

RAW

Rafting Around the World

June 2008

best
Outfitters **On earth**

Euro Champs
2008





Contents

Board of Directors

The Board of Directors is composed of the following 10 persons:

President

Mr. Rafael Gallo
Rios Tropicales;
Paseo Colon,
38th Street, Ave. 3-5; Suite 351;
San Jose, Costa Rica
Ph: +506-233-6455
Fax: +506-255-4354

1st Vice President

Mr. Tony Hansen
PO Box 22727,
Scarborough, 7975, Cape Town;
South Africa
Ph: +27-21-780-1313

2nd Vice President

Mr. Peter Micheler
Am Eiskanal 30,
D-86161 Augsburg ; GERMANY
Ph: (w) +49-821-550055
Fax: 49-821+556332

Treasurer

Mr. Mark Joffe
2647 South Flower St;
Lakewood,
CO 80227 USA
Tel: 1 - 303 989 7194

Secretary General

Ms. Sue Liell-Cock
La Preneuse,
Black River,
Mauritius



IRF New Faces	3-4
IRF Waterlines.....	5
Best Outfitters on Earth	6-8
Calendar.....	9-12
Euro Champs 2008	13-15
Water Babies.....	16
Parting Shot.....	17

Heads of Committee's

Sports and Competition

Robert Kazik
Hranicka 1;
Prerov 4 751 24; CZECH REPUBLIC
Tel: 0641 - 212 543
Fax: 0641 - 212 543

Guide Training and Education

Steve Nomchong
Foch 746 y Juan Leon Mera,
Quito, ECUADOR.
Tel. 593-2-290 4054.
Fax 593-2-290 4055

Recreational Rafting & Conservation

Sergei Trofimenko
c/o Point Passat Tsvetnoi bulvar 30,
bldg.1 Moscow, Russia 127051
Tel: 7 - 495-795-0900
Fax: 7 - 495-795-0982

International Relations

Jakob Faerch
Address: Kronprinsesse Sofies
Vej 8, 4th floor left door;
DK-2000 Frederiksberg; DENMARK
Phone: (+45) 38882469
Mobile: (+45) 28694774

Media & Marketing

Shigeto Asano
2-12-45 Higashi-shindo; Hiratsuka-
City; Kanagawa 254-0018; Japan
Phone & Fax: 0463-53-8259

RAW—Rafting Around the World

Sonia Ivetac
13 Bachli Court, Anglesea
Victoria, 3230, Australia

Send letters, news and event results to
irfmagazine@inraftfed.com



IRF *committee*

Shigeto Asano: Media & Marketing

I was born in Johannesburg, South Africa. I started rafting as a rafting guide of Raging Thunder Co.ltd. in Australia in '93.

I formed the Japan national team and I raced the CWWC in '99 in South Africa.

Since then, I have been relating to this raft-racing world.

I organized the Australasian Rafting Championship in 2001 and since then I have been producing the various rafting races in Japan including the Japan Cup rafting race consisting of 5 races a year according to the IRF's race rules.

I have also been working to build rafting's artificial courses in Japan. The examination course for this was completed in Nagano.

In 2002, I succeeded securing the sponsorship of the private company who is interested in the rafting as a sport.

I assumed the position of the supervisor of Rafting team TEIKEI which is the only professional rafting team in the world.

Organizing/Judging experience

2001 Australasian Championship in Japan as a Event Director.

General Director for Japan Cup Rafting Race.

General Judge & Slalom gate setter for most of race in Japan.

IRF General Judge Certified in Czech republic 2003.

IRF Chief Judge Certified in Ecuador 2006.



