

# INTERNATIONAL RAFTING FEDERATION

## THE WHITE WATER MAGAZINE

### ARTICLES:

BOD ANNOUNCEMENT

PASSED EVENTS

INNER CITY KID - BY SHEILA WHITE

OVERWEIGHT CHILDREN GO RAFTING



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OVERWEIGHT CHILDREN GO RAFTING



## IRF BOD & COMMITTEES

### a) Announcement:

The IRF BOD and Sport & Competition Committee would like to announce that BIDS ARE NOW OPEN FOR THE 2009 IRF WORLD RAFTING CHAMPS. The due date for the PARTIAL bid is 10th December 2006. The due date for the FULL bid is the 23rd February 2007. If your federation is interested in bidding for this event please contact us for the application documents and bid procedure.

### b) International Relations Committee Preface

Eight months have gone since the IRF Congress 2006 took the vote to form a new working committee and at the same time selecting members to it for the period until next congress. This article will give you some ideas about what the committee members are doing right now and what they will be working for in the future.

#### Objectives

In the IRF Statutes it states that International Relations Committee duties are:

- to submit proposals for the development of this rafting component.
- to organize the work of recruiting new member federations to IRF.
- to work towards IRF membership to different international sports organisations.
- to prepare statistics on competitive rafting around the world.
- to represent the IRF in all international relations (attend general meetings in affiliated international organisations, write letter/e-mails, meet with IOC representatives, etc.).
- to work towards rafting being an IOC recognised sport.
- to establish a budget for the work of developing international relations.

As stated in the general objectives, this committee can take up a lot of tasks, but the tasks we have set out with are currently the most important ones for the IRF.

The main points we are working with are: membership statistics, recruitment of new members, involvement in international sports organisations and anti-doping rules for IRF.

As these tasks will be fulfilled or will live their own life, we will take up the next relevant tasks. Any tasks given to the committee by the IRF BOD will be given highest priority. If any single member of the IRF has ideas for future working areas of this committee you are most welcome to send in a proposal. In the following sections I will give the status on the working areas so far.

#### Membership Statistics

In 2007 the IRF will be 10 years old, and WRC 2007 will be the event where we celebrate this, together with the 2007 IRF Congress. That is the date we aim to present a report with current IRF Member statistics. Shaukat Sikand (India) started this investigation by writing to all the national representatives.

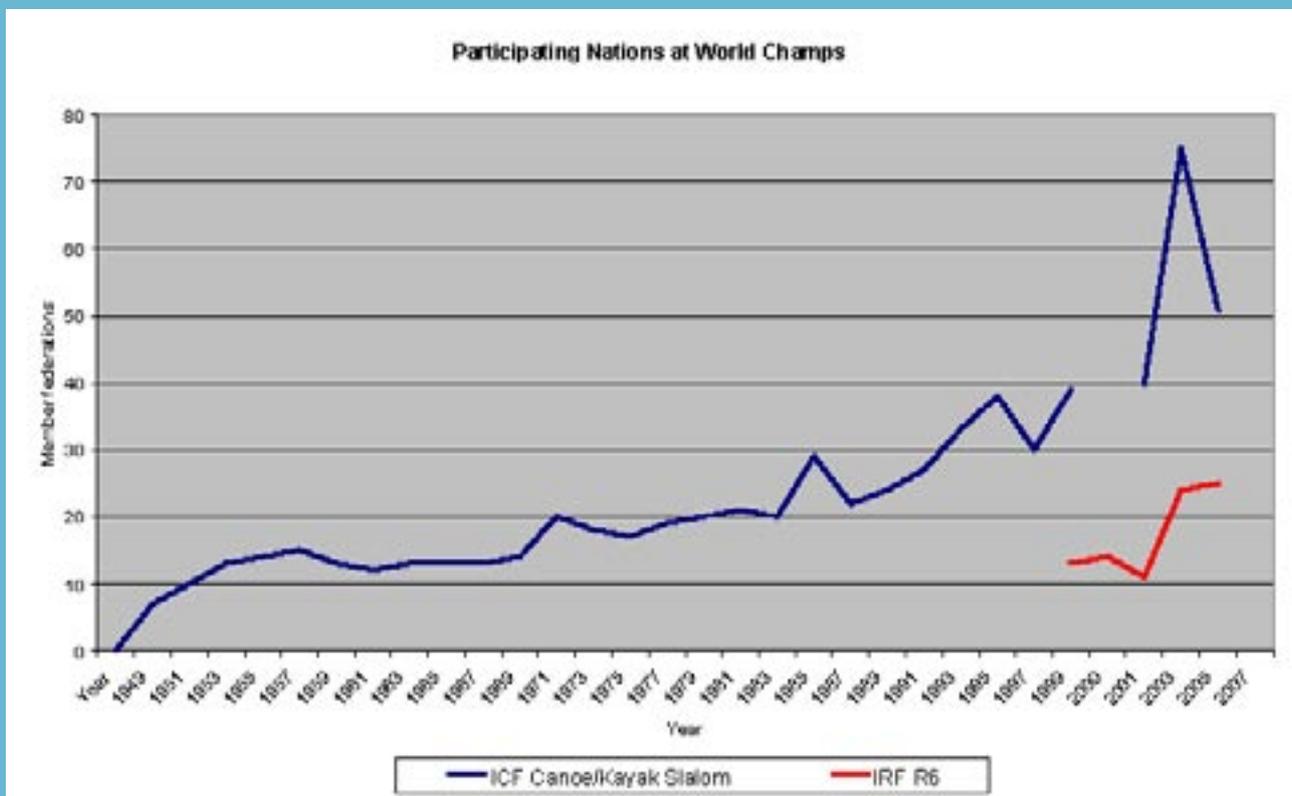
These statistics will become mandatory to be reported to the IRF BOD every year from now on, so national representatives should view this as one of their duties that follows IRF membership. This is important for us to document in front of event organisers, press, international sports community etc.

