



MEDIA RELEASE

February 17, 2009; 1130 PST (Pelly Crossing, YT) - Four mushers have left the Scroggie Creek Dog Drop on their way to the halfway point in Dawson City, Yukon. The first musher into Dawson who also completes the race will win the Dawson City Award and 4 ounces of Klondike placer gold donated by Joe and Wendy Fellers of Fell-Hawk Placer, Dawson City.

Jon Little was the first out of Scroggie Creek in the wee hours of the morning at 4:00 AM. According to race stats, he is almost five hours ahead of the record pace set by Lance Mackey in 2007. Sebastian Schnuelle followed Little, going through the remote dog drop at 7:30 AM. William Kleedehn and Hugh Neff both arrived at the dog drop ahead of Little and Schnuelle, but chose to camp. Both left Scroggie at 9:20 AM this morning where Neff rested a half an hour less than Kleedehn. Two of the frontrunners, Hans Gatt and Brent Sass are still resting in Scroggie Creek and Martin Buser and Warren Palfrey have just arrived.

Meanwhile, Crispin Studer claimed victory in the YQ300, arriving at the finish line in Pelly Crossing this morning at 3:15 AM, over five hours ahead of second place finisher Ed Hopkins. Gerry Willowmitzer finished third. The Yukon Quest 300 Sled Dog Race is for mushers interested in experiencing some of the Yukon Quest Trail and is a recognized 300-mile qualifying race for both the Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race and the Iditarod Trail Sled Dog Race.

For the most up-to-date results from the Yukon Quest, please visit <http://yukonquest.com/site/race-updates/>. For images of the race, please visit <http://yukonquest-media.4shared.com> and enter 'media' as the password to access images of the trail. You can also access mini-updates of the race through our Facebook page - just search for "Yukon Quest - Official".

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