



Yukon Quest Appoints New 2008 Race Marshal

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WHITEHORSE, YUKON & FAIRBANKS, ALASKA – The Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race is pleased to announce the official appointment of Doug Grilliot as the 2008 Race Marshal. Mr. Grilliot replaces Joe May who was appointed Race Marshal this past fall and resigned from the position recently.

Grilliot comes to the Race Marshal role with a wide variety of sled dog racing and judging experience. He is a two-time Yukon Quest finisher (2001, 2002) and completed the Iditarod in 2004. Grilliot has been a Yukon Quest Race Judge for the past two years (2006, 2007) and was selected as a Race Judge for the 2008 race before accepting the position of Race Marshal.

The Yukon Quest Race Marshal is in charge of all aspects of the race, which starts February 9, 2008 in Fairbanks, Alaska. The Race Marshal specifically makes certain that all race rules are followed and ensures the safety and well being of the dogs and mushers. Race Judges on the trail act as deputies of the Race Marshal.

Grilliot brings a unique perspective to the Yukon Quest having served as a member of the Alaska Board of Directors since 2006; fulfilling the Board role of Treasurer this year; and as former Race Marshal Joe May's second-in-command since last October.

"It's an honour to be asked to serve as Race Marshal," said Grilliot. "Obviously the resignation of Joe May is unfortunate, however, I have had the benefit of working closely with him and the Yukon Quest staff over the past few months preparing for the upcoming race."

"I'm convinced we will all make Joe proud of how the 2008 Yukon Quest is run," continued Grilliot. "The Race Marshal's role is critically important, however the entire race and in fact the entire organization is built on teamwork and my approach is to keep our excellent team of volunteers, contractors and staff working together to support all the mushers and their dogs to ensure the best race possible for the 25th Running of the Yukon Quest."

"We look forward to working with Doug Grilliot in the final weeks before the Race Start to put everything in place and get the teams on the trail," said Tania Simpson, Yukon Quest Managing Director. "Doug's deep understanding of the Yukon Quest from a musher's, Board member's and Race Judge's perspective is an excellent asset that he brings to the role of Race Marshal and we are fortunate that he has stepped up to accept this challenging role for our organization."

Twenty-seven teams are registered to start the 1,000-mile Yukon Quest International Sled Dog Race on Saturday, February 9 in Fairbanks. For more information and regular race updates, please visit www.yukonquest.com.

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