NEW FACES

GUIDE TRAINING & *education*



COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Gaspar Goncz,

Nationality: Hungarian

Vital Data: 29 year-old, 185cm, 85kg

Experience: IRF Instructor,
Kayak – class 5, Rafting – class 5,
Canyoning

Paddled:

around 70 rivers, 19 years (11 years rafting), Europe (Karpats, Alps, Pirenees), America (Andes-Peru, Ecuador, Costa Rica, US), Asia (Turkey)

Results:

Marathon Kayak Worlds 9th (1997)
Slalom Kayak National Champion (2003, 2004)
Kajak-polo European Championships 9th (2000)
Rafting European Championships 14th (2000)
Rafting Worlds 13th (2005, Ecuador)

Participated:

Kayak Freestyle Worlds (Sort-Spain)
Waveski Worlds (Guadeloupe)
Slalom Worlds (Ausborg, 2003)
Slalom World Cup (Athens, olimpic course, 2004)
Rafting Expedition, Colca
Canyon - Peru (2000)
Kayak Expedition, Patria -
Costa Rica (2007)

Diplomas:

IRF Instructor (IRF),
International Lifesaver
(International Life Saving
Federation), Swift Water
Rescue Technician, Driving
License, First Aid, CPR
(Instructor at EFR), Kayak
Instructor, 1.level mountaineer,
University of Economics

Winter activities: Ski,
telemark and snowboard
instructor, extreme ski (France)
Extreme Sport Club.
(www.naturelle.hu)



GT&E COMMITTEE ADMINISTRATOR

Raewyn Larcombe

My interest in rafting started with the annual family multiday rafting trips with Southy around NZ. The family has grown up and are now guiding, so I got involved with the Administration of the NZ Rafting Association. I enjoy the camaraderie that exists within the rafting world and respect the skills and talent of the guides that make my trips down the river a safe and enjoyable one!

NEW FACES

Greetings from the Ultimate Descents family, I hope all is well where ever you are. Plans are well under way for a celebration of 20 years running river for Ultimate Descents. Nepal has been such a huge part of our lives and I know many of yours as well that we have planned some celebrations in Sept - Oct 2008. The plan is to get as many old friends and guides out to Nepal as possible to play. These trips will be stacked with past guides and clients and are going to be a moveable feast. I hope you can join us as you are all a big part of what we created in Nepal with Ultimate Descents and it would be so good to see you there again.



PHOTO CREDITS

Photographs in this issue of RAW kindly supplied by:

Iványi Gábor
Michael Lindberg
Adam Norfolk
Fieke Reijntjes
Ella Oesterholt

Bhutan – Drangme Chhu River First Descent

19 Nov. 05 Dec. 2008

Planning is well under way for the first ever descent of the Drangme Chhu river in eastern Bhutan. This is an amazing journey of discovery down the largest and last unexplored river system in Bhutan. Until recently the east of Bhutan was totally restricted and our special permit will be the first group to ever. After pioneering Bhutan's rivers in the 90's this first descent closes the chapter on river exploration in Bhutan. The Drangme Chhu is an exciting journey, it is challenging and isolated, offering days of world class whitewater and some of the most dramatic mountain scenery and intact culture found anywhere in the Himalayas. Let's not mince words here: Bhutan is the cutest little kingdom on earth. A gigantic staircase rising from the Indian border to the high Himalayas of Tibet, the soaring peaks of Bhutan are an untapped treasure house of whitewater. The rivers are powerful and challenging. The mountains are magnificent. The people are delightful. The architecture and art is superb. All together, this is a world-class odyssey in a magical land.

Reunion in Nepal!



<< youtube >>

When posting your video on youtube, use words such as IRF, EC, rafting and year in the title. Rafting on youtube will be easy to access and identify this way.

Presentation of the women world champion team "Jezinky" Korea 2007:

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=guOZVL4Wrhk>

Kamenice DR invitation 2008

<http://youtube.com/watch?v=4LHhxBB0On4>

Eurocup R4 and R6 Trnavka invitation 2008

http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SrNwJ_1d8qM

Juniors can paddle too you know!

Sue Liell Cock (IRF Secretary) says.....

Russia was keen to hold a Junior World Rafting Champs this year but when we investigated who would be able to come, we had less than 10 countries.

But it has ignited the interest amongst the federations and they are starting to work on developing the Junior aspect of their rafting.

Czech Rep, who already hold Junior events, was already working on an event for later this year. Veterans as well! They are open to other teams from the rest of the world coming.