So please each national representative, log onto the IRF Forum on the webpage and send your national reply, or e-mail it to Shaukat Sikand: indianraftingfederation@yahoo.co.in . So far we have only got responses from Japan, Czech Rep., Denmark and India.

The answers we need are:

1. Number of clubs in your federation
2. Numbers of teams from the clubs in your federation (not number of national teams)
3. Total number of members (count each member from all the clubs)
4. Total numbers of commercial raft companies in your country (realised or estimated is okay)
5. Which year was the first rafting race held in your country?
6. How many competitions are held every year now in your country?
7. Is your federation recognised/affiliated to the national Olympic committee (will most likely be if it is affiliated and/or recognised by your country's national sports organisation).

Right now it is only possible for us to show the development in participating countries and teams at WRC. We can only look forward to a record breaking number at next WRC in Korea. If we compare our own statistics with the same from ICF slalom and downriver, we can see that it took ICF over 40 years to develop canoe/kayak slalom, participant vice, to what IRF has developed competitive rafting to in not more than 10 years. ICF made a huge expansion through their Slalom participation programme toward World Champs in Augsburg 2003, where they had record breaking numbers of 75 participating countries. ICF's recent push for slalom paddling shows us that if a huge effort is made, there are good possibilities of expanding white water sport to other countries.





## RECRUITMENT OF NEW MEMBERS

At IRF 2006 Congress we were happy to welcome the following countries as official new IRF members: Bosnia & Herzegovina (BiH), Korea and Venezuela. All three nations are already very active as we have seen. BiH organized a very successful IRF ERC 2005 in Banja Luka on the river Vrbas, and are doing a great job to promote IRF and develop rafting in the entire Balcan region. Aleksander Pastir is helping out organizing both national and Euro Cups in different countries in that region.

Korea has successfully won the bid for WRC 2007, and we are all very excited about what we will experience when the WRC, for the first time ever, will be held in Asia. Venezuela participated in WRC 2005 in Ecuador, and also in this years Pan Am Champs just held in Costa Rica. We are watching their team for progress on the competitive rafting scene.

Since congress in January 2006, the IRF board of directors have welcomed 3 new provisional members. They are: Montenegro, Kazakhstan and Spain. Together with coming provisional members these countries will be voted for at next IRF Congress in Korea 2007.

Together with Sue Liell-Cock (IRF Secretary General), this committee is coordinating the contact with potential new members. We have launched an offensive campaign and contacted different representatives from over 20 non-IRF member countries. We are putting a lot of effort into the Asian region, in respect to the fact that WRC 2007 takes place over there. This can be a way to motivate current organisations to make an effort for a short process of gaining membership to IRF.

We have not got a response back from all the persons we have contacted, which could be for many reasons. So we would like everybody's help in sending in their letter of interest or forward us with the e-mail and contact details of persons in non-IRF member countries. So if you know of a rafting federation, a country with commercial activity that is not yet IRF member, and have a contact over there, please give us a tip.

