



USA Wildwater

John Pinyerd – Chairman
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FIBArk to Host the 2006 USA Wildwater Nationals & Western Junior Team Trials

Juniors, Seniors, Masters Racers

This is the Race Venue that YOU Must Attend

USA Wildwater Nationals/ USA Junior Trails / FIBArk – June 16th – 18th

Salida Colorado: May 13th 2006 – ICF (International Canoe Federation) Wildwater Official David Mason proclaims the USA National Championships/Junior Western Team Trials as “the race you must attend if you are unable to race in Europe in 2006”. Dave goes on to explain that “the ICF feels so strongly about the importance of this race venue that they have designated it as an International Race” that counts towards your international rankings. The Irish Canoe Team apparently likes the idea of the USA venue ever better than Europe and is choosing to race in Colorado over the World Championships.

The 2006 USA Wildwater Championship & Junior Western Team Trials / FIBArk venue is great for all Wildwater races. Every able bodied Junior in the USA should try to attend along with the senior racers who will be racing for the national titles. USA Wildwater has also worked hard to foster competition for “masters” racers who are also strongly urged to attend.

FIBArk will host the 2006 USA Wildwater National Championships and Western Junior Team Trials as part in conjunction with the Annual FIBArk Whitewater Festival in Salida, Colorado. The 2006 festival is scheduled for June 14th thru the 18th. The US Nationals/Junior Team Trials are slated for June 16th and June 17th and the classic FIBArk downriver race will be held on Sunday June 18th.

The 2006 Wildwater races will be held on the Arkansas River with all events within 30 minutes travel time from Salida. Salida, which is known as “the heart of the Rockies” and “the whitewater capital of the World” is in central Colorado approximately 100 from Colorado Springs Municipal Airport and 170 miles from Denver International Airport. The Arkansas has average flows of approximately 2000 CFS in mid June and we should have excellent water levels again this year due to snow packs that are averaging 130% above normal.

FIBArk hosted the Wildwater National Championships in 2005 and in the mid-1990's. The classic FIBArk 26-mile downriver/Wildwater race has been held for more than fifty years. In addition, the 2006 FIBArk Whitewater festival will include slalom races, a world renowned freestyle rodeo, and an extreme race through Pine Creek Rapid – the most difficult water on the Arkansas. There are also numerous off-river events and entertainment that attract thousands of regional spectators and participants.



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SCHEDULE

Friday, June 16th

- 8:00 am - USA Wildwater Championship & Junior Western Team Trials
Registration- Bighorn Park Campground, Coaldale
- 11:00 am - USA Wildwater Championships & Junior Western Team Trials Sprint through Cottonwood Rapid. Cottonwood Rapid is 20 miles East (downstream) of Salida on Highway 50 and is rated as a class III-IV rapid.

Saturday June 17th

- 12:00 Noon - USA Wildwater Championships & Junior Western Team Trails Classic. The race begins at the F-Street Bridge in downtown Salida and will finish approximately 4 miles east of town at the Fremont County Line. The course will pass through Class III Bear Creek Rapid.

Sunday June 18th

- 10:30 am - Downriver Race - 10 Mile Intermediate - Salida to Rincon
- 11:00 am - Downriver Race - 26 Mile Expert - Salida to Cotopaxi

CONTACTS/INFORMATION

- Official website of FIBArk: www.fibark.com
- Official website of USA Wildwater: www.USAWildwater.com
- General Information/Lodging: www.fourteener.net and www.salidachamber.org
- Lodging: hotels.desertusa.com/Colorado/Salida and www.expedia.com
- Practice Schedule: Doug Ritchie, USA Wildwater Vice Chairman will be putting together a training camp and organized practice schedule for all Nationals participants: dougcritchie@hotmail.com
- Race Director for USA Nationals and FIBArk: Ed Loeffel, e_loeffel@hotmail.com,