NEED A GUIDE?

To download the full list of IRF certified guides, trip leaders, instructors and assessors:
<http://www.intraftfed.com/gte/certified.html>

NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC

ADVENTURE

DREAM IT.
PLAN IT.
DO IT.



Ríos Tropicales

BEST
{Outfitters}
Earth
ON THE WEB

The ADVENTURE Ratings:

The World's First Authoritative
Rating of Adventure Tour Operators



"Our company has distinguished itself in its field as an adventure travel outfitter because, from the very beginning, we have had a clear mission to share our rivers and conserve them. This has meant fighting an uphill battle against logging, deforestation, and the intense pressure by the national energy company to dam our rivers for hydroelectric power. Because of our determination to preserve our natural beauty, we were able to galvanize local and national support against the proposed dam on the Pacuare River, effectively defeating the project and saving our river, considered one of most beautiful in the world. We continue to work at safeguarding our rivers, purchasing land for reforestation and conserving it in natural reserves."

Best Outfitters on Earth

In 2007, National Geographic ADVENTURE Magazine conducted a comprehensive rating of the world's adventure-travel outfitters and compiled a list of the front-runners. To be eligible for inclusion, a questionnaire was completed on four key elements; Education and Interpretation, Sustainable-Travel Practices, Quality of Service, Spirit of Adventure.

Here's how Rios Tropicales did it.....

Nat Geo: Describe your company philosophy?

Rios Tropicales: Since the start of our operation in 1985 our mission has consistently been to share the rivers and natural resources of Costa Rica, our culture and our conservation values, with a constant commitment to professionalism, safety, high quality and extraordinary service."

Nat Geo: "How do you maximize learning opportunities for participants during each trip?"

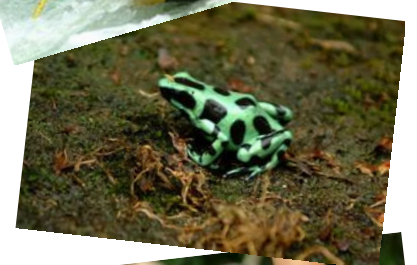
Rios Tropicales: Our guides spend most of

the trip in direct contact with our clients and are extremely knowledgeable about local wildlife and conservation, and trained and enthusiastic about imparting this knowledge during the trip at every opportunity, regardless of the length of the trip. If time allows and/or the nature of the trip is specifically educational, we incorporate visits to local communities and involve participants in conservation efforts such as tree-planting or community projects.

We also hire local indigenous staff, who share their specialized knowledge with our clients whenever possible."

Nat Geo: "What key sustainable-tourism practices does your company follow to minimize the negative environmental impact of its trips?"

Rios Tropicales: "We use self-propelled equipment (rafts and kayaks) on the river and therefore do not contaminate with motor noise or pollutants; we follow "leave no trace" practices and use "clean" hydroelectric power we generate ourselves for our lodge. Our lodge was built with free-fall trees and



materials rafted in, and we have a tree-planting program to promote carbon offsets as well as enhance the natural beauty of the site. We use biodegradable products as much as possible, and we organically compost biodegradable waste at our lodge and treat all waste water; we raft out all non-biodegradable waste.”

Nat Geo: “Do you have initiatives that maximize the social and economic benefits from your trips to local people?”

Rios Tropicales: “We participate with local community schools in environmental conservation education and promote local reforestation efforts in addition to reforesting our own land. Some of our groups work as volunteers with the locals on community projects. We also hire locals to work with us, encouraging them to seek more education and expand their horizons beyond traditional subsistence farming. When we purchase land from locals we hire them to help conserve and reforest the land, and some families have benefited by setting up their own ecologically sustainable tourism services.”

Nat Geo: Do your trips directly support nature conservation in the destinations you visit?