The following countries have been contacted and have not replied back yet:

France, Honduras, Ireland, Jamaica, Nepal, Laos, Malaysia, Portugal, Romania, (total of 9).

The following countries we are currently in contact with about future membership:

Argentine, China, Guatemala, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Philippines, Serbia, Uganda, Ukraine, Vietnam (total of 11).

We are also in the process of finding ways to track down old IRF members – former members of IRF that have left us. Why did they leave us? Can we prevent this happening in the future with current members? We should have products that suits all members. The following nations have been member of IRF, but are not anymore:

Belgium, Greece, Indonesia (keen to be back as members), Peru, Sweden and Zimbabwe/Zambia (total of 6). We hope to have all these countries back very soon.

## MEMBERSHIP TO INTERNATIONAL SPORTS FEDERATIONS



With the help from the Danish Rafting Federation we are looking at possibilities of having European Masters Sport Association (EMSA) allowing rafting as a sport at the first European Masters Games in 2008 (competition for athletes over 30 years old). EMSA works in close cooperation with the International Master Sports Association, which is the host of the quadrennial major sport event International Master Games (IMG). The next IMG in 2009 will be held in Sydney, and will benefit from all the post Olympic facilities, including Penrith White Water Stadium.

At this point of time it is not sure if the IRF can be a member of EMSA, without already being a member of GAISF, but there should still be possibilities of having rafting at the EMG 2008 even though IRF is not an EMSA

member yet. If the IRF takes part in the first EMG 2008 in Sweden, rafting could receive a lot of new media attention and it would be a great way to show our sport to the European part of the sports world. And another positive side effect would be that of rafting becoming a part of the International sport world. This can be our first steps in the process to becoming accepted as members of GAISF, and later EMSA and IMG.

It is crucial that the IRF start developing networks to representatives of other international sports organisations, board members of international associations such as EMSA, IMG and GAISF. When trying to be accepted to these associations, IRF will be votes in, on the basis of our official application for membership. We need to show what competitive rafting

is all about, both when it comes to fair play, competitiveness, athletes professionalism, IRF's organisational capabilities and so on.

Rafting as a part of EMG 2008 could include different disciplines of rafting including both coast rafting, flat water rafting (harbour channels) and possible white water on a small river (class 2). IR Committee is investigating into the possibilities right now and will very soon give their report to IRF BOD, Euro Committee and S&C Committee. Already in 2010 EMSA plan to have their next EMG probably in Riccione, Italy. Thereafter the event will be held every four years. The organisation wants to gain a lot of attention and interest here in the beginning, and that is why they will launch the first two events with only two years apart.

## IRF ANTI-DOPING CODE

IRF Committee is working on rules and regulations of an IRF Anti-Doping Codex that is planned to be accepted by the IRF BOD before WRC 2007. The job is done by Casper Mortensen, vice-president in the Danish Rafting Federation. He is working in "Anti-Doping Denmark", one of the most reliable testing agencies in the World today, as head of the "In-Competition Test Team" in Copenhagen.

The IRF rules will be set up so that they will follow the code set up by the World Anti Doping Agency (WADA). IRF will probably not, in the short term, associate itself to WADA due to the financial involvement that follows, but it is the goal in the long term. Instead, IRF will focus its money on in-competition-testing at IRF A-Level events. For future A-level events the organisers will have to include testing for doping in the planning with local anti-doping agencies and also include the testing in their budgeting of the event. In the long term, IRF will follow the anti-doping work in both competitions and out-of competitions testing.

IR Com. will be ready to show a preliminary report and IRF Anti-Doping Codex around new year, and IRF BOD will vote for the Codex to take effect from around March 2007. All IRF member nations will be advised with the process of this, so that they will have time spread the new rules and regulations to their national members before they become reality.

Contact IR Committee

If you have any comments to the work of International Relations Committee please e-mail Jakob at: [Jakob.færch@mail.dk](mailto:Jakob.færch@mail.dk) or [jf@wwap.dk](mailto:jf@wwap.dk).



# KATUN RIVER

## 2006

The event took place on the Katun River, near the confluence with the Ilgumen river, with the Slalom and Sprint on the Chuia river, the lower part from Boorevestnik to Begemot rapids. It was held from the 9th to the 12th August 2006 with 17 mens and 7 women teams from 4 countries (Russia, Czech, Kazakhstan and Ukraina) participating.

