

RACE RULES, CLASSES, SPECIFICATIONS, & SCHEDULES

Aluminum Nationals

CANOE SPECIFICATIONS

- Canoes qualified to race are limited to "stock aluminum" – any standard type aluminum canoe – not longer than 17' 4". This is intended to be a manufacturer's stock canoe. "Superaluminum canoes" such as the Minnick or Beaver are regarded as non-standard, and will not be allowed.
- No modification to the canoe can be made except with respect to seat type, seat placement, and interior modifications to interior bulkheads and end caps. To facilitate a change of seat type and placement, the original factory seat may be removed. Adequate flotation must be permanently attached to the canoe. (Note: removal of the bulkheads and end caps will remove flotation, which must be replaced with new flotation material permanently attached to the canoe.)
- The USCA National Competition Chair and the USCA Technical Inspection Chair or their onsite delegate will judge the eligibility of the canoes.
- Note: The Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon on the day after the Aluminum Nationals has the 18' 6" maximum length restriction for aluminum canoe classes.

CANOE FOR RENT

A limited number of qualified stock aluminum canoes, some of them with racing seat conversions, will be available for rent (some for optional purchase). Please contact Gareth Stevens at nawal@ticon.net or Don Walls at donwalls2@netzero.com.

CLASSES & DIVISIONS

- National Championship classes comprise two gender classes, each divided into two age divisions.
- Thus the Championship divisions are:
 - Men Open • Women Open
 - Men Master • Women Master
- Open classes have no age limitation.
- In the Master classes, both paddlers must be 40 years old or older on May 16, 2009.
- Mixed teams classify as "Men".
- Junior teams qualify for additional awards (see below) but for National Championship purposes, they otherwise classify as "Men Open" or "Women Open".

AWARDS

- The winning teams in each division will receive for one year the National Championship traveling trophy. This year, the winning teams in each division will also receive a special aluminum Des Plaines Voyageur statue.
- The first six teams in each division will be awarded USCA National Championship medals.
 - All participants will receive a commemorative T-shirt.
 - Special prizes for the three fastest Aluminum Canoe Marathon Junior Challenge teams.
 - Photos of all winners will appear in USCA's Canoe News magazine.

COURSE DESCRIPTION (also see course map on web site).

The Des Plaines is a river with a winding path through "urban wilderness" – along a Forest Preserve route, with mostly wooded banks, bike and walking paths, and plenty of wildlife (though on race days, the visible wildlife is mostly human).

Length of race: total 14.2 miles on the Des Plaines River from Vernon Hills to Wheeling, IL. The course is downstream for 10.4 miles, counterclockwise around a buoy just north of the finish line, clockwise around a buoy 1.9 miles back upstream, then downstream to the finish line just north of Dam #1.

DATES & TIMES

Saturday, May 16th, 2009 for the Aluminum Nationals
[Sunday, May 17th, 2009 for the Des Plaines River Canoe Marathon (for these start time details see www.canoemarathon.com)]

Start details for the Aluminum Nationals:

Canoe drop off at start area, from 7:00am. Drop your canoe off no later than 8:00am if you want to drive to the finish in time to catch the shuttle back to the start (allow at least 30 minutes drive time). See map on line.

Paddlers may make their own shuttle arrangements or use the shuttle service provided.

Shuttle bus for people and hand-luggage only (no canoes) will leave finish area at: 8:45am.

Registration & check-in at start line area from 8:00 to 10:00.

Mandatory pre-race meeting at 10:00 am.

Races start at 10:30 am. Depending on participation, we may split up starts into Men Open, Men Master, Women Open, and Women Master.

START & FINISH LOCATIONS (see maps on line)

Start: Put in at Townline Road Canoe Launch, west side of the Des Plaines River, Highway 60. Paddle through lagoon into river, then north 100 yards to road bridge.

Finish: Just north of Dam #1. The finish will be marked with two buoys. Racers must finish between the buoys.

Parking - see maps and description online.

Aluminum Canoe Marathon Junior Challenge

Junior teams from Boy Scouts, Girl Scouts, High Schools, or any other youth group whose participants are Juniors by USCA definition

SATURDAY EVENING BANQUET

The Awards Banquet will take place at 7:30pm at the Buca di Beppo, 604 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, IL ph (847) 808 9898. Guest speaker: Peter Heed, who will also be conducting a master canoe racing clinic earlier on Saturday afternoon (details on www.canoemarathon.com). Peter Heed is co-author of the classic [Canoe Racing: A Competitor's Guide to Marathon and Downriver Canoe Racing](#), now in its second edition. Registrations are required for the banquet (limit 120).

HOTEL DISCOUNT FOR OUT-OF-AREA PADDLERS

Wyndham Glenview Suites (an attractive luxury hotel 3 minutes from the Des Plaines River) is supporting our events this year with a very special deal (a suite of rooms for \$69/night) for participants and their supporters for any or all of the nights May 13-18, 2009. For full details see www.canoemarathon.com.