Rios Tropicales: “Part of the profits from our trips is used to purchase land which is then protected from deforestation. Our goal is to preserve the pristine beauty of the river. The 10% of the land that is not forested is being reforested; we have a program to develop seeds from local forest species and reforest with the local species. In addition, we bring in some volunteer groups that help with the conservation projects as part of their trip

Nat Geo: “Do your trips support cultural heritage and preservation?”

Rios Tropicales: “Part of the profits from our trips is used to purchase land which is then protected from deforestation.

●Our goal is to preserve the pristine beauty of the river. The 10% of the land that is not forested is being reforested; we have a program to develop seeds from local forest species and reforest with the local species. In addition, we bring in some volunteer groups that help with the conservation projects as part of their trip.”How does your company address customer questions and complaints?

Rios Tropicales: “All our guides are trained and authorized to deal with customer questions and complaints during the trip, and act as customer relations representatives. Any complaints that cannot be handled by them - which may happen several times a year (last year there were only 4 serious complaints out of 40,000 customers!) - are taken care of personally by the company president and/or vice-president. Customer relations representatives (company staff or booking agents, etc.) interact with our customers and respond to inquiries as quickly and as often as needed.”

Nat Geo: “How often do you replace the gear supplied to clients?”

Rios Tropicales: “We follow industry best practices, maintaining and replacing gear whenever wear-and-tear indicates this is necessary for safety and enjoyment. In particular, we replace life vests every two years. Other equipment, such as the rafts, have a longer useful lifetime. We are very aware that the nature of our operation, with trips being made year-round, requires daily assessment of the equipment.”

Nat Geo: “What type of guide training do you require?”

Rios Tropicales: “Our whitewater rafting guides, who require the most training, first go through a long interview process; they then undergo an intensive 6-day training program on the river, and work several months on the rafts without actually guiding. If they pass review, they are certified by the International Rafting Federation. Certification is renewable every 2 years, but can be lost at any time if the guide does not measure up to standards. Guides are also trained in first aid and CPR, required for certification, and some also take river rescue and evacuation training and advanced emergency treatment courses.”

Nat Geo: “What kind of risk management plan does your company have in place to ensure that trips are operated in a safe and secure way?”

Rios Tropicales: “We have operation manuals for each river and assess river

conditions daily, because in Costa Rica our rivers are in constant flux. Every guide has a basic first aid kit and all groups are equipped with basic rescue gear including radio communication gear. Guides are trained and expected to follow safety procedures and assess river conditions constantly, and every trip on the river is preceded by a staff meeting to ascertain the risks; we follow a protocol for cancelling trips if conditions do not meet our safety standards, whether due to natural or mechanical or other causes.

Nat Geo: “How would you characterise the majority of the destinations your company explores?”

Rios Tropicales: “Ours is a popular adventure region, at this point, but our destinations are often remote and less-trodden, inaccessible by road or air and requiring at least several hours to walk or raft/kayak in and out.”

Contents of this article are reproduced with the kind permission of Raf, Rios Tropicales.

The ADVENTURE Ratings: The First Authoritative Rating of Adventure Travel Companies

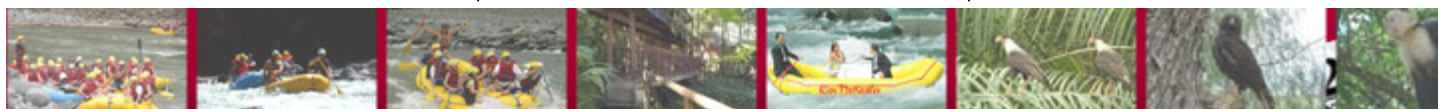
By Costas Christ and Claire Martin

As part of the National Geographic Society, we have a unique take on travel. We appreciate fine meals and high thread counts, but we also want to know who's teaching their clients about the places they visit, who's pushing the frontiers of discovery and adventure, and who's giving back to the planet. We surveyed over 200 outfitters and scored them on the criteria that matter to us most: education, sustainability, quality of service, and spirit of adventure. We were pleasantly surprised to find that almost all of them consider their environmental impact a fundamental part of the trips they offer.

Each of the 158 companies featured here received an overall score of 80 or higher in our survey and, therefore, merits your consideration.

