



2013 Wildwater National Championships
Nantahala River, Wesser NC
Thursday, September 5th & Friday, September 6th, 2013

BULLETIN #1 – June 1st, 2013

Introduction

Welcome to the 2013 Wildwater National Championships being held on the Nantahala River in beautiful Wesser, NC. This event is being held in conjunction with the 2013 ICF Freestyle World Championships, which may end up being the largest international paddle-sports competition in the USA since the 1996 Olympics. Running Wildwater Nationals in conjunction with the Freestyle World Championships gives Wildwater an unprecedented opportunity to get in front of an international audience of athletes, spectators, officials and media, which is an incredible chance for the sport and USA Wildwater to push forwards in a high energy, high exposure, multidiscipline paddle-sports environment. So ramp up your training, grab your friends and plan on being in Wesser, NC to compete for the title of 2013 Wildwater National Champion while witnessing the best freestyle athletes from around the World vie for the title of World Champion.

Tentative Schedule

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

US Wildwater Nationals / Classic Race

Time: 10 am – 12 pm

Location: Surfer's Rapid to NOC Founder's Bridge

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6

US Wildwater Nationals / Sprint Race

Time: 1 – 2 pm

Location: Nantahala Falls to 2013 Wave

Course Description / Classic

The 2013 Wildwater National Championships Classic race will start at "Surfers Rapid" and end below the "Founders Bridge" at the Nantahala Outdoor Center. This 4km course features some entertaining whitewater early, followed by a shallow and flat mid-section before the action starts to build again culminating in the Nantahala Falls and a short sprint to the finish. The fastest times are expected to be around 13 minutes. The Classic race will be run under current ICF Wildwater Competition rules.

Course Description / Sprint

The Sprint race will start immediately below Nantahala Falls on river left. Several course options exist as you power under the Founders Bridge before the river curves left and drops thru the 2013 Freestyle World Championships feature. The finish line follows shortly at the old road bridge. The fastest times are expected to be 70 seconds. The Sprint race will be run under current ICF Wildwater Competition rules. Plan on walking your shuttle as there will be no parking at the Sprint start.

Classes

2013 Wildwater National Championship races will include the following classes; men's kayak (K1M), women's kayak (K1W), men's single canoe (C1M), women's single canoe (C1W) and men's tandem canoe (C2M). Juniors will have the same classes. Plastic boats will have a K1M and K1W class and other classes will be added as the need arises. Everyone is encouraged to race regardless of craft. Due to scheduling limitations, you may only race in one class per day.

Water Releases

Dams owned by Duke Power, control the water flow in the last 8 miles of the Nantahala before the

Nantahala Outdoor Center and Fontana Lake. Race starts may have to be adjusted to meet the release schedule or adapt to release variances. If you're coming to the Nantahala early to train, you should check the dam release schedule at ... <http://www.duke-energy.com/lakes/nantahala/nan-scheduled-flow-releases.asp> It takes approximately 2.5 hours for the released water to reach the Nantahala Outdoor Center and 2 hours for levels to start dropping once the release is terminated.

Airports

The closest airports are Asheville, NC (1.25 hours) and Knoxville, TN (2 hours). The closest major international airports include Charlotte, NC (2.5 hours) and Atlanta, GA (2.5 hours).

Accommodation

The Nantahala Gorge and surrounding area will be crowded for the week of the Freestyle World Championships and consequently parking, traffic and lodging options may be a challenge. So make your lodging or camping reservations early. You'll find all area campgrounds open. Try the Nantahala Outdoor Center's Base Camp for an inexpensive, basic alternative (www.noc.com). You'll also find good value lodging options at the NOC (www.noc.com) with everything from cabins to rooms. Alternatively, refer to Swain County's Chamber of Commerce listing of area lodging (www.greatsmokies.com).

Rafts & Private Boater Traffic

The event organizers will do their best to minimize river traffic congestions and interference, however some raft and private boater traffic on the Nantahala may be unavoidable. The Nantahala is wide and over taking easy in most situations. A simple shout as you approach private boaters is usually enough for them to move out of your way. Please remain courteous to these other river users.

Parking & Shuttles

The Nantahala Gorge will be crowded for the week of the Freestyle World Championships and parking WILL be a challenge. Plan on arriving early and give yourself plenty of time to get to where you need to be and follow parking permitting directions. If you are at the Nantahala training, it is fairly easy to leave your boat at the put-in, drop your vehicle at the take-out and thumb a ride off a boater back to the top. The Nantahala Outdoor Center will also shuttle you for a small fee to the top of the river only. Shuttles will not be provided on race day. Please make your plans with other racers.

Additional Information & Resources

Additional information, final schedule and forms and entry fees will be made available shortly and posted at all the usual information sources.

International Canoe Federation	www.canoeicf.com
USA Canoe/Kayak	www.usack.org
USA Wildwater	www.usawildwater.com
Nantahala Outdoor Center	www.noc.com
Swain County Chamber	www.greatsmokies.com
2013 Freestyle World Champs.	www.freestylekayaking2013.com