

**YUKON RIVER QUEST 2006
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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Registration opens for 2006 Yukon River Quest

WHITEHORSE, YUKON – Registrations are now being accepted for the eighth annual Yukon River Quest, the longest annual canoe and kayak race in the world, which will be held June 28 to July 2, 2006.

The 740-kilometer (460-mile) wilderness adventure paddling marathon is held on the Yukon River from Whitehorse to Dawson City in Canada's Yukon Territory. Entry forms and other information can be found on the race web site, www.yukonriverquest.com.

The race is open to recreational tandem canoes, tandem and solo sea kayaks, and voyageur canoes that may carry eight to 14 paddlers. Boat specifications are listed in the race rules posted on the website.

Deadline for entries is May 26, 2006, but teams are encouraged to register early due to the growing popularity of the event.

There is a limit of 70 canoe and kayak teams, plus voyageur teams. In addition, only 25 solo kayak teams are allowed to maintain a balanced field.

Entry fees are \$700 (Cdn.) for tandem canoes and kayaks, \$400 for solo kayaks, and \$200 per person for voyageur teams. With an increase in fees, the total race purse has been increased from \$15,500 to \$20,250 (Cdn.) spread out among the various classes.

Under a new prize structure, the top three will receive \$1500, \$500 and \$250 for first, second and third in each of these nine classes: men's canoe, women's canoe, mixed canoe, men's tandem kayak, women's tandem kayak, mixed tandem kayak, men's solo kayak, women's solo kayak, and voyageur canoe.

“We've had a lot of input from participants to separate the canoe and kayak categories,” said race spokesman Jeff Brady. “To accomplish this in as fair a manner as possible, the board shifted from rewarding overall finishers to rewarding the top teams in individual boat classes. While there will always be interest in who comes in first, the real competition for prize money will be among the various classes spread throughout the field.”

After a LeMans-style start in downtown Whitehorse, teams paddle round-the-clock under the midnight sun, stopping for just two mandatory rests at Carmacks (7 hours) and Kirkman Creek (3 hours). It is a grueling wilderness adventure race that tests the stamina of both professional and recreational paddlers from around the globe. The prize, for many, is just

finishing the event in world famous Dawson City, site of the Klondike Gold Rush of 1897-98.

In 2005 the race limit was met and 66 teams from six different countries started the event, while 50 finished. Eight category records were broken, including the new course record of 42:51:55 set by two tandem kayaks that finished about 20 minutes ahead of a tandem canoe.

For more information about results, how to enter, and preparation for the event, visit the race website.

The race is organized by the Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association, based in Whitehorse.

NOTE TO YUKON MEDIA: Please include that YRMPA is looking for volunteers and additional safety boats (with Yukon River experience) for the 2006 race. If interested, please contact the race organization at info@yukonriverquest.com or call 867-33FLOAT.

MEDIA CONTACT:

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