



USA Wildwater

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On behalf of the USA Canoe/Kayak Wildwater Committee, I would like to thank you for the incredible job that FIBArk did hosting the USA Wildwater Nationals. All of the Wildwater/Downriver events were run with “world class” precision.

I heard nothing but glowing remarks from the competitors about the organization of the race, the safety, and the venue. Personally, the 2009 Nationals/FIBArk Festival was my favorite national level race of all time.

I think that it’s also worth noting that we had nearly 100 competitors racing in one or more of the wildwater/downriver events. And of course many of these competitors brought their friends and family to attend FIBArk too as nearly all of them came from out of town.

We could not help but notice that the Head to Head Wildwater Sprint was a real crowd pleaser (and was a total blast for the competitors). Once the race started the spectators just poured in to the event and stood 3-4 on the banks and the bridge. This might be the start of a great tradition for FIBArk!

And last but not least it was great to see the race that started it all 61 years ago, the FIBArk 26 mile downriver race, grow back to its rightful place of prominence. This year, there were at least 7 former FIBArk champions competing for the chance to be the fastest boat down the river. It is believed that Andy Corra (K-1), Tierney O’Sullivan (K-1W), and Tom Wier (C-1) all set course records in the 26 mile race and that John Pinyerd (yours truly) set the course record for C-1 in the 10 mile race.

We look forward to working with you to have a repeat of this year’s event every few years or so. After all, Salida, the birthplace of whitewater racing in the US, has a great organization for hosting Wildwater events!

Thanks again.

John Pinyerd

USA Canoe/Kayak – Wildwater Committee Chairman