The event was organised and sponsored by the local government of the Republic of Altai, (part of Russian federation) with cooperation from the local rafting experts of Altai raft club, Rescue Rangers, River tourist section and the University of Gorno-altaisk. The event was sponsored as part of celebration of the Willingness of the Altai Republic to join with Russia, 250 years ago.

Besides the usual IRF disciplines of sprint, slalom and downriver, the additional discipline of the Katun Cup, the Supermarathon was held as well. Water levels were unexpectedly high and all types of weather was experienced.

Final results were calculated according to the IRF format, then the prizes were given for the Supermarathon and the combination of the overall event and the Supermarathon.



The Altai-Raft team from Russia dominated the men's section by winning all three disciplines. They were closely followed by the Czech's WD Samani and WD Czech in 2nd and 3rd place. The Czech's



WD Tygrici team won the women's section by winning the Slalom and Downriver after having a bad run in the Sprint. They were

followed by the Russian, Krasnoyarsk team and then by the Kazak Meridian team. It was great to see the Kazak teams back into raft racing.

## PAN AMERICAN CHAMPS

In mid October teams from the USA, Brasil, Costa Rica, Argentina and Guatemala got together in Costa Rica for the Pan American Champs. Brasil won the men's event decisively by winning each of the disciplines, with USA coming second and Costa Rica third. The USA women similarly dominated the event with the Costa Rican coming in second. Thank you to all the sponsors that made it possible – Adobe car hire, Powerade, Rios Tropicales, and Taca.



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## EUROPEAN CUP R6 TRNAVKA 25TH – 27TH AUGUST 2006

More than 30 teams from six European countries participated in Euro Cup Trnávka 2006, R6 competition, which took place at Trnávka canal. Next to Czech teams were also teams from Slovenia, Austria, Slovakia, Germany and England. The Trnávka canal located on charming landscape offers top quality conditions for rafting and is one of the most difficult wild water canals in Europe.

The event started with official training on Friday at 4pm. Teams took the opportunity to practise Slalom and Sprint at the canal. Many of them also tried the track for Down River race taking place on Sunday. Dancing party in the tent of the Brewery “Ježek”, one of the event sponsors, started already early in Friday evening and finished only on Saturday in the morning.

Saturday’s program started with the Sprint race. The team WD WC Prostějov (CZE) had the best result in the men’s category, followed by RK Troja (CZE) and WD OO Prostějov (CZE) in third place. The first place in the women’s category belonged to the team WD Prostějov Tygřici (CZ); second one to RK Stan -Troja (CZE) and third to Mistral Bratislava (SVK).

After the lunch break the Slalom race took place at the canal. Incumbent World champions RK Stan – Troja (CZE) won the women’s category and hitting back at WD Prostějov Tygřici (CZE) after their defeat in the Sprint. The team Mistral Bratislava (SVK) reached third place in the race.

As in case of the competition on the river VLTAVA a week ago, the team RK Stan Hájos R.T. (CZE) was the best performing one in the men’s category. They avoided unnecessary mistakes, managed ideal passes through most of the up-stream gates and even the loss of one paddle didn’t stop them on their way to the gold.



Just after the race, the organizers served to the racers a delicious goulash. Happy hours of 800 beers free of charge started at 6pm. The prize giving ceremony took place one hour later. A very nice movie from the competition on the Salza River, earlier this year, was presented by Austrian friends. A band then started the party followed by the famous DJ, Czíba, until after midnight. As the day before, last dancers went to their beds only on Sunday early in the morning.

EC Trnavka 2006 finished with the Down River Race on Sunday. Final results in the men’s category was: 1st place WD OO Prostějov (CZE), 2nd place RK Troja (CZE) and 3rd place WD WC Prostějov (CZE). The team Mistral Bratislava (SVK), incumbent European champions, was the fastest women’s teams, followed by WD Prostějov Tygřici (CZE) and RK Stan – Troja (CZE).

Trnávka race was also last nomination race for all Czech teams for next year’s World Championship taking place South Korea. It became evident after Down River race that Czech Republic will be represented in South Korea by the same teams as it had been in Ecuador in 2005 - incumbent World champions RK Stan – RK Troja women, and men’s team WD OO Prostějov who achieved gold in Ecuador in Down River and silver in final result.

