

BID SUBMISSION

2018 ACA Open Canoe Slalom Nationals & North American Championships Arkansas River, Colorado

Section A

Year and dates: **July 20-22nd (Fri - Sun), 2018**

Location and site of event: **Arkansas River,
Buena Vista, Colorado United States**

URL

Race Chairperson: **Nate Lord,
303-803-0215
nlord@dawsonschool.org**

Vice Chair: **Alan Whittern,
303-746-0567
alan.whittern@whittern.com**

Registration: **Planning online registration prior and on site during the event.**

Safety: **Safety will be provided by a group of paddlers with river rescue certification on the shores of the river as well as boats at the finish area probably organized by RMOC.**

Chief Judge and Judges: **TBA**

Sponsorship: **TBA by Cara Spencer**

Volunteers: **Available from Team Colorado Whitewater, FIBARK, Dawson School and the Rocky Mountain Canoe Club**

Course Designer: **Alan Whittern (perhaps Kent Ford)**

Course Set-up: **Team of volunteers led by Course Designer**

Timing and scoring method:

Start and finish times will be recorded by ALGE electric eyes connected to a centralized computer scoring system. Scoring will be done by teams of volunteers seated along the riverbank and connected by hardwired headsets to the scoring center. Scores are further verified using score sheets, which are "run" to the scoring center. Radio backup will be

available. This system has been used at numerous nationally certified races including 3 OCN's.

Description of course and water conditions, anticipated flow, difficulty:

The Arkansas River is one of the best whitewater rivers in Colorado and the entire American West.

The Arkansas supports the largest whitewater playground in Colorado and runs from Leadville to Canon City. The site is within the [Arkansas Headwaters](#), a park that encompasses the Arkansas river and includes state, BLM and National Forest lands and is administered by Colorado State Parks. There are many different runs available along the river including the Numbers, Browns Canyon and the Royal Gorge. The slalom course will be on section known as the Fractions, located below the Numbers and 2 miles north of Buena Vista.

Flow is primarily natural with a portion being dam released. Normal flow for the selected dates varies between 700 cfs and 1100 cfs with the average being 800 cfs.

The slalom course will be on natural section of river that includes class II/III rapids with numerous pools and eddies. Between twenty and twenty-five slalom gates will be hung for the week of the race.

The river left (East) shore features a county road and old, inactive (but still private) railroad grade. River right (West) is bounded by BLM (Bureau of Land Management) federal lands that will accommodate undeveloped camping and provides access to the course. The river right access is a short, rough gravel road but accessible by any vehicle. Additional developed camping is available at four RV parks in Buena Vista, from two to ten miles from the course.

The course will be hung at least three days prior to the race and will be available for practice throughout the day.

Some runs on the Arkansas:

Granite/Pine Creek class 3/4 with Pine Creek (5)

Numbers class 4

Fractions 3+

Milk Run class 2 to 2+

Browns Canyon class 3

Fibark downriver race course class 2 to 3

Five Points to Parkdale class 3

Royal Gorge class 3/4

Other nearby notable rivers worth visiting include:

The Eagle. 30 to 50 miles away including runs from class 2 to class 5

The Blue. 50 to 70 miles away class 2 and class 3 runs

The Roaring Fork. 50 to 70 miles class 2 to 4

The Colorado. 70 to 100 miles away including class 2 to class 5

The Taylor. 30 miles class 3 to class 4

The Gunnison. 100 miles class 2 to class 6

The South Platte. 50 to 70 miles class 2 to class 5

Clear Creek. 70 to 100 miles including class 3 to class 5 runs

The Cache la Poudre. 150 miles class 2 to 3+

The downriver event info:

The downriver portion of the Combined Event will be on held on Friday afternoon (last event of the day) It will start below Buena Vista on a TBD class 1-2 section approximately 3 miles in length.

Describe the Advantages of your site for this bid:

The Arkansas River is an unparalleled whitewater river in a wide, warm, accommodating valley in the Rocky Mountains surrounded by fourteen thousand foot peaks. Buena Vista, two miles distant, offers lodging from camping, motels, and bed and breakfasts. There are numerous restaurants, brew pubs and grocery stores. Colorado Kayak Supply is a top notch paddle store. Please visit the Buena Vista web site (below) for additional information.

The site is spectator-friendly (i.e. parking and trails to within 50 yards of the river)

Additional amenities are nearby (less than 20 minutes to grocery, hardware, motel, restaurants etc.)

Amenities:

Buena Vista is 120 miles west southwest of Denver

<http://www.buonavistacolorado.org/> - this site lists amenities and activities in the Buena Vista area

<http://salida.com/>: 25 miles south of BV.

<https://leadville.com/> 35 miles north of BV

<http://cpw.state.co.us/placestogo/parks/ArkansasHeadwatersRecreationArea>
[a](#) Arkansas Headwaters Recreation Area ([Map](#))

Section B

Advertising plans for the event, registration, and communication to racers & public:

Advertising will be through retail, local organizations and clubs as well as recognized web sites. A site will be designated for information and registration. It is anticipated that all slalom committee members will communicate with local paddlers about the event.

Sponsors. **TBA**

Address to which entries should be sent and amount of fees:

As indicated on the registration form and website (TBA).

Registration Fee

Registration will be \$90. Registration fee includes 2 classes, and ((Saturday evening meal at the site)).

Each additional class will be \$10.

Note that REGISTRATION for the event must be received by June 29th 2018 otherwise a late fee of \$30 will apply

Last date for entries:

Race entries will accepted up to 8pm July 19th.

Whether late entries will be accepted and late fee:

Late entries will be accepted on site as described above with a late fee of \$30. Late entry additional classes will be \$15 per class.

Limitations on entries:

Maximum 3 classes a day with a total of 7 classes for the entire event.

Classes to be run and eligibility requirements:

As per ACA rules

Sequence and approximate starting times:

As per ACA rules similar to past events. Combined classes will be run on Friday.

Safety measures to be taken:

All persons taking part in the role of providing safety on the river will have training in a recognized river safety course. The area is serviced by ambulance, with nearest 24/7 urgent care within 5 miles, hospital 25 miles.

Nature of awards to be given:

Standard ACA championship awards to top 3 places as provided by ACA and Citizens class awards to top 3 places.

Required work assignment for competitors, if any:

TBD depending on volunteer base.

Times and regulations on practice runs:

Racers can practice with gates from Tuesday through Thursday. Prior to that there is a practice course available year around in Salida, 30 miles South.

Schedule of events (boat measuring, racers meetings, Annual OC Slalom meeting, dinner and awards):

TBA will include a post-race dinner in Buena Vista on last evening.

Special info for the handicapped:

The site is unfortunately not wheelchair accessible.

Statement to be signed by competitors releasing the race organizers from liability during the race & an agreement that the competitors will abide by the ACA open canoe slalom racing rules:

Example:

I, the undersigned, certify that I have read the rules of the race as indicated in this package and agree to abide by them as well as the instructions and directive of the race officials. I affirm that I will inspect the racecourse prior to the race and will not race if it is beyond my capabilities as a whitewater paddler. I also agree to hold harmless from liability for injuries to my person or property, the sponsoring organizations, officials, landowners, and the committee members, and realize that it is not incumbent upon them to furnish first aide, rescue, or salvage equipment and personnel. I also certify that I am an amateur as defined by the American Canoe Association.