



2006 USA Canoe & Kayak Wildwater Team Trials

Nantahala River, April 1st, 2006 / Tuckasegee River, April 2nd, 2006

Hosted By: The Nantahala Racing Club, Wesser NC

Get Ready to Race!

Come race with us at the 2006 USA Canoe & Kayak Wildwater Senior and East Coast Junior Team Trials on the Nantahala & Tuckasegee Rivers on April 1st and 2nd, 2006. Paddle for fun, fitness or compete for a spot on the USA Wildwater Team. The Team will represent the USA at the 2006 World Cups and World Championships. A Junior Team of paddlers under age 18 will also be selected.

Team Trials Information For Racers

Note - This information may change as the need arises and at the discretion of race organizers. Check back at www.usawildwater.com frequently for the latest updates.

Race Format - Team Trials will consist of two sprint races – (both on Saturday April 1st, 2006, where the times will be combined for a sprint result), and a single classic race on Sunday April 2nd, 2006. Saturday's sprint course is on the Nantahala River and will start a little above Nantahala Falls and end at the old road bridge approximately 2 minutes downstream. Sunday's classic race is on the Tuckasegee River and will start below the dam in Dillsboro and finish at the old road bridge at Tuckasegee Outfitters approximately 4.2 miles downstream.

International Designation – We have asked the International Canoe Federation to designate 2006 Wildwater Team Trials as an international event. As such all competitors will receive points towards an international ranking in 2006. Race organizers will send invitations to over-seas federations. Race entry fees are waived for international competitors, however, they must still pay \$5 for event insurance by becoming a one-day member of USACK.

Race Schedule - A competitors meeting will be held on Friday, March 31st, 2006 at Dillsboro River Company, Dillsboro, NC where the final race schedule will be announced. A complete but tentative event schedule will be made available well in advance of the event on www.usawildwater.com

Classes - The classes will be men's kayak (K-1), women's kayak (K-1W), men's single canoe (C-1) and men's tandem canoe (C-2). Juniors will have the same classes. Plastic boats will have a K-1 and K1-W class. Other classes will be added as the need arises. You may race in no more than two (2) classes.

Team Selection - All paddlers are encouraged to race, but in order to be selected for the USA Wildwater Team you must meet the official team selection criteria as established by the USACK Wildwater Committee and the International Canoe Federation. These criteria are available on www.usawildwater.com and www.canoeicf.com

All athletes competing at Team Trials (juniors and seniors) must be current members of USA Canoe & Kayak (USACK). One-day memberships will be available at the event. Verify membership or become a paid member at www.usack.org or 704-348-4330 x225

The USA Senior Wildwater Team that will race at the 2006 Wildwater World Cups and Championships in Europe, will be selected as follows:

1. Athletes must declare their intention to compete in the World Championships and/or World Cups prior to competing at the Team Trials. There will be a tick box on the registration form to declare your intentions. There will also be a show of hands at the competitors meeting.
2. The first and second place boats in each class (K1, K1W, C1 & C2) during each race (sprint & classic) will earn a spot on the USA Wildwater Team. However, the winners in each class must still be within the minimum percentages as described below.
3. Per ICF rules, a total of six boats per class will be selected to the USA Team, but only four will be entered per race (sprint & classic). Remaining spots on the team will be selected by combining the percentages off of the winners from the Sprint and Classic. Those with the lowest combined percentage will fill the remaining team positions. In simple terms, the racers with the lowest combined percentages will be eligible for selection. However, the boats being selected in each class must still be within the minimum percentages as described below. Please check the updated USA Wildwater bylaws regarding selection.

4. To be eligible to fill any team position, a competitor must finish at least one of the races (sprint or classic) within a minimum percentage off the fastest boat at the event. These minimum percentages are listed below and also available on www.usawildwater.com

<u>CLASS</u>	<u>MIN %</u>	
K-1	=	23% (Twenty three percent off the fastest boat at the event)
K-1W	=	33% (Thirty three percent off the fastest boat at the event)
C-2	=	38% (Thirty three percent off the fastest boat at the event)
C-1	=	38% (Thirty eight percent off the fastest boat at the event)

The **USA Junior Wildwater Team** will not race internationally in 2006 as there is no Pre-World Championships. Making the USA Junior Wildwater Team will give each junior the opportunity to travel to other class C international races on their own schedule plus be eligible for training opportunities later in 2006.

