

YRQ May Racer Newsletter

Only 28 sleeps away from Race Day! The snow is disappearing and the water level is gradually rising but our melt has been slow. Here is our **last** newsletter complete with updates which are posted on our website under News, on our FB page and in the Racer Forum Group.



April 19



Race Day boat launch

May 23

What we still need from some of you

1. **SELECT A REGISTRATION DAY AND TIME!** – Many teams have not selected their registration time. Do this soon, as it may be problematic if you arrive in Whitehorse on Saturday or Sunday and all the slots are taken up on Monday. Go to [Racer Actions](#) and click on 'Book Registration Time'. We need this information as soon as possible in order to schedule our volunteers.
2. **Tracking** – It is now time for **EVERYONE** to organize their tracking with Peter. Details are found [here](#).
3. **C1s, C2s, K1s, K2s support crews** – we need to know how many crews are coming in an RV or camper so we can plan parking spaces accordingly. Please email director@yukonriverquest.ca.
4. **Waivers for support crews and racers** – We are still missing quite a few initialed and signed waivers from your support crew. This is a requirement for you to race. Send them now!
5. **Accommodation** – We are collecting information on the number of racers and support crews who do not have accommodation in Dawson City so we can plan accordingly next year. If you have **NOT** found a place to stay, please let us know how many are in your party.

The Dawson City Visitor Information Centre is your best bet in securing a room at the last minute. Hotels and other establishments contact them if a room is released. vic.dawsoncity@gov.yk.ca
867-993-5566

Important Information – Please read!

Reminder: Race rules and procedures are subject to change right up to Race Day due to the uncertainty of water levels. More information is listed below under Assessing Risks.

Covid practices:

The Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association follows recommendations from the Yukon Chief Medical Officer of Health: 'It's strongly recommended that Yukoners continue to wear a mask, especially when risks are higher, such as in crowded spaces, places where there is poor ventilation, and when those who are at risk of severe disease are present.'

For the health and safety of racers, support crews and volunteers, masks are **strongly** recommended for all indoor venues.

Race Schedule – be sure to check the [Race Schedule](#) for all important dates and times

Registration – Mt McIntyre Recreation Centre – 1 Sumanik Dr

As per Yukon's public health recommendations, face masks are **strongly** recommended indoors. Bus services are available from downtown. We may also be able to provide a shuttle service – stay tuned.

Remember to:

- bring proof of evacuation insurance
- 'pay' a \$500 rescue deposit – you can save time and do this within one week of Race Day by going to [Racer Actions](#)
- bring all mandatory equipment (except perishable food) for the gear check – equipment list is in the [Race Rules](#) on p. 13 and 21
- bring your boat if it needs to be measured (rental boats have already been checked)

Mandatory Racer and Support Crew Briefing – Yukon Visitor Information Centre - 100 Hanson St.

The theatre is small and ventilation is limited. Therefore, wearing a face mask is **strongly** encouraged.

Tuesday June 21 at the Visitor Information Centre (100 Hanson St.)

Voyageur, C4 and SUP teams – 10:00 – 11:00

Tandem and solo canoes – 11:15 – 12:15

Tandem and solo kayaks – 12:30 – 13:30

Support Crews – 13:45 – 14:45 ** Only one support crew member per team please.

Our seating capacity is 125

Minto Resort Checkpoint update – What's available:

- limited toilets and showers
- potable water
- limited WiFi near the gazebo
- plenty of camping space for support crews and racers

- soup, buns for sale

Assessing Risks:

The final snowpack report for this season is out and snow levels are still high. This is not a bad thing. It means that we are experiencing what we need: cooler spring temperatures and a gentle melt, rather than higher temperatures with a big melt all at once. While there was been some precipitation so far this spring, (some of it via snow) we are not receiving abnormal levels of it.

The upper Yukon River is now open and it is also open at Dawson, though much ice is still flowing downstream. LaBerge is not yet open.

As it is still too early for us to accurately know what the water level will be doing at race time, we are planning for various scenarios. Because of this, rules and race procedures (including changes to race gear and checkpoints) may change right up until race time. We will keep you all informed on this.

Forest fire risk is low.

According to our risk assessment system, we are a **GREEN** for 2022 race

Spotlight

Stephen Mooney – Race Marshal and Deb Bartlette – Assistant Race Marshal

Stephen Mooney has called the Yukon his home for over 50 years. He has been involved with the YRQ Board since 2004 serving as Board Member and past President in 2011. He first raced in the 2004 YRQ in a solo kayak and has since raced in the K2 and Voyageur categories. He is a member of the Great River Club - over 5000 Km. Stephen looks forward to his role as Race Marshal, supporting all the other volunteers to make the 2022 YRQ the best wilderness paddling race in the world.

Deb Bartlette is a 7-time YRQ finisher (women's voyageur canoe), and a member of the Great River Club which is for racers who have paddled 5000km or more. She began her racing adventure with Paddlers Abreast and then joined Stix Together, a team she holds dear to her heart. So far, they have raised \$60000 for the Yukoners' Cancer Care Fund which provides funding to Yukoners undergoing cancer treatment.



In her spare time, (she really doesn't have any spare time!) Deb sits on the Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association board where she currently resides as the President.

'Dr. Deb' teaches in graduate programs for a couple of universities and is a consultant to non-profits for organizational development and governance. Deb also has experience and formal training in administrative justice and tribunals.

An interesting little tidbit: She has a YRQ tattoo but won't say where. Ask her at the Meet and Greet!

In her leisure time, she enjoys hiking, snowshoeing, and camping around the North when not paddling.

Thanks everyone. See you in four weeks!

Mia and the Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association team

Mia Lee

Race Director

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