



**PRESS RELEASE:
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

DECEMBER 7th 2005

**2006 USA WILDWATER TEAM TRIALS HEAD BACK TO N.C!
APRIL 1st and 2nd 2006**

Wesser, NC. Today the Nantahala Racing Club announced that it had been awarded the 2006 USA Wildwater Junior and Senior Team Trials, the nations most prestigious and highly contested wildwater race.

Using specially designed wildwater canoes and kayaks 15 feet long, 16 inches wide and weighing a mere 20 lbs, the two-day event will consist of a long or classic race on the Tuckasegee River and a sprint race on the Nantahala River thru "The Falls" the rivers notoriously most difficult rapid.

Saturdays sprint race will be held on the Nantahala River using the same sprint course as 2005. Starting just above Nantahala Falls, the sprint course starts off with a bang as racers negotiate the infamous class 3 drop before stroking for broke to the finish line 90 seconds further downstream.

Sundays classic race will be held on the Tuckasegee Gorge 25 miles to the east. The Tuckasegee is considered an easier river than the Nantahala by recreational paddlers. But for the wildwater racer it offers plenty of rocks, shoots and options as well as short cuts and sneaks making it more difficult to negotiate at speed as well as more entertaining.

This two-day event will select the elite athletes that will represent the USA in the 2006 World Cups and World Championships.

The event has also been designated an "International Competition" by the International Canoe Federation, the sports governing body. As such, all competitors will earn points towards an international ranking. An invitation will be extended to over seas teams. Participants from England, South Africa, Chile, Italy and Germany participated in the 2005 Team Trials, raising the level of the competition to a very high standard.

For more information visit www.usawildwater.com or contact Chris Hipgrave, the Nantahala Racing Clubs Wildwater Race Director, at hipgrave@usack.org