



YUKON RIVER QUEST

Spring training in the Yukon!



Paddlers Abreast training run 2011

YRQ April Racer Newsletter

Hello racers. For many of you, we imagine that the countdown is on! We have heard from many teams who are totally stoked and excited to come to the Yukon this spring. We are busy planning and getting ready to receive you with a warm welcome. Here is your April newsletter complete with updates which are posted on our website under News, on our FB page and in the Racer Forum Group.



Race Day boat launch – April 19 2022 (don't worry, it will all be gone by June!)

What's going on

The 2022 [Race Schedule](#) is up! Check it out for important dates and info

Your team number

You may have noticed that your team number has changed, maybe several times. This will continue until early June when a permanent number is assigned.

We can tell you that:

- Teams starting at 09:00 on Race Day are assigned numbers 1 – 99
- Teams starting at noon are assigned numbers 101 - 199
- Within these two number ranges, numbers will be assigned in the order that people first paid their deposit and full registration fee

Racer Checklist – please read as some tasks have been added to the previous March checklist

- sleep strategy given – **need right away!**
- have the right tracking device (**two way communication**) and sending message to Peter
- waiver initialed and signed (teams and support crews) – need as soon as possible
- finish time of over 56 or under 56 hours given
- secured a support crew for Carmacks, Minto and Dawson City
- read the [Carmacks Briefing Notes](#)
- all racer and support crew info entered on the website
- watched [Pre-registration briefing](#) (link also found in February newsletter)
- boat rented (if applicable)
- accommodation in Whitehorse and Dawson booked
- read the Mandatory Equipment List (appendix of the [Race Rules](#) on p. 20)
- [travel](#) secured to Whitehorse and Dawson City to Whitehorse
- booked 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 with your resting time at both locations.

Tracking:

Many teams are already in communication with Peter to ensure they are tracking properly. If you haven't done so, now is the time!

If you currently own the appropriate tracking device, please send a message from that device to commsroom@yukonriverquest.ca

The message should be:

team:*name*

where *name* is their team name

Important!! Your information must be accurate. The 'robot' reads the information literally. This means it will not work if you miss a space, colon, capital, etc. Please be extra careful when entering your information.

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

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

Racers AND support crews

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

Please read, print, initial (in 3 places) and sign at the bottom, scan or take a photo and email to director@yukonriverquest.ca. Include your team name in the email.

Updates and information

If you haven't read the January February and March newsletters, please do so. They include important information for you and requests from us.

Carmacks: For racers **AND** support crews

Coalmine Campground: All voyageurs, C4s and SUPs and **Half Quest teams** (recently changed)

Bridge Site: All C2s, K2s, C1s, K1s (except Half Quest canoes and kayaks)

The Carmacks Checkpoints [Briefing Notes](#) are ready! Make sure you read the applicable document, as it provides everything you need to know about your checkpoint.

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](#) to let others know. Ideally, they would need to be a similar race pace as your team.

Assessing Risks:

The snowpack report continues to show above average [snow pack levels](#) throughout much of the Yukon. Except for a cold snap the week of April 10, we've had 'gentle melting' so far, which is just what is needed.

Spring weather is a big factor in whether there will be summer flooding. **Please note that 'flooding' does not necessarily mean that the race will be cancelled.**

We do know that water levels will be very high, and we are making plans to deal with various scenarios. It is impossible right now to know what the river will be doing in mid June (most of the river, and all of the lake, are still locked in ice), and therefore we cannot tell you exactly what will happen at race time.

We will keep you informed of river conditions and race plans as break-up progresses. The current risk level of the 2022 Yukon River Quest is still **GREEN**, as estimated by the YRQ Risk Evaluation Matrix.

Spotlight

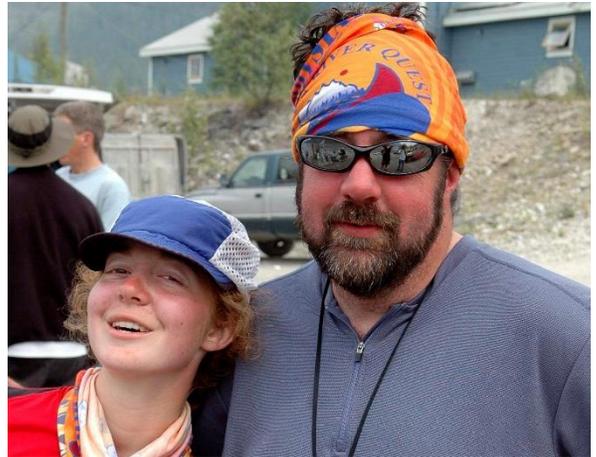
Jeff Brady – co-founder of the Dyea to Dawson Race (which led to the birth of the YRQ), board member and racer

Jeff is an extraordinary person, with years of dedication to the Yukon River Quest.

The idea of the YRQ germinated from the Klondike Gold Rush Centennial with a Dyea to Dawson Centennial Race to the Klondike in 1997 and 1998. Up to 50 two-person teams hiked over the 33-mile Chilkoot Trail from Dyea, Alaska to Lake Bennett, and then got in their canoes and paddled 100 miles of headwater lakes to the beginning of the Yukon River in Whitehorse, where they continued for another 460 miles to Dawson City.

There was great interest to continue with a similar race and.... voila! The Yukon River Quest was born. Jeff Brady and Buckwheat Donahue from Skagway handed the reins over to John Firth from Whitehorse to host the first YRQ in 1999 with the help of the Yukon Quest International dog sled race.

Jeff's claim to fame: He and his wife Dorothy competed in the first race in 1999 and came last. They will forever hold their 106-hour record!



Jeff, of course, became involved over the years with countless hours as a YRQ board member planning, revising, growing, and improving the race. He has also competed 6 times and will complete his 7th this June. Look for an older, (only in age, not in spirit) and wiser Jeff in this year's event and thank him for spearheading this incredible adventure race! I'm sure he would be happy to share several interesting stories with you.

In his spare time (what's that?), Jeff runs the Alderworks Alaska Writers and Artists Retreat. He has also written a book titled Skagway, City of the New Century.

Thank you Jeff, for helping to make the Yukon River Quest what it is today; an opportunity for personal challenge, comradery, and to revel in the beauty of the Yukon River.

Other

If you are looking to improve your skills through preparation and skill, check out Momentum Analytics at www.momentumanalytics.ca or email info@momentumanalytics.ca for more information.

From team Stix Together – April 2022

“We are impressed after the first meeting!! Margo has customized a training plan and paddling strategy based on our goals and abilities. We are excited to implement her strategies and advice in what is looking like a very short training season”

Thanks everyone. Happy training!

Mia and the Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association team

Mia Lee

Race Director

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