

Open Canoe Nationals – July 8, 9, 10

Salida, Colorado

Location: Arkansas River, Salida Whitewater Park, Salida, CO – The Salida site is approximately 2.5 hours from Denver and features two large play waves and large shoreline eddies. A walking path goes along the length of the course.

The Salida site annually hosts the Fibark slalom and downriver race. This year the event includes USA Wildwater Nationals and USACK Slalom Age Group Nationals. For pictures of the 2010 FIBArk festival and the river at the estimated flow of around 2100 cfs, go to: http://fibark.net/fibark_videos.php.

While it's difficult to estimate the flow this year, we expect it to be above average for July. In conversations with Kent Ford, Kent has stated that he can set a good course at 2,200 cfs. The course would snake down the side of the river, avoiding the center of the 2 large play structures.

The downriver site would be determined prior to the race. The Arkansas offers a myriad of potential sites, with varying level of difficulty. Racers should expect cold water and the potential for a long swim. Drysuits and wetsuits are highly recommended since the water is snowmelt and has not had sufficient time to warm up. Median temperatures on July 8 has been 59 degrees F. Expect colder with high flows.

Logistics – The whitewater Park is located within the heart of town. There is a path running along the river. The FIBArk organizers have offered their headquarters building on site for the nationals. This includes facilities for registration, power for computers, etc. Also included is assistance in hanging and positioning gates. Nate Lord will provide canoe length cross members, poles and wires will be provided by FIBARK organizers. The timing system is with stop watches and walkie talkies. There is a city restroom on site.

Camping and Lodging: The Chamber of Commerce is investigating possible camping sites including ball fields and the high school. There is a first come first-serve free camping area about 2 miles out of town that is possible. There are plenty of close by motels and a list will be provided.

Meals – We will have a banquet on Saturday night at the Steam Plant, a banquet facility adjacent to the park. There are multiple restaurants within a few blocks for all other meals. There is also a beer festival in town, across from the take out.



