



USA Wildwater

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2009 USA Wildwater National/International Mega-Festival Training Camp, USA National Championships/Team Trials FIBArk Open Sprint, Historic FIBArk 26 mile Downriver Race and FIBArk Festival Salida, CO – June 16-21

Don't miss this Mega Festival. We have combined the USA National Wildwater Championships and Team Trials into one event in the setting of the FIBArk Whitewater Festival which includes the historic FIBArk 26 mile Downriver Race. All races are deemed as "International Events" by the ICF. If that's not enough, we have added a head to head FIBArk Open Wildwater Sprint and a Wildwater Training Camp. This is a must attend event if you are remotely involved in Wildwater or Downriver. You won't see another opportunity like this in your lifetime.

The USA Wildwater Committee of USA Canoe/Kayak is thrilled to be working with FIBArk to host the 2009 Wildwater Mega Event. The ICF (International Canoe Federation) has designated all of the races to be International Events. This adds significant stature to the USA Nationals/Team Trials races and returns the FIBArk race to its former glory as a race of choice for national and international competitors alike. More importantly, it allows competitors to earn an international ranking without leaving North America and helps provide an additional incentive for European competitors to attend.

All of the events are being held in conjunction with the Annual FIBArk Whitewater Festival in Salida, Colorado. The 2009 festival is scheduled for June 16th thru the 21st. The key Wildwater events are:

- **Wildwater Training Camp (open to all paddlers) – Tues - Wed June 16-17**
- **USA Wildwater National Championships/Team Trials Sprint – Thurs June 18**
- **USA Wildwater National Championships/Team Trials Classic – Fri June 19**
- **FIBArk Open Wildwater Sprint (Paddlecross Style) – Sat June 20**
- **USA Wildwater Team Demo – Sat June 20**
- **FIBArk Classic Downriver Race – Sun June 21**

* Check www.FIBArk.net for the schedule of all events including running, freestyle, extreme kayaking, raft races and raft rodeo. Off water events include running, bicycling and skate board competitions as well as music and entertainment for all ages.

You can do all of these events and more without ever having to change hotel rooms. All water related events will be held on the Arkansas River within 30 minutes travel time of Salida, CO. The region is known as “the heart of the Rockies” due to its breath-taking scenery and central Colorado location. Salida is also identified as “the whitewater capital of the World”, sitting squarely in the middle of a hundred miles of famous whitewater on the Arkansas River.

FIBArk is one of the oldest and most skilled whitewater event organizers on the planet. FIBArk hosted the Wildwater National Championships in 2005 and 2006 and in the mid-1990’s. They have staged the annual FIBArk Downriver race for over 60 years and have held slalom and freestyle events for several decades. In 2004 FIBArk added an extreme race through Pine Creek Rapid – the most difficult water on the Arkansas. And of course, the numerous off-river events and entertainment attracts thousands of regional spectators and participants from all over the globe.

Due to these factors, should the USA ever have another opportunity to host a World Cup series or a World Championships, FIBArk and this region would be the likely choice. Make sure you attend our 2009 International Races in Colorado.

The Race Courses:

The Arkansas has average flows of approximately 2000 CFS in mid June. Access to the river is available for unlimited training time for both the classic and sprint sections of the river and there only limited river traffic in these sections.

The plan is to run the Nationals Sprint through Cottonwood rapid approximately 20 miles east of Salida on Highway 50. The course through Class III-IV Cottonwood is approximately 0.3 miles (480 meters). To add crowd appeal, the Nationals Classic event is planned to begin in downtown Salida and finish approximately 4 miles (6.4 km) east of town, passing through Bear Creek Rapid (Class III). Shuttles will be available for the Sprint and Classic Nationals events.

The paddlecross style FIBArk Open Sprint will be held in the Whitewater park in downtown_Salida on Saturday afternoon during peak crowd attendance of 3,000-4,000. The FIBArk Downriver whitewater marathon is always a real crowd pleaser and will start in Downtown Salida and finish 26 miles downstream.

A training camp will be held Tuesday and Wednesday with the primary focus of helping racers familiarize themselves with the river and to give a helping hand to new racers. We will divide the camp into groups so that world class racers can hone their skills with legends like Andy Corra and newcomers can learn the basics.

Boats and What to do if you need to Borrow One:

National Championship classes will generally be won by composite boats that are set at the maximum ICF specifications, but anyone can enter any boat that does not exceed the ICF specifications. We will also endeavor to have separate plastic Wavehopper/Speeder classes and plan to have demos available. Our plans are to have

extra boats available for all capable paddlers. The Historic FIBArk 26 mile race recognizes a plethora of decked and open boat classes.

To secure a Wavehopper/Speeder prior to the event contact: dennyadams@aol.com

How to get There:

Located in central Colorado, Salida is within driving distance of anywhere on the North America Continent. Salida is approximately 100 miles from Colorado Springs Airport and 160 miles from Denver International Airport.

Lodging:

There are many local choices in Salida or 20 miles north in Buena Vista CO. Many are national chains and will be listed in hotel search sites. Other convenient links include:

www.salida.com (has a complete list of Salida CO Hotels)

www.vrbo.com

www.coloradomountainvacations.net

www.pinionvacationrentals.com

Race Registration:

- To save a couple bucks and avoid a last minute hassle, register online at: http://www.active.com/event_detail.cfm?event_id=1711418
Note: C-2 competitors must register on-site.
- Or register in person at posted times throughout the Festival at the River Park area or prior to the Wildwater events (see schedule below).

Schedule:

- Training Camp (open to all paddlers) - Tues 6/16 – Meet at Salida Boat Ramp 1-4pm
- Training Camp (open to all paddlers) - Wed 6/17 – Cottonwood Rapid 1-4pm
Meet at 1:00 PM at the Bighorn RV Park in Coaldale upstream of Cottonwood rapid.
- USA Nationals/Team Trials Sprint – Thurs 6/18 – Cottonwood Rapid – 9:30
Late Wildwater registration and staging for the Sprint will be at Bighorn RV Park in Coaldale 20 miles East of Salida. The park is on the Eastern edge of Coaldale on your left as you travel east on Highway 50. Registration opens at 7 AM and the race will start at 9:30 AM
- USA Nationals/Team Trials Classic – Fri 6/19 - Salida Boat Ramp – 10:00
- FIBArk Open Paddlecross Style Sprint – Sat June 20 – Salida Boat Ramp – Noon
- Wildwater Demo –First Street Bridge - Sat June 20 - Downtown Salida – 4PM

- FIBArk Classic Downriver Race – Sun June 21 – 10:00

Contact Information:

For more information please consult the schedules and information at

- www.fibark.net
- www.usawildwater.com

You can also e-mail the following:

- USA Wildwater Training & Events Coordinator: dennyadams@aol.com
- FIBArk Training Camp Coach: andy2009@riversports.com
- USA Wildwater Demo Organizer: jeremy_rodgers@hotmail.com
- FIBArk Wildwater Events Coordinator: e_loeffel@hotmail.com
- USA Wildwater Chairman – jpinyerd@cs.com