1. Athletes must declare their intention to compete for a Junior Team spot prior to competing at the Team Trials. There will be a tick box on the registration form to declare your intentions. There will also be a show of hands at the competitors meeting.
2. The first and second place boats in each class (K1, K1W, C1 & C2) during each race (sprint & classic) will earn a spot on the USA Wildwater Team. Juniors are not subject to meeting minimum percentages.
3. Per ICF rules, a total of six boats per class will be selected to the USA Junior Team, but only four will be entered per race (sprint & classic). Remaining spots on the team will be selected by combining the percentages off of the winners from the Sprint and Classic. Those with the lowest combined percentage will fill the remaining team positions. In simple terms, the racers with the lowest combined percentages will be eligible for selection. Please check the updated USA Wildwater bylaws regarding selection.

Safety - The Nantahala and Tuckaseegee are primarily Class Two Rivers, with the occasional Class Three rapid including Nantahala Falls. Because of the ease of self-rescue on the Nantahala & Tuckaseegee, race safety will only be provided at key rapids including Nantahala Falls. If you are not comfortable with self-rescue, please reconsider your participation.

Boat Inspection – Wildwater boats, pfd's and helmets will be inspected prior to the race. All boats will be checked for adequately installed and inflated airbags per ICF rules. Additionally, equipment will be re-inspected during and after the race to determine if ICF specifications are met. Be sure your equipment qualifies before you start! Boat specifications and rules can be reviewed at the ICF Wildwater site (www.canoeicf.com). It is the racers responsibility to familiarize themselves with the ICF rules and make sure that their equipment meets these standards. Failure to meet these requirements will result in disqualification.

Releases - Dams owned by Duke Power controls the water flow in the last 8 miles of the Nantahala before Fontana Lake and down the Tuckaseegee Gorge. Race starts may have to be adjusted to meet the release schedule. If you're coming to the Nantahala or Tuckaseegee to train, you may want to check the dam release schedule at www.nantahalapower.com/nantahala/lakes/schedules/

Airports – The closest airports are Asheville NC (70 minutes) and Knoxville TN (2 hours). The closest major airport hubs include Charlotte NC (2.5 hours) and Atlanta GA (2.5 hours).

Available Boats – For those of you flying or driving large distances or those new to wildwater without the necessary equipment, a small number of boats are available. These boats include composite K1's, C1's and C2's and a number of Wavehoppers and Fastwaves. This equipment is owned by the Nantahala Racing Club and is available on a first come first serve basis for \$10 a day. Contact the race director early to reserve your equipment at hipgrave@usack.org

Accommodation - The Nantahala Gorge can be crowded and parking may be a challenge if the weather is warm. Make your lodging and camping reservations for race weekend early. If you are coming up to train before the race, you'll find many area campgrounds closed until April. Try the Nantahala Outdoor Center's Base Camp for an inexpensive alternative (828-488-2175 or www.noc.com) or refer to Swain County's Chamber of Commerce listing of area lodging (www.greatsmokies.com)

Rafts - While race organizers will work with area companies, some raft and private boater traffic on the Nantahala may be unavoidable. The Nantahala is wide and over taking easy in most situations. A simple shout as you approach private boaters is usually enough for them to move out of your way.

Shuttles - A shuttle will be provided to the start on both race days. If you are at the Nantahala or Tuckaseegee training on weekends, it is fairly easy to leave your boat at the top, drop your vehicle at the take-out, and bum a ride off a boater back to the top. The Nantahala Outdoor Center will also shuttle you for a small fee.

Registration - To register for the race, download a registration form from www.usawildwater.com as it becomes available or contact the race director at hipgrave@usack.org. Race registration forms are due no later than March 17th 2006 to avoid an additional late registration fee.

Volunteers - Got a friend who is coming with you? Race organizers would be grateful for any volunteers who can help out race weekend. Contact race organizers to volunteer.

Training Weekends - Join Wildwater racers of all skill levels for a weekend of training on the Nantahala and Tuckaseegee. Use these informal get-togethers to learn the river, share a shuttle, or head to nearby Lake Fontana for a technique workout. Training weekends are posted on www.usawildwater.com These weekends are informal so come prepared to take a turn running shuttle and to be responsible for your own safety.

We look forward to seeing you!

Contact:

Chris Hipgrave
Nantahala Racing Club
Wildwater Team Trials Race Director
P.O.Box 1946, Bryson City NC 28713 USA
Office # 704.348.4330 x222
Fax # 704.348.4418
Cell # 828.508.9475
hipgrave@usack.org

Resource Center:

www.canoeicf.com
www.greatsmokies.com
www.lakeviewnc.com
www.nantahalapower.com
www.noc.com
www.nrcrhinos.com
www.usack.org
www.usawildwater.com



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Name: _____

Street: _____ City: _____

State: _____ Zip: _____ Country: _____

Telephone: _____ Email: _____

Date of Birth: _____ USACK #: _____

PLEASE CIRCLE BOAT TYPE: WILDWATER WAVEHOPPER OTHER _____

PLEASE CIRCLE CLASSES: K1 K1W C1 C2, Partner Name: _____

PLEASE CIRCLE CATEGORY: SENIOR JUNIOR MASTERS

DO YOU PLAN TO RACE IN EUROPE? YES NO

REGISTRATION FEES: \$25.00. Non-refundable. All competitors must be current USACK members OR pay an additional \$5 for a one-time event membership. All registration forms and fees are due by March 17th 2006. You will pay an additional \$5 late fee if you register after this date or register at the event.