Slalom in Wildapen



Digging in

## SOUTH AFRICAN SERIES - ROUND TWO -

A successful weekend of racing at the second South African white water rafting event this weekend resulted in overall victory for the KwaZulu-Natal teams who are hoping to represent South Africa at the world championships in South Korea in 2007.

At the second of the SA rafting trials on the As Rivier (Ash River) in the Free State this past weekend, both the KZN men's team and women's team took convincing victories against the committed Wits teams. The selection of teams for the World Championships in 2007 are spread over three events and the Natal women's win this weekend puts them in a very favourable position as they only need to attend the final event to be selected. The men's team, on the other hand, need to win the final event to be eligible for the team.

As part of a development initiative, the KZN women's team recruited a few local schoolchildren into a raft and guided them down the sprint rapid, much to the delight and elated shrieks of the participants and spectators alike. The mayor of Bethlehem attended the event and gave his full support for the future of the rafting in the area.

## EURO CUP – WILDALPEN, AUSTRIA 2006 -

On 25th May it was once again time for the Austrian Rafting Championships to take place in Wildalpen for the 5th time. European Cup races in the categories R4 and R6 were also conducted simultaneously for the second time. As in the previous years, slalom, sprint and head-to-head races made up the program. A total of 34 teams participated in the R6 races, 60 started in the R4 contests.

In the last couple of years Wildalpen has established itself as Europe's greatest rafting race. This year teams from 11 nations made the journey to Wildalpen. Such popularity is due to Wildalpen's unique slalom course and the perfect organization. The natural slalom course has been modified slightly several times in the last years and now offers perfect conditions for contests. Apart from new gates, flood lights were installed which now allow for racing at night.



The R6 contests took place on 25, 26 May. Perfect weather and good water levels left the participants in high spirits. After the approximately 45min. run down the Salza Team RTA1 (GER) took home 1st place ahead of HAJOS RAFTING TEAM (CZE) and HAZARD TEAM Bratislava (SVK).

27th May presented the contestants with high water. For this reason the descent planned for Sunday was brought forward and carried out together with two time trials. Unfortunately a regular head-to-head could not be conducted due to safety reasons. The slalom originally scheduled for Saturday was carried out on Sunday. The races were dominated by the Czech and Slovak teams. WD WC (CZE) won ahead of WD Banos MB (CZE) and HAZARD TEAM Bratislava (SVK) in the category R4.

The big after-party on Saturday presented a further highlight. Good mood was guaranteed not only by the contestants but also by numerous locals who came to cheer and party. Due to the regularity of rafting races in the local calendar, Wildalpen produces a great number of spectators in comparison to other racing events. Half the town participates in the realization of the event. Apart from local businesses and the local authorities, the event is supported by the fire department, emergency medical services and the sporting association.

It is needless to say that another European racing event is planned for next year. If the weather permits, the final run will be carried out under floodlit conditions like last year. The organizers hope to attract a likewise international field of contestants as in the previous year and hereby wish to sincerely invite all teams to take part in next year's events. They would also like to thank everyone that took part for the perfectly disciplined and fair competition. Information concerning the last races, results and the DVD can be found under [www.raftingsport.com](http://www.raftingsport.com).



## EURO CUP R6

– the overall results for this can be found on [www.e-rafting.info](http://www.e-rafting.info). It was an extremely successful year with a total of 93 (74 men's 19 women's) teams from 15 countries taking part in a total of 8 events in 8 countries. This has grown from last year where we had 70 (53 and 17) teams from 10 countries taking part in 4 events in 4 countries. We wait eagerly for the R4 results.

## GO FAST GORE CANYON WHITEWATER FESTIVAL 2006

The Go Fast Gore Canyon Whitewater Festival, now in its 16th year, has once again proved itself one of the premier class V whitewater races in the United States. The more than 220 competitors in rafts, kayaks, sledgers, creature crafts, and shredders all enjoyed a good day of racing down the Gore Canyon section of the Colorado River. Afterward, everyone celebrated and reminisced about the day's events at the New Belgium Beer Garden in Pumphouse Campground.

Gore Canyon is located near Kremmling, Colorado, and is the first serious whitewater on the Colorado River. The race goes through one of the best commercial class V sections in the United States. Gore, Tunnel, and Kirshbaum are the big rapids of the day, but even the smaller, class III rapids—including Pyrite, Haywire, and Scissors—provided some competitors with a good thrashing. The tight, steep technical drops challenge all racers, regardless of their craft.

