



USA Wildwater

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FIBArk to Host the 2006 USA Wildwater Nationals & Western Junior Team Trials

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The USA Wildwater Committee of USA Canoe/Kayak has selected FIBArk to host the 2006 USA Wildwater National Championships and Western Junior Team Trials to be held 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/Jr Team Trials events are tentatively slated for June 16th and June 17th and the classic FIBArk downriver race will be held on Sunday June 18th.

FIBArk hosted the Wildwater National Championships in 2005 and in the mid-1990's. FIBArk has staged an annual 26-mile downriver whitewater marathon for over fifty years and has held slalom races for many years. In more recent years the festival has included whitewater freestyle, and last year saw the addition of an extreme race through Pine Creek Rapid – the most difficult water on the Arkansas. There are numerous off-river events and entertainment that attract thousands of regional spectators and participants.

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. The plan is to run the Sprint through Cottonwood rapid approximately 20 miles east of Salida on Highway 50. Cottonwood is rated as a class III-IV rapid, and the course will be approximately 0.25 miles in length. The Classic event is planned to begin in downtown Salida and finish approximately 4 miles east of town, passing through Bear Creek Rapid (Class II – III).

Shuttles will be available to return contestant from the finish of each event to the start. 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 FIBArk Downriver marathon usually attracts 30 to 50 contestants. There were 40 contestants in the Wildwater National Championships and Junior Team Trials in 2005.

The FIBArk board has approved a budget that will allow cash prizes for the first three finishers in both the open/senior and junior divisions in all classes. The amounts will be determined by the amount of sponsorship funds available but will include minimum



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amounts of \$150; \$100 and \$75 for the first three finishers in the open/senior K1M class and \$100; \$50 and \$25 for all other classes. The prizes in the junior division will be approximately half the amounts in the open/senior division.

For more information please consult www.usawildwater.com or the FIBArk web page (www.fibark.net) or e-mail e_loeffel@hotmail.com.