



USA Wildwater Report to USA Canoe/Kayak Board of Directors March 24, 2007

If we are lucky, there is a special opportunity that arises once or twice in our lifetime. Last year, for the more mature Wildwater racer, the big event was the "Masters Race" at the World Championships. And we are excited that 2008 Wildwater Worlds in Italy will include both Senior and Masters Classes.

This year, the 2007 "Carolina" Jr. Worlds is that special opportunity for our younger racers. There is tremendous excitement brewing in the Wildwater community over the event, and as a result, we expect to field a full team (minus a C-2 or two).

As a result, USA Wildwater is focusing a great deal of our energy into developing and fielding the best possible team we can for the 2007 Junior Worlds:

- USA Wildwater coordinated the purchase of a container full of Wildwater boats from Zastera Composites. Many of the boats were purchased specifically for Juniors and/or development.
- We have edited our by-laws to ensure that we can fill a full team using a split East/West Junior Team Trials while being as fair as possible. Should any positions remain open after the Team Trials selection process, Wildwater will entertain nominations from national caliber USACK coaches to fill any remaining slots.
- Both the East Trials (on the Nanty March 31) and the West Trials (in Durango May 5-6) are schedule to encourage maximum participation from both Slalom and Wildwater Juniors.
- We will continue to focus our energies on coaching the team from now through the Jr Worlds.

The 2006 international rankings are out and USA Wildwater had a number of athletes with excellent finishes. Tom Wier (C-1) finished 10th followed by top kayakers Andrew McEwan at 19th and Geoff Calhoun at 28th. We are looking forward to this years World Cup series in June with Races in Austria, Czech Republic, and Italy.

Our sponsors continue to be a huge asset for USA Wildwater.

- Through the generous donations of individual sponsors, our budget for 2007 will be in the \$15,000 range. Obviously, there is more work to be done in this area.
- Our race organizers are a huge part of our success. They include the NRC (East Jr Trials), Durango Whitewater (West Jr Trials), Fibark (the Colorado Challenge), and Zoar Outdoors (Nationals).
- We are still lacking in the corporate sponsorship arena. We look forward to working with USACK to help support their initiatives or work with them to develop new income streams.

As a result, of our sponsors and our volunteers, the USA Wildwater program continues to grow and blossom. And certainly the inclusion of Master's races at the Worlds and the 2007 Junior Worlds are a having a wonderfully positive impact!

2007 Schedule* at a Glance:

- East Junior Team Trials – NRC – March 31-April 1
- West Junior Team Trials – Durango – May 5-6
- USA Senior Team Trials – Ohio pyle PA – April 14-15
- Charlotte USNWC Training Camp – May 19-20
- Fibark/Colorado Challenge – June 15-17
- World Cups (Austria, Czech, Italy) - June 9-24
- Junior World Championships – July 15-22
- USA Nationals – Deerfield River MA – August 24-26

* Stay tuned to USAWildwater.com for the latest information on Wildwater racing.

John Pinyerd
USACK - USA Wildwater Team Chairman