A team of *Adventure* editors, travel writers, and experts vetted those with overall scores of 80 and above and, from this pool of candidates, chose the “Best Outfitters on Earth,” 55 of which were profiled in the November 2007 issue of *National Geographic Adventure*, divided into the six major categories below. The rest are listed online.

atr.nationalgeographic.com/outfitters



IRF Australasian Rafting Championships 2008



Japan, Nagara River, Gifu 11-13 October 2008



TRAVEL:

The nearest international airport is Centrair airport (<http://www.centrair.jp/en/index.html>) which is located in middle of Japan. From airport to Gifu, It's about 150 km distance and 1.5h to 2 h drive. It costs 3000yen for highway fee. There are also train from Nagoya to Gifu. It takes 50mn and costs 1500yen per person. We will transfer the overseas competitor (per team) from the airport to the event location.

it is recommended that competitors get their own travel insurance

ACCOMMODATION/MEALS

All teams, staffs and media will be staying at the traditional Japanese style Sizenen cottages.

(<http://www.shizenen.com/>)

NAGARA-GAWA

whitewater festival, known as the biggest rafting event in Japan, is celebrating its 15th anniversary this year.

This event started with referring to the Project raft world champs in Turkey in 1993. Now it is a part of Japan cup rafting racing with approximately 50 teams competing every year.

All the staff working on this event are real rafting lovers and have experienced the 2001 IRF Australasian Champs; so we all have know-how to which an international event is made to succeed!!

It will be great pleasure if we could celebrate this event with as many international guests as possible.

RIVER:

Nagara-river, Gifu. Grade 3-4 Medium volume Whitewater (30-80cms) with continuous rapids. It is completely natural whitewater.

ENTRY FEE: US\$100 per person to cover transportation to and from the airport, accommodation, all meals, transport on and off from the river during the event.

RACE FORMAT:

*Sprint = <3 dan rapids>
250-300m class 3 rapid all over

*Slalom =<3 dan rapids>
250-300m class 3 rapid all over

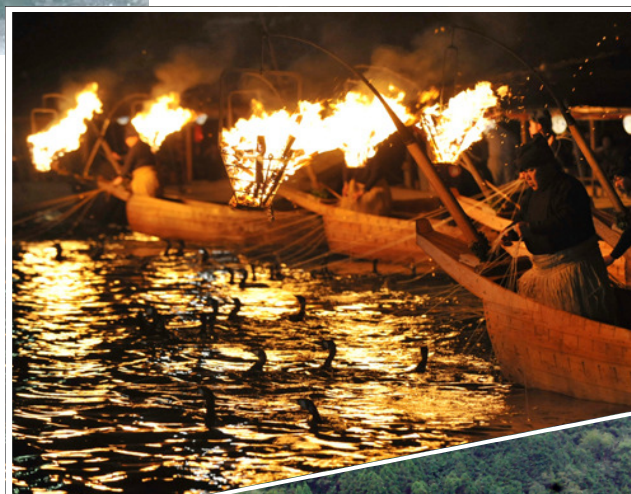
*Downriver = Start from Gujo hot-spring to finish at ODSS river base. 14km. Grade 3 - 4 rapids.

TEAMS:

This event is the Australasian Championship officially recognized by IRF. Any international teams are welcome. However; only countries that are members of the IRF may qualify..

Please contact IRF Administration in connection with this on

champs@intraftfed.com



RACEcalendar

IRF Pre-Worlds Champs 2008 12–15 June

The River Vrbas & The River Tara, Bosnia and Herzegovina

The Rafting Team "KANJON" invites all Rafting Teams all over the World for The Pre-World Rafting Championships in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Races will be held on two Rivers - Vrbas & Tara.

