



# THE YUKON PADDLER SPRING ISSUE 2005



## THE PUT IN

Hi Everyone;

The Yukon Canoe and Kayak Club had another action packed kayak water-polo winter season. There was a league for the Youth which adhered to the rules and a league for the Adults which was more like playing rugby with lots of carnage. It was super fun for everyone.

The Girls Youth Program, spearheaded by Mary-Jane Oliver will be happening again Monday nights. The girls group are having *way too much fun* and their paddling skills have improved immensely.

Vernon Beebe and John Quinsey will continue on with the Senior Youth Program. Some interesting trips await these paddlers as they are ready to try new and exciting rivers and improve their leadership and paddling skills.

A junior kayak beginner program is also being run, by Walter Brennan.

Eyvi Smith will be doing the RCMP Youth Program "CREW WHITEWATER" for Youth at Risk.

Our drop in Thursday nights for kayakers and canoeists will be starting again in June. The Whitehorse Whitewater Rodeo will be held August 17th.

Flat Water Racing will be held Thursday nights at 07:15 and races start at 07:30pm at Schwatka Lake. Don't forget to come out to the YCKC Annual General Meeting or AGM at Sport Yukon, May 25th @ 06:30pm.

## **CREW WHITEWATER 2005 !!**

Well for this season the CREW WHITEWATER has paired up with RIVERFRONT SCHOOL, an alternative school in

Whitehorse, and approximately 10 of the youth at the school will be partaking in Bob Daffe's GUIDE IN TRAINING COURSE. As well, two of the youth ( who have already completed The GIT or Guide in Training Course ) will be participating in Swiftwater Rescue with Bob Daffe or Tatshenshini Expediting. The youth will be partaking in the GIT course on the LIARD RIVER, which will be exciting to say the least!

Throughout July and August we will be holding the usual Wednesday night drop ins at the intake for kayaking and rafting sessions for the youth from the group homes, and disadvantaged youth.

The Crew Whitewater program has also purchased ( with Bob' assistance ) another rowing frame for the small raft, and a tandem inflatable kayak for instructing, and tripping. Two RCMP members, and the Crew Whitewater rafting equipment, will also assist Tatshenshini Expediting in a project with Kwanlin Dunn First Nation to instruct 10 youth between the ages of 15 yrs and 18 yrs with training for completing a 5 day trip on the Coal River in July! ! Should be an interesting and busy summer and just to advise that all of the Crew Whitewater Equipment ( two rafts with rowing frames, tandem inflatable and wetsuits etc are open for use for any of the Youth Programs for training and for tripping!!

By Eyvi Smith

## **Mission Statement**

**"To challenge paddlers of all abilities in a world class wilderness race— a race to the midnight sun - the Yukon River Quest."**

April 14, 2005 - FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**Yukon River Quest registrations already at 35 teams  
Fundraiser set for May 6; registration deadline  
May 26**

Registrations for the seventh annual Yukon River Quest, the longest annual canoe and kayak race in the world, reached 35 teams on April 10, halfway to the new limit of 70 teams. The race begins on June 29 and the 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 possibly others. There will be a cover charge and a silent auction of items donated from Yukon businesses. The popular YRQ Buff headwear 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 Paddling Association, based in Whitehorse. For more information, visit the race website:

[www.yukonriverquest.com](http://www.yukonriverquest.com)

MEDIA CONTACT: Dianne Villeseche, 867-333-0686  
or [ravenink@northwestel.net](mailto:ravenink@northwestel.net)

## **WHITEHORSE MARATHON CANOE AND KAYAK**

Time Trials

When?

Every Thursday @ 7:15 pm (race starts @ 7:30pm) through the entire paddling season.

Where to meet?

On the west side of Schwatka Lake (float plane side). You follow the Miles Canyon Road until the road turn right to go up hill. There you go left (small dirt road) and follow the lake to the put in (big parking lot).

Everybody is welcome!

You can race your solo or tandem canoe, solo or tandem kayak, outrigger or crew boat!!

Come to ride wash, experience the pack, meet people of all abilities, learn stuff and most important of all, have fun!!!

Good practice for all River Quest participants!

Contact: Tim(456-4790) or David(393-2737)

p.s.: Time trials location will move to Chadeburn Lake as soon as it clear and free of ice! It's a motor boats free environment!!

p.s.#2: You must be a YCKC member for insurance coverage, forms available at race night! Membership costs \$20 for adults, \$10 for youth, for the year.



Canoes resting at Battleship Rock on the Mountain River

## **Yukon Canoe and Kayak Club Youth Programs**

### **And WATERWALKER FILM FESTIVAL 2005**

The Yukon Canoe & Kayak Club's Youth Program is comprised solely of volunteers who are experienced adult paddlers and young paddlers and their families. The program has been running since 1998.

