



Mission Statement

"To challenge paddlers in a world class wilderness event – a race to the midnight sun - the Yukon River Quest."

April 21, 2005 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Yukon River Quest registrations surpass 35 team halfway mark Fundraiser set for May 6 at Backwater; registration deadline May 26

Registrations for the seventh annual Yukon River Quest, the longest annual canoe and kayak race in the world are now at 39 teams, more than halfway to the new limit of 70 teams. The race begins on June 29 and registration deadline is May 26.

Last year a record 51 teams began the 740-kilometer (460 miles) race from Whitehorse to Dawson City on the Yukon River, and organizers expect entries to top that mark this year. Already this year, there are paddlers registered from Canada (Yukon, BC, Ontario, Quebec, Alberta), the United States (Alaska, Washington, California, New York, Minnesota, Michigan, Texas, Utah, Florida, Idaho, and Guam), Austria, and the United Kingdom.

Interest in the race from the UK has been building since the airing of a BBC2 program that aired on a Sunday night in March. The 2004 race was featured in an episode of the "BBC Challenge", in which the network followed a kayak team. Since the broadcast, race organizers have received more than a dozen queries from the UK.

Yukoners can view the program during a fund-raiser for the 2005 Yukon River Quest at the Backwater lounge in Whitehorse on Friday, May 6. Doors open at 7 p.m. In addition to the BBC video presentation, there will be live entertainment from Joe Bishop, Natasha Nettleton, and others. There will be a cover charge and a silent auction of items donated from Yukon businesses. The popular YRQ Buff headwear, race pins, and bib sponsorships will be available for purchase, and anyone who has not signed up for the race can register.

The race is organized by the Yukon River Marathon Paddlers Association, based in Whitehorse. For more information, visit the race website: www.yukonriverquest.com

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