June 12th (Thursday): Discipline:
Downriver

River: Tara **City:** Foča

10:00 START (Brštenovica - Šćepan Polje) - 16 km

17:00 Prize giving for Downriver (City Foča)

19:00 Transport to Banja Luka

June 13th (Friday): Opening Ceremony in Banja Luka

08:00 Transport to Banja Luka

11:00 Training - sprint (Bijeli Buk)

13:00 Training - slalom (Canyon Tijesno)

17:00 Captains meeting (Camp Krupa na Vrbasu)

20:00 Opening Ceremony (City Banja Luka)

June 14th (Saturday): Discipline:
Sprint & H2H

River: Vrbas **City:** Banja Luka

10:00 Start of Sprint

12:00 Start of H2H

17:00 Captains meeting (Camp Krupa na Vrbasu)

18:00 Prize giving for Sprint & H2H (Camp Krupa na Vrbasu)

19:00 Party (Camp Krupa na Vrbasu)

June 15th (Sunday): Discipline:
Slalom

River: Vrbas **City:** Banja Luka

09:00 Start of 1st race (Canyon Tijesno)

12:00 Start of 2nd race (Canyon Tijesno)

16:00 Prize giving for winners

Organizer:

Rafting club "KANJON", Banja Luka

Registrations:

info@2009wrc.com

Entries fee:

50 EUR until 15th may 2008

100 EUR after 15th may 2008

Rafts:

RobFin 420 - R6 Rafts - will be provided free of charge.

Categories:

R6 man and woman

Transport:

For all competitors who will arrive with airplane, the organizers will provide transport free of charge from airports Zagreb, Belgrade and Sarajevo, to the place of accommodation, transport to the river Tara and back, and all other transports during competition.

We do not organize transport for all others who will arrive with own vehicles.

Judges:

During the competition, the organizers will provide accommodation, food and transport for all judges free of charge. All IRF judges are welcome.

Accommodation:

Organizer will provide accommodation free of charge for all competitors during competition on the river Vrbas at camp who's placed in Krupa on Vrbas, as well as accommodation in bungalows during competition on the river Tara at 12th June.

Food:

Organizer will provide two meals free of charge for all competitors during competition.



© Josip

Contact:

Alexandar Pastir,
Event Director,
2009 IRF World Rafting Championships
apastir@2009wrc.com
Miroslav Vasiljevic
WRC 2009 Secretary General,
info@2009wrc.com

RACE*calendar*



Slalom and Time trial in
Roudnice nad Labem
Czech republic

Boats: Colorado 450 are provided
by the organizer.

Location: Slalom race channel
(WWill) in Roudnice nad Labem.
Roudnice nad Labem is located
50km far from Prague via highway
D8. (Slalom course will host World
junior slalom championship in
June 2008)

Organisers: Director of event: Mar-
tin Procházka. Main judge: Slalom
course builder: Jiří Irain, Petr Ve-
sely

Registration: till 2008-09-07
to address: Martin Procházka,
Václava Klementa 836, 293 01
Mladá Boleslav, CZ by e-mail:
martin.prochaz@seznam.cz
phone number: +420 724 017 493

Entry fee: 500 CZK per team for
members of SvoČR and SVRSR,
30 EUR for other teams

junior1 R4 - from 12 to 16 years
old (years of birth 1996 - 1992)

- junior2 R4 - from 16 to 18
years old (years of birth 1992 -
1990)
- veteran1 R4 - from 40 years old
(years of birth 1968)
- veteran2 R4 - from 50 years old
(years of birth 1958)
- for veterans and juniors may be
category integrate together in
case participate less than 3
teams
- men R4; women R4

20th - 21st September 2008

Unofficial European Raft- ing Championship of R4 for Juniors and Veterans

Juniors and Veterans Championship of Czech Republic

Czech men and women cup in R4 Event of club teams

RACE *calendar*

Pan-American Rafting Championships 2008



The Rafting Association of Argentina is proud to host the 2008 Pan-American Rafting Championships in Mendoza, Argentina **November 25-29**. The races will be held on the Upper Mendoza River, located in the base of the Andes.

Mendoza province is a beautiful tourist destination with rich Argentine culture. Not only is the natural landscape of the Andes Mountains, snow-melt rivers and hanging glaciers beautiful so is the vibrant small commercial city. Tango & folklore, beef & goat barbeques, vineyards & agricultural products are all part of the diverse cultural fabric you will discover in Mendoza.

