



**January 2003  
Yukon River  
Quest Newsletter**

**Yukon River  
Marathon  
Paddling  
Association**

They are off!! Start of the River Quest in Whitehorse. Many of the boats will not stop until they reach Carmacks 19 to 24 hours later. Photo credit: Paul Harris

**THE YUKON RIVER QUEST SEPARATES**

The Yukon River Quest is in the process of separating from the Yukon Quest International (the dog mushing race) and a new society, the Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association has been registered. This has been an amicable split that will benefit both organizations.

For a lifetime membership in the society send \$50.00 to Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association, 4061, 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue, Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 1H1. Alternatively, new members may chose a yearly membership and pay \$10 per year.

**2003 YUKON RIVER QUEST**

A big lunchtime crowd is expected to gather on Main Street in Whitehorse for the 12:15 start of the fifth Yukon River Quest race on Wednesday, June 25. Competitors run the .5 km to their boats on the Yukon riverbank to start the longest canoe race in the world.

The 740 km race includes categories for tandem canoes, kayaks, and crew boats. The specifications for boats are set out in the Rules published on the web page. <http://www.polarcom.com/~riverquest/rules.htm>

**2002 RIVER QUEST**

In 2002 there were 74 competitors including 21 tandem canoes, eight solo kayaks, five tandem kayaks, and two crew boats. The first boat into Dawson City in 2002 was the tandem canoe team of Bob Vincent and Bob Bradford in a time of 55 hr and 22 minutes. The last boat, a solo kayak, came in at 96 hrs.



**CHANGE OF RULES FOR 2003**

There will be only one rest stop – an eight hour mandatory stop at Carmacks Campground. Arrangements will be made to make sure the campground is quiet and that there will be volunteers at the check point until the last team leaves. Carmacks is a small town, 160 km north of Whitehorse on the North Klondike Highway, where participants will find gas, hotel, store and restaurants.

Racers must reach Carmacks in 40 hours in order to remain as official competitors in the event. Carmacks is 315 km from the start by river and top teams arrive there at about 9 am or 21 hrs into the race.

Paddlers often need help to get out of their boats after a day of non-stop paddling. The 40 hour cut-off is required as it is very difficult for organizers to find enough volunteers to cover the check point when there is such a long period of time between the first and last teams.



Harris & Horton  
2000 5th place canoe  
at Carmacks checkpoint

**2003 Schedule**

- Tuesday, June 24:** Registration and equipment check
- Wednesday, June 25 12:15** start in Whitehorse
- Sunday, June 29:** all racers arrive in Dawson City by 12:15.
- Sunday, June 29, 1:00 p.m.**Awards Ceremony in Dawson City, Yukon.

Comments on the Newsletter?  
Contact the Editor: Yvonne Harris  
867 668-7874 [ypharris@klondiker.com](mailto:ypharris@klondiker.com)





Ingrid Wilcox, Solo Kayak Women's Record Holder, arriving in Dawson City

## VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

There is an enthusiastic group of volunteers working on the 2003 event. The Quest needs 35 to 40 volunteers for the following:

**Tuesday, June 24**, equipment check and registration in Whitehorse

**Wednesday, June 25** for the final equipment check and the start in Whitehorse

**Thursday a.m to early Friday am June 26 and 27** for the Carmacks checkpoint

**Friday 4 p.m. June 28 to Sunday, 12:15, June 29<sup>th</sup>** Dawson City finish line

**Sunday, 1:00 p.m.** for the barbeque and awards ceremony

If you can volunteer please call Ingrid Wilcox at 867-668-6562 or e-mail [lubbock@yknet.yk.ca](mailto:lubbock@yknet.yk.ca)

## YUKON RIVER QUEST RECORDS

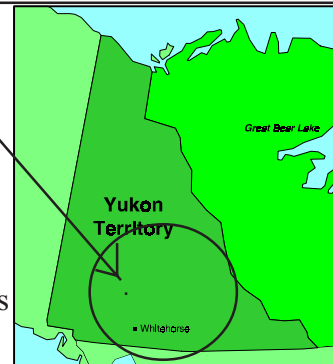
Category	Times	Record Holders	Country	Year
Men's tandem canoe	53:10	Tom Feil and Jeff Mettler	USA	2001
Men's tandem canoe modified (No longer a category)	52:09	Steve Landick and Mark Churchill	USA	2001
Mixed tandem canoe	60:57	Bob Vincent and Gwyn Hayman	Canada	2000
Women's tandem canoe	67:15	Yvonne Harris and Pat McKenna	Canada	2002
Men's tandem kayak	56:23	Brandon Nelson and John Weed	USA	2002
Mixed tandem kayak	72:08	Kymm Robinson and Tom Gourley	Ireland	2002
Men's solo kayak	60:57	Mike Rodinger	Austria	2001
Women's solo kayak	72:29	Ingrid Wilcox	Canada	2002
Crew boat	79:26	Paddlers Abreast	Canada	2002

The recorded times are very close for some categories so there may be some errors. For example, in 2000, the tandem canoe team of Solomon Carrier and Dan Solie won the race in 53 hrs and 25 minutes – very close to the record set in 2001. If you find we have posted incorrect records, please contact the editor [ypharris@klondiker.com](mailto:ypharris@klondiker.com)



Bob Vincent and Bob Bradford, 2002 tandem canoe winners, at the awards ceremony in Dawson City.

You will paddle through Yukon's remote wilderness



## HOW TO CONTACT US

Yukon River Quest, Yukon River Marathon Paddling Association, 4061 4th Ave. Whitehorse, Yukon, Y1A 1H1

<http://www.polarcom.com/~riverquest>

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