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO: "Nantahala Racing Club"

MAIL FORMS & FEES TO: Mail completed registration form, USACK Waiver & race fee to:

"Nantahala Racing Club, 2006 Wildwater Team Trials, P.O.Box 1946, Bryson City NC 28713"

CONTACT: Chris Hipgrave, Wildwater Team Trials Race Director
Nantahala Racing Club
Office # 704.348.4330 x222
Fax # 704.348.4418
Cell # 828.508.9475
hipgrave@usack.org



USACK Waiver, Indemnification, and Release of Liability

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the USACK, Inc. athletics/sports program, and related events and activities, the undersigned, for him/herself, his/her personal representatives, heirs, and next of kin:

1. Agree that prior to participating, he/she each will inspect the facilities and equipment to be used, and if he/she believes anything is unsafe, he/she will immediately advise his/her coach or supervisor of such condition (s) and refuse to participate.
2. Acknowledges and fully understands that each participant will be engaging in activities that involve risk of serious injury, including permanent disability and death, and severe social and economic losses which might result not only from his/her own actions, inaction's or negligence, but the actions, inaction's or negligence of others, the rules of play, or the conditions of the premises or of any equipment used. Further, that there may be other risks not known to us or not reasonably foreseeable at this time.
3. Assumes all foregoing risks and accept personal responsibility for the damages following injury, permanent disability, or death.
4. Releases, waives, discharges and covenants not to sue the USACK, its affiliated clubs, their respective administrator, directors, agents, coaches, and other employees of the organization, other participants sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event, all of which are hereafter referred to as releasees, from any and all claims, liability demands, losses, or on account of injury, including death or damage to property, caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the releasees or otherwise.
5. Agrees to indemnify and save and hold harmless the releasees from any loss, liability, damage, or cost they incur due to the presence of the undersigned in any way competing, officiating, observing, or working for, or any purpose participating in the event.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE READ THE ABOVE WAIVER, INDEMNIFICATION AND RELEASE, UNDERSTANDS THAT HE/SHE HAS GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND SIGNS IT VOLUNTARILY.

Signature of Participant _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Participant _____ Date of Birth _____

Waiver and Release of Liability for Minors

In consideration of being allowed to participate in any way in the USACK, athletics/sports program, and related events and activities, the undersigned, for him/herself, his/her personal representatives, heirs, and next of kin:

1. Agree that the parent(s) and/or legal guardian(s) will instruct the minor participant that prior to participating, he/she should inspect the facilities and equipment to be used, and if the participant believes anything unsafe, he or she will immediately advise their coach or supervisor of such condition (s) and refuse to participate.
2. Acknowledge and fully understand that each participant will be engaging in activities that involve risk of serious injury, including permanent disability and death, and severe social and economic losses which might result not only from their own actions, inaction's or negligence, but the actions, inaction's or negligence of others, the rules of play, or the conditions of the premises or of any equipment used. Further, that there may be other risks not known to us or not reasonably foreseeable at this time.
3. Assumes all foregoing risks and accept personal responsibility for the damages following injury, permanent disability, or death.
4. Releases, waives, discharges and covenants not to sue USACK, its affiliated clubs, their respective administrator, directors, agents, coaches, and other employees of the organization, other participants sponsoring agencies, sponsors, advertisers, and if applicable, owners and lessors of premises used to conduct the event, all of which are hereafter referred to as releases, from any and all liability to each of the undersigned, his or her heirs and next of kin for any and all claims to property, caused or alleged to be caused on account of injury, including death or damage to property, caused or alleged to be caused in whole or in part by the negligence of the releasees or otherwise.
5. Agrees to indemnify and save and hold harmless the releasees from any loss, liability, damage, or cost they incur due to the presence of the undersigned in any way competing, officiating, observing, or working for, or any purpose participating in the event.

THE UNDERSIGNED HAVE READ THE ABOVE WAIVER AND RELEASE, UNDERSTAND THAT THEY HAVE GIVEN UP SUBSTANTIAL RIGHTS BY SIGNING IT AND SIGN IT VOLUNTARILY.

Signature of Parent or Guardian _____ Date _____

Printed Name of Parent or Guardian _____ Relationship _____

Printed Name of Participant _____ Date of Birth _____

Address of Participant _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Club/Organization _____