- **Sprint** (300-400 mts river distance) upper Mendoza River class II, few rapids. Put-in Los Arboles and take out at Pueblo del Rio.

- **Slalom** (300 m) class II with one class III, put-in at Mendoza Rafting and take out at lower Afordadora taking advantage of complete river curve.

- **Down River** (14 km) with 5 class III rapids with one class IV rapid and continual class II rapids on the Upper Mendoza River. Put-in & starting line at Guido and finish line at Iron Bridge, take out at 500m downstream.

- The cost per team is **U\$S300 inscription fee**. An additional cost of **U\$S 150 per person covers food/ lodging** for each team member and coach.

The accommodations, meals, ground transportation, and gear (paddles/boats) will be covered in the cost. We are happy to assist in additional accommodations for teams arriving before November 25th to train.

For more information, send an email to: Event Chairman, Sergio Bettancourt info@araft.com.ar



Mendoza River

is Class III continuous with no drops, Medium Volume 60-100 mts/sec. depending on the winter snow pack & spring snow melts. The unregulated spring and summer flows are sediment filled and run chocolate brown in colour. Once decanted in the Potrerillos Reservoir, the water becomes turquoise glacier blue.



Euro Champs 08



[Click here to download the updated Men's R6 and R4 & Women's R6 and R4](#)

Men's Results: European Champs 2008

	Sprint		H2H		Slalom		Downriver		Overall	
Nation	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
RUS	9	57	2	176	7	189	1	400	1	822
CZE	3	79	10	108	1	300	4	288	2	775
GBR	4	72	1	200	8	180	5	276	3	728
CZE	10	54	3	158	6	198	3	316	4	726
HUN	2	88	9	114	9	171	2	352	5	725
AUT	5	69	6	132	2	264	7	252	6	717
SVK	7	63	4	144	4	216	9	228	7	651
SLO	11	51	7	126	3	237	10	216	8	630
NED	1	100	16	76	5	207	8	240	9	623
GER	6	66	5	138	11	153	6	264	10	621
HUN	12	48	11	102	13	135	13	180	11	465
SVK	19	32	17	72	10	162	14	168	12	434
ITA	16	38	8	120	24	66	12	192	13	416
GER	13	45	12	96	14	126	17	144	14	411
LAT	14	42	13	90	12	144	19	128	15	404
BUL	26	18	18	68	20	90	11	204	16	380
CRO	8	60	14	84	16	114	20	120	17	378
CRO	15	40	15	80	18	102	16	152	19	374
DEN	17	36	19	64	15	120	18	136	18	356
AUT	18	34	23	48	17	108	15	160	20	350
LAT	20	30	22	52	19	96	21	112	21	290
SLO	21	28	20	60	21	84	23	96	22	268
BOS	22	26	24	44	23	72	22	104	23	246
POR	24	22	21	56	22	78	25	80	24	236
SUI	25	20	26	36	25	60	24	88	25	204
BUL	23	24	25	40	26	54	26	72	26	190

Women's Results: European Champs 2008

	Sprint		H2H		Slalom		Downriver		Overall	
Nation	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points	Rank	Points
SVK	1	100	2	176	1	300	1	400	1	976
NED	2	88	1	200	9	171	2	352	2	811
CZE	11	51	4	144	2	264	4	288	3	747
GBR	6	66	8	120	4	216	3	316	4	718
GER	8	60	3	158	7	189	5	276	5	683
CZE	7	63	6	132	3	237	8	240	6	672
NOR	3	79	10	108	5	207	7	252	7	646
RUS	4	72	16	76	6	198	6	264	8	610
HUN	5	69	5	138	10	162	9	228	9	597
SVK	10	54	9	114	8	180	10	216	10	564
NOR	12	48	7	126	11	153	11	204	11	531
RUS	9	57	14	84	12	144	12	192	12	477
ITA	15	40	12	96	16	114	13	180	13	430
SER	14	42	13	90	13	135	15	160	14	427
GBR	13	45	11	102	15	120	17	144	15	411
HUN	17	36	17	72	14	126	14	168	16	402
SLO	16	38	15	80	17	108	16	152	17	378
BUL	18	34	18	68	18	102	18	136	18	340
TUR	20	30	20	60	19	96	19	128	19	314
SER	19	32	19	64	20	90	20	120	20	306



