar face will be back on the race team this year. Briana Mackay is stepping into the role of Race Manager for the 2019 race after having served as Assistant Race Manager for three years.

“I’m excited to be back on the race team and to take on this larger role,” says Mackay. “My previous position was based on the Yukon side so this will give me an opportunity to see more of the race on the Alaska side of the border which is fantastic.”

Heather Scannell joins Mackay as the new Assistant Race Manager. Although new to the position, Scannell is not new to the race, having been the Two Rivers checkpoint manager for the past three years. After moving to Alaska in 1997, she has had ample experience in the mushing community through handling in the Yukon Quest, Iditarod and Copper Basin 300 and through her position as kennel manager and guide at Paws for Adventures.

The Yukon Quest would like to thank outgoing Race Manager Alex Olesen for his many years of excellent work and ongoing commitment to race.

The 36th Yukon Quest 1,000 Mile International Sled Dog Race starts Saturday, February 2nd in Whitehorse, Yukon. 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 2019 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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