The Youth Program has evolved from a focus of youth- at- risk to the current focus of including all young paddlers with an emphasis on involvement from their families. The club now runs four different groups of young paddlers under the umbrella of YCKC Youth Program and they all learn and play together. The groups are Evyi Smith's RCMP, Crew Whitewater and the other group is the River Raiders which includes the senior group of kayakers and the beginner girls group and the beginner mixed group.

Because whitewater recreation is a very diverse sport involving kayaking, canoeing, rafting, all ages and skill levels are able to participate. The YC&KC Youth Program uses youth kayaking as a vehicle to involve the entire family.

This program's focus is on fun and participation while developing skills of paddling. However, as well, we strive to promote an appreciation of the environment and foster a sense of environmental stewardship related to the use of rivers among program participants. We also endeavor to establish "minimal environmental impact" practices, both on and off the river during any programmed YC&KC event.

The cycle of a young paddler involved in the Youth Program generally begins with participation in the pool during the winter months. The YC&KC in partnership with the City of Whitehorse provides monthly pool sessions. These sessions involve introducing beginner youth to kayaking skills and safety procedures in a warm and friendly environment and allows a comfort level with paddling to be developed. Or the sessions allow the more experienced youth paddlers to practice their skills.

This last winter, we ran a series of youth kayak water polo and this further increased the youth's paddling time and skill level while having a lot of fun.

Generally, by early May, we begin paddling in the lakes and rivers. (however, the youth were out the week of April 25<sup>th</sup> this year with our warm weather). The youth then develop their knowledge and skills of reading moving water, self-rescue and river rescue skills and white water kayaking skills. For those youth that have reached a sufficient level of skill they are encouraged to put their skills to test by paddling at the City Intake or upriver at the Spin Wave below the dam, and to paddle from the dam all summer long. The Takhini and/or Wheaton Rivers are also standard trips with the Youth Program.



As the youth are paddling, the parents are encouraged to participate. They can partake either on shore as back up safety volunteers or shuttling, or depending on their skill level and interest, to volunteer in a canoe, kayak or raft. This has created a very energetic family atmosphere that encourages everyone to participate.

Youth Program kids going for the ball at kayak water- polo

Last year, our senior group progressed to the point that they went on a Leadership Development course with Bob Daffe of Tatshenshini Expediting. Bob's leadership weekend included kayaking on the Tatshenshini, the one day and then a trip on the Takhanne River the following day. The Takhanne River was an excellent river for Bob to teach many aspects of river running that involved extensive problem solving.

This year, we have an exciting summer itinerary of skill and leadership workshops, lots of river running and lots of fun!

The skills and knowledge that these youth are learning from their involvement with the YCKC River Raiders will remain with them for a life time. It gives them the ability to take advantage of the tremendous opportunities that the Yukon offers.

The big YCKC River Raiders fund raiser this year is the 2005 Waterwalker Film Festival held at the Arts Centre on May 18<sup>th</sup>.

The Waterwalker is Canada's Paddling Film Festival. It comprises a selection of award winning films and is dedicated to the memory of Bill Mason and his appreciation and love of our wilderness. This year there will be the award winning adventure and action films from the Waterwalker as well as some local films. These include, Martin Berkman's, Three Rivers: Wild Water, Sacred Places. Martin won the Environmental Honourable Mention award at the Waterwalker this year for his film.

This year, all the proceeds for this Waterwalker will be going to the Youth Programs with the Canoe and Kayak Club. Their dedicated volunteers continue to work hard to provide Yukon youth and their families the opportunity to get out on the river to learn paddling skills. As well, they are learning to respect and appreciate the incredible wilderness here in the Yukon.

So, come on out on May 18<sup>th</sup>, in a celebration to kick start this year's paddling season and support the youth programs with the Yukon Canoe and Kayak Club.

Tickets are on sale here now at the Arts Centre, Hougens's, Coast Mtn. and Up North and Kanoe People. Ticket prices in advance are adults \$12, youth and seniors \$10 and under 12's, \$8.

For more information contact Mary-Jane or Vernon at 633-2297

#### **YCKC EXECUTIVE FOR 2004/2005**

President: \_\_\_\_\_ Violet Van Hees  
 VP Whitewater: \_\_\_\_\_ Evvi Smith  
 VP Canoeing: \_\_\_\_\_ Mike Terlesky  
 Treasurer: \_\_\_\_\_ Vernon Beebe  
 Secretary: \_\_\_\_\_ Tracy Rempel  
 Director of  
 Rock the River: \_\_\_\_\_ Bob Daffe  
 Director of  
 Communications: \_\_\_\_\_ Theresa Landman  
 YCKC Website:  
 www.kayakyukon.com —Derrick Law  
 Director at Large — Andy Hyde  
 Director of Flat water Racing- Erin Neufeld  
 VP Seakayaking —————Genevieve Camine