Euro Champs

WATERbabies

RAFTING WITH CHILDREN a mum's perspective

Rafting for young children is a wonderful experience. When my son was younger he and I went on the Class II [Tom Sawyer Float](#) section of the South Fork of the American with about 5 other river-guide parents and their children. The parent who was guiding kept the boat in the current and we simply floated along while the little ones squealed as they were splashed by small waves, watched the mommy Merganser ducks with their babies dodge in and out of the mini rapids along the shore, and gazed at the butterflies dancing on the waves. The kids had a lot of fun and we parents had a wonderful time just watching our children soak it all in. My son is older now and I've learned that young children are scientists at their core. On any given day they can

Taking an agonizingly long time to move from the front door to the car door, examining every blade of grass, flower--and in my case dandelion --there is on the front walkway. My son likes noting to my chagrin that "the dandelions are growing the biggest, mommy!" Later the chemist appears when he takes his snack of blueberries, cheese, and wheat crackers, mashes them together to see what it becomes, and then determines that it doesn't taste like he had hypothesized it would and may he "please have a new snack." And a day is just not complete without the physicist setting up his lab. One slide, three trucks, and a stack of rocks later you have a test site for how mass affects acceleration. I love letting the "scientists" in my child run free and I try to give him every opportunity I can to observe and interact with his natural world. Rafting is a wonderful way for him to be in the natural environment of the river--and it's also fun for me.

Even before I had a child of my own, I can vividly remember when I first noticed how young children, really are so amazingly observant. I had been working as a river guide for two seasons and had had many different guests in my boat: CEO's, contractors, computer gurus, mechanics, police officers, doctors, and many other very competent people. These guests were all very engaging, asking questions, telling stories, and basically just good groups of people to spend the day with. One day was



different though; I had a young boy, about seven years old, on my boat with his family. We were in a calm section of water, just simply floating with the current and enjoying the sun and the views. This little boy was looking over the side of the raft, watching the water when he quietly asked me, "why is some of the water going slower than the other water?"

I was stunned. This may seem like a very simple question but in reality it is the key to running a river. In guiding language it is called "reading water". As a guide you need to be able to see the different currents in a rapid. When looking at a rapid, it may appear that the water is running extremely fast, but that's not the whole story. In any given rapid there are places where the water truly is running fast but in that same rapid there might be a place where the water is running very slow or in even going upstream. If you can see these places you can read where your boat will go fast, slow down, turn, or even stop. Being able to "read the water" allows the guide to navigate a rapid. No adult in my boat had ever made this simple observation about water before, but the child saw it as clear as day. I was truly amazed.

Experiences like these are what make river trips great for me personally as a guide--and it's also what makes them perfect for families. They provide endless opportunities for kids to learn and engage with the world around them while at the same time providing a fantastic way to enjoy time as a family together.

--Stephanie P.

Senior Guide for All Outdoors--California Whitewater Rafting, and mother of Wyatt

Reproduced from All Outdoors website:
<http://www.aorrafting.com>

It's a 3-D river-rafting adventure. Help Dora race to Tico's party before Swiper swipes the presents! Pre-schoolers steer through crocodiles and swimming snakes, solve the gate puzzle, and find friendly frogs.

http://www.nickjr.com/shows/dora/dora_games/



Parting Shot



European Rafting Champs 2008

“This picture says what the ERC meant to me. You need to be conditionally strong, believing in your strength, but also use your head, and stand together as a team. Only then, when luck is also on your side, you can beat each of these technical and strong teams. There is not one country you can underestimate, the competition is big, and so close together!”

Ella Oesterholt
NED team Women.