



USA Wildwater

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Call for Bids to Host 2009 USA Wildwater National Events

October 2, 2008

USAWildwater needs your help in securing race sites/organizers for our 2009 Eastern Junior Team Trials and Western Junior Team Trials.

The Wildwater Committee would like to receive all bids by November 1st, 2008.

Please pass this on to anyone you feel might be interested.

Official bids for 2009 events should be submitted in writing via email in the format described below to the Wildwater Chairman, Seth Eisner (seth@WildwaterUSA.com) by November 1, 2008.

A decision will be made on the location and date of these races by December 1st, 2008.

SUMMARY OF DATES:

- 2009 Eastern Junior Team Trials – Complete by the first weekend of June.
- 2009 Western Junior Team Trials – Same as East.
- Bids for 2009 events are due by November 1st.

COURSE REQUIRMENTS:

All venues will consist of a two-heat sprint race and a “classic” race. A sprint racecourse should be from 400m to 800m in length (or approximately 80-150 seconds in duration). A “classic” race should not exceed 30 minutes (and are normally 12-24 minutes in length). All races must be on a minimum of Class II whitewater, with rapids not exceeding Class IV. Continuous or long rapid sections are desirable and each race should include at least one rapid of Class III or Class IV whitewater.

Ideally a course should allow for multiple runs in a time efficient manor in order to allow “out-of-towners” to be able to learn the course. An ideal course will also have easy access to the river and an easy shuttle. Racers ideally can walk up the sprint course without having to reload their boats. Courses without access to the river, long portages and paddle outs are less desirable.

BACKGROUND:

In 2005-06, the USA Team Trials were combined with the Eastern Jr. Team Trails and were held on the Nantahala River (Bryson City NC) in March. The event was attended by an average of 50 racers and their support teams.

The 2005-06 USA Nationals were held on the Arkansas River (Salida, CO) in mid-June and were combined with the Western Jr. Team Trails. The event was held in conjunction with the Fibark Classic Downriver Race and Whitewater Festival and was attended by 40 racers and their support teams. The 2007 Nationals were organized by Zoar Outdoor on the Dryway section of the Deerfield and received cross-boarder participation by the Canadian racers.

It is believed that we can continue to improve attendance at our national level wildwater events with additional prizes (cash or merchandise) if the scheduling and promoting is done well in advance of the events. **USA Wildwater is committed to promoting our events.** We recommend that interested parties review the articles on past events on www.usawildwater.com.

WILDWATER TEAM TRIALS (SENIOR):

USA Wildwater Team Trials 2009 will be conducted in order to select a team for the 2009 World Cup Series to be held in Tasmania on October 24th through November 8th. **The Team Trials will be held in conjunction with FIBArk.**

JUNIOR WILDWATER TEAM TRIALS (EAST TRIALS and WEST TRIALS):

USA Wildwater Junior Team Trials will be conducted in order to select a Junior Team for the 2009 Junior World Championships in Switzerland which is planned for July 15-18. Water conditions must be suitable for Juniors and Cadets but should contain at least one class III rapid. **Junior Trials must be completed no later than the first weekend of June** and should ideally be completed by mid-May. It is necessary to hold a Western Trails and an Eastern Trials for the Junior Team in order to cut down on travel and the location of these trials. Whenever possible, Junior Trials should reflect the geographic distribution of Junior Wildwater paddlers in the East and in the West. **These events are often combined with larger events such as Senior Team Trials or Nationals.** For example, the Eastern USA Junior Team Trials were combined with (Senior) Team Trials 2005 and 2006 and Western Trials were combined with USA Nationals.

WILDWATER NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS:

The US Wildwater National Championships will be held as part of FIBArk in Salida, CO on June 18-21, 2009. (The bidding and acceptance were done as part of the bid process for the 2008/2009 events.) With the 2009 World Cups being held in Tasmania, this is the perfect time to hold a mega event in conjunction with Fibark. Fibark/Nationals Race Director will work closely with USA Wildwater to help build the 2009 event to international race of choice!

SANCTIONING/INSURANCE REQUIREMENTS:

All 2009 USA Wildwater national level events must be sanctioned by USA Canoe/Kayak. For race organizers, this means that you must purchase insurance for the event through USACK who provides very cost effective insurance and is committed to helping paddle-sports. The Wildwater Events Coordinator will assist in obtaining this coverage.

RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANIZER:

- Promotion/Press releases for the event
- A point of contact for USA Wildwater
- Preparation and distribution of entry forms
- Provide Lodging/Food Information to Interested Parties
- Organization of a pre-race meeting
- Organization of Boat Control (Team Trails only)
- Provision of reliable start and finish timers, calculating the results, and posting of results each day
- Provision of safety cover in sections of the river where self rescue may be difficult
- Organization of a post race meeting to announce results (and have team members meet to do paperwork at Team Trials)
- Organization of press/publicity coverage to showcase the premier wildwater racing events in the USA

REQUIRED BID INFORMATION:

Organizations desiring to host one or more of the events must respond in writing to seth@WildwaterUSA.com with the following information by November 1st:

- 1. Event(s) being bid on:**
- 2. Proposed dates:**
- 3. Name of race organizer:**
- 4. Name of River:**
- 5. Location of nearest town and distance from the river for lodging and race meetings:**
- 6. Nearest major airport (and distance):**
- 7. Description of the river that contains the following information:**
 - a. Section of the river where the events will be held**
 - b. Average flow and rating of rapids**
 - c. Water control (dam or natural flow)**
 - d. Accessibility to both Sprint and Classic courses**
 - e. Any user fees or special access permits required for racers**
 - f. Length of course**
 - g. Details of river shuttle**
 - h. River traffic (Commercial rafting and/or play boaters)**
 - i. Amount of water time/days for practice**
 - j. Average weather at time of race**
- 8. Estimate # of local wildwater paddlers likely to turn-out for the event**
- 9. Any other information that may relate the Team Trials event (Is the trials to be part of another regular local event, or is there other event activities information that you would like us to consider?)**

Please direct any questions and all responses to Seth Eisner (seth@WildwaterUSA.com) no later than November 1st.