



## YUKON RIVER QUEST



Photo by Harry Kern 2019

### YRQ March Racer Newsletter

Hello racers. Happy spring! For some of us, the skiing is amazing and for others, the flowers are starting to bloom. Here is your March newsletter complete with updates which are posted on our website under News, on our FB page and in the Racer Forum Group.

#### Racer Checklist

- payment made – due March 21 to secure your spot
- boat rented (if applicable)
- waiver signed (teams and support crews) – due March 31
- sleep strategy given – **need as soon as possible**
- finish time of over 56 or under 56 hours given
- secured a support crew
- all [racer and support crew](#) info entered on the website
- watched Pre-registration briefing (link found in February [newsletter](#))
- have the right tracking device (two way communication)
- accommodation in Whitehorse and Dawson booked
- read the [Carmacks Briefing Notes](#) (will be posted within a week)
- travel secured to Whitehorse and Dawson City to Whitehorse
- book your Whitehorse [registration](#) time
- training is well underway!

### What we need from you

#### Sleep strategy

We need your sleep strategy for the total mandatory 10-hour layover between Carmacks and Minto. This helps us determine the number of volunteers and campsites needed for those checkpoints. Please email [director@yukonriverquest.ca](mailto:director@yukonriverquest.ca) with your resting time at both locations.

## Racers AND support crews

Sign the [waiver](#) (or [Assumption of Risk Form](#) for youth under 18)

We have only received a small handful of waivers. Please read, print, initial (in 3 places) and sign at the bottom, scan and email to [director@yukonriverquest.ca](mailto:director@yukonriverquest.ca) by **March 31**. Please include your team name in the email.

## Make Payment

If you haven't made full payment yet, you have until March 21 to secure a spot in the race.

Teams receive an invite email, with a short 'token' code.

Go to Register/Change entry/Select Team and enter password/scroll down to bottom of page for Summary/Save or pay/Enter by invite/Enter token code/Make payment.

Please refer to our website for the Refund Schedule in Section 7 of the [Race Rules](#).

Secure your boat rental (if applicable). Boat rental fees are also due by March 21, less the deposit you have already paid.

Complete all **contact information** for racers and support crew: [Racer Actions](#)

## Tracking:

It's time to send a message to Peter!

If you currently own the appropriate tracking device, please send a message from that device to [commsroom@yukonriverquest.ca](mailto:commsroom@yukonriverquest.ca)

The message should be:

**team:***name*

where *name* is their team name

Register your tracking device with the website on the registration page and send some track data in order to ensure that it's working. You will show up on the Race Tracker.

Please refer to the February newsletter for details or visit [Racer Information](#) on our website.

## Updates and information

If you haven't read the January and February [newsletters](#), please do so. There is important information for you and requests from us.

**Carmacks:** For racers **AND** support crews

Coalmine Campground: All voyageurs, C4s and SUPs

Bridge Site: All C2s, K2s, C1s, K1s

We are revising the [Carmacks Briefing Notes](#) to include the new Bridge Site checkpoint in addition to the existing Coal Mine Campground checkpoint. Please check back in a week. Make sure you read this document, as it provides everything you need to know about these checkpoints.

### Accommodation:

As of March 4, there are 11 rooms available at [Hotel Carmacks](#). Standard room is \$179/night. There are also basic cabins available for rent at \$99/night

**Minto:** Minto Resort is **not** a resort as you would envision it if traveling to Mexico or Cuba. It is rustic and basic with few amenities. We are waiting for information on available services and will let you know in April.

### Teams looking for support crew

Some teams are having difficulty finding a support crew. If you have crew who could perhaps double up and support another team, please post on our YRQ FB [Racer Forum](#) page to let others know.

### Assessing Risks:

The current risk level of the 2022 Yukon River Quest is GREEN, as estimated by the YRQ Risk Evaluation Matrix. This means the risk levels to the race being run at this point in time are minimal.

Yukon's Department of Environment's Water Resources Branch issued a snow pack assessment on March 1. It notes that the Upper Yukon basin-averaged snow water equivalent is estimated to be 147% of the historical median. This is 47% less than last year's 194% at the same time, which was the highest recorded snow pack on record.

Snow pack is only one indication of flood risk. Precipitation and the melt rate are equally important factors. Stay tuned to this space for more updates.

### Spotlight

Al Foster – Carmacks Dock Manager 2006 – 2018

Anyone who is a veteran racer with the Yukon River Quest would know our former Carmacks Dock Manager, Al Foster. If you weren't close enough to shore, you would see his arms 'a swinging', encouraging you to head in so you didn't miss the dock.

Al first became involved in the Yukon River Quest in 2001 as support crew for Paddlers Abreast when his wife, Claire Desmarais was a team member. Seeing a need for more assistance at the Carmacks



dock, he stepped up to help and....well the rest is history. For many years, Al trained and worked with other volunteers, ensuring the safety of all. He sat on the board of directors, he wrote and updated the Carmacks Racer Briefing and walked racers and support crews through the procedures at the in person meetings. Why was Al involved? The paddling community was a strong draw for him, as he thoroughly enjoyed meeting and interacting with racers, support crews, and volunteers each year.

Al's dedication and kind approach to working with teams and other volunteers made him the top choice for the 2014 Spirit of the Yukon award. In 2021, he retired from his YRQ post among several other commitments, to pursue other adventures. Al, from the bottom of our hearts, thank you for your years of service with the Yukon River Quest. All the best to you and may you have many enjoyable, (and less stressful!) experiences.

## Other

If you are looking to improve your skills through preparation and skill, check out Momentum Analytics at [www.momentumanalytics.ca](http://www.momentumanalytics.ca) or email [info@momentumanalytics.ca](mailto:info@momentumanalytics.ca) for more information.

Thanks everyone. Happy training!

Mia and the Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association team

Mia Lee

Race Director

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