

**UP SLED DOG ASSOCIATION
MIDNIGHT RUN
FEBRUARY 18-20, 2011**



DOG HANDLERS

Your role is to be available to help, if needed. Some mushers have a full contingent of support people and will not need any handlers. Others have none and need full support. Please remain available and ready, as well as patient and accepting of whatever happens.

- Dress very warmly. You could very well be outdoors unprotected for an hour or more at a time.
- Please check with your coordinator for times needed, each area will differ.
- After registering, please report to your areas coordinator, at the Checkpoint or Start Line, depending on your shift. When your time is done and you are ready to leave, please check out with your coordinator, so that we know you are gone and have opportunity to express our appreciation.
- As there is need and you have time, please shovel snow onto any areas which are bare, whether through lack of snow or the wear of passing teams.

Regarding departing teams...

- You will be at the Start Line, along with the Timers and Judges. Please stay out of their way and refrain from conversations with them unless there are no teams at the line.
- Dog teams are the responsibility of Mushers and their people until they arrive at the starting line. Some may need your help, however, and you are free to extend it, when you are available.
- Stand behind the Start Line and be available to teams getting ready to go. The sled is not to cross the line until the proper moment, and the Musher will be with the sled, with the brake applied. Dogs will be across the line, yipping and wanting to go. As needed, take hold of the cable to which the dogs are tied, spacing yourselves out to cover the whole cable. *Do not touch the dogs. Do not step on the dogs' toes!* This may be for only a few seconds or it may be for several minutes.
- As their start time nears, the Timer/s will start the countdown. The dogs will be making so much noise that it will be impossible to hear the countdown from sled to lead dog unless everyone joins in yelling the countdown from 10 to 1. Be prepared to release the cable and jump out of the way by the count of 2.
- While it is unlikely that more than one team will be leaving at the same time, it could be necessary to split up. By the time teams are departing, we will know whether there are such close starts and plan for them.

Regarding arriving teams...

- You will be beyond the Checkpoint Line. Please stay out of the way of timers and judges, and refrain from conversations with them unless there are no teams at the line.
- Up to 40 teams with the UP 200 (identified by white bibs with numbers from 1 to 41) and up to 40 teams with the Midnight Run (identified by dark bibs with numbers from 101 to 150) will all come to Deerton, down the same road. For as much as the first hour of our work, the teams of both races may very well be mixed, and our role is with the Midnight Run only. There will be a "Spotter" near the Fire Department who will use arm signals to let you know which teams are coming. UP 200 teams are asked to stay to their right on the road, and will pass through without stopping. Midnight Run teams are asked to stay to their left, where they will cross the Checkpoint Line, and stop so that Mushers can sign the "In Sheets" and find their support people. There may also be several teams arriving at the same time, trying to utilize the same space.
- Stand behind the Checkpoint Line and be watchful of the Timers for the approach of Midnight Run teams. After the team has crossed the line, if the musher would like help, be ready to take hold of the cable to which the dogs are tied, spacing yourselves out to cover the whole cable. *Do not touch the dogs. Do not step on the dogs' toes!* Hold on only as long as the musher wants and needs that help. Release when they are ready to move on.
- More than one team may need assistance at the same time, requiring the six dog handlers to split up. Spectators are discouraged from assisting, unless asked by Marcia.