



USA Wildwater Honors "2006 Volunteers of the Year" Ritchie, Brabec and Calhoun

Ohiopyle PA - April 14, 2007 – As part of the board meeting at USA Team Trials, the USA Wildwater Committee (WWC) of the USA Canoe/Kayak Team has recognized three of their key volunteers. When presenting the awards John Pinyerd (Chairman) expressed his gratitude to all of our volunteers, races organizers, sponsors, and active board members. But the success of USA Wildwater in 2006 was truly impacted by these volunteers:

Doug Ritchie (WA) – Doug is an outstanding board member, athlete, racer, coach and mentor. Doug's practical approach to getting things accomplished is having a huge impact on our sport. A few of his accomplishments are the successful start up and implementation of the USAWildwater.org email list serve, and the development of training plans for new racers. In addition, Doug was able to bring 28 sorely needed wildwater boats in to the USA through a group order that he organized and managed with Zastera.

Chuck Brabec (WV) – Chuck continues to develop <u>www.usawildwater.com</u> as a "world class" website. Due to Chuck's efforts, we may be able to utilize the site as a marketing and revenue producing tool in the near future. When presenting the awards, Pinyerd remarked that "Chuck is able to take my rough drafts and turn them into works of art on USAWW.com in just a few hours".

Tom Calhoun (MD) – Tom is a key financial sponsor and was the "financial backbone" of USA Wildwater in 2006. As a result, we are able to continue to sponsor our athletes, training camps, and develop coaches. Tom also provides mature leadership in identifying opportunities for development of our sport. We need more volunteers like Tom!

I am excited about what Doug, Chuck and Tom and <u>all</u> of our volunteers are continuing to do in 2007 and the progress we are making!