This year's Teva Whitewater Cup (which served as the U.S. National Rafting Championships) were won in style by the reigning U.S. National Teams—Mike Reid and his crew in Timberline Tour's Behind the 8 Ball in the men's division and Lisa Reeder's Team Timberline in the women's division. Both teams will represent the United States in the 2007 World Rafting Championships.

The 17th annual Gore Canyon Race will be held on August 17 and 18, 2007. The event has grown significantly over the past four years, and for 2007, we would like to see it become more of an international event. The main goal of the Gore Canyon Festival is to provide a venue for boaters from around the world to race on a fantastic class V river and then to enjoy the camaraderie of like-minded paddlers during the postrace festival.

Information on the race can be found at [www.rapidpulse.com](http://www.rapidpulse.com) or email [info@rapidpulse.com](mailto:info@rapidpulse.com).

# INNER CITY KID BECOMES RIVER GUIDE.

BY SHEILA WHITE

A kid from inner city Chicago escapes the unforgiving streets and neighbourhoods of his childhood. Tom Anderson moved to Georgia to help his aunt with her construction business. After a year of day in and day out construction, his cousin, who worked on the Pigeon River, mentioned rafting. The thought of running rivers for fun had never crossed Anderson's mind. Indeed he was tired of carpentry and wanted some excitement.

self and check out on section four (class IV and V) in his first year. The guides at Southeastern became Chicago's family and he still holds those willing to share their years of experience with him in high regard.



Chicago on the Chattooga River in Georgia by Scotty Smith

At the age of 19 he found Southeastern Expeditions on the Chattooga River, just outside Clayton, Georgia, not too far from where he was living. Southeastern Expeditions had no idea of the energy and dedication to rafting they were about to get from this young kid from Chicago. Not too long after his arrival at Southeastern did his reputation and hometown show through to give him a notorious nickname: "Chicago". Soaking up the techniques and knowledge of whitewater passed on to him by the trainers, Snuffy, Andy Hinton, and Benji, as well as the senior guides, he was able to prove him-

In the midst of his second year, Benji, a guide Chicago highly respects came back from Alaska after working there for two summers. Chicago was enthralled with the stories of rafting in Alaska, though he would not be able to work there until he had three years of experience under his belt. He held out for another year with the thought of going to Denali National Park and rafting on the Nenana in the back of his mind.

Finally the day came. Loaded down with suitcases and bags of river gear, Chicago left Chicago, Illinois, on his way to Alaska and the reason: white-

water. Not knowing what to expect, just holding the thoughts of Benji's stories in his mind, Chicago arrived in Alaska. He was showing up to the unfamiliar as well as the familiar. There were two people Chicago knew. Benji was head boatman at Denali Raft Adventures as well as another guide, Dan, from the Chattooga. Chicago fell into the scene smoothly.

Chicago has energy that is hard to match. For the first week in the land of the midnight sun learning to row and meeting new and interesting people he could not find the time to sleep. Passionate to prove his dedication to his superiors, he worked hard during training. The first trip down the Nenana River in Denali, Chicago was curled up on the back of the raft halfway through due to a mixture of excitement, anxiety, exhaustion, and not knowing how to pace himself.

Learning from senior guides and friends how to pace his body and energy to last for the whole trip Chicago was able to check out within ten days. With his previous experience of paddleboats on the Chattooga he had the knowledge of reading the water.

Coming to Alaska, Chicago felt himself not only gain confidence as a boatman and a guide but also grow as a person. Going home to visit his family and friends in Chicago, he could not imagine what would have happened had he stayed. He began to realize that there was much more to see in the world, and given the opportunity, with the knowledge of whitewater he would be able to take it anywhere. Chicago had inspiration from his girlfriend to expand his horizons and move beyond the world that he had become comfortable in. She made him think about international rafting and travelling abroad. Chicago sat on this idea; never having travelled outside the United States, he was hesitant about the idea at first. After letting the notion mature he made his move and applied for a job in India at Aquaterra Adventures. He communicated with them via e-mail. Not too long after they had seen his credentials they hired him.

Filled with anxiety and anticipation Chicago readies himself for a new chapter in his life that will take him to a place he never imagined himself going. He has heard stories, good and bad but they do not deter him a bit. As he educates himself on the cultural differences and way of life in India, he becomes more intrigued by what he learns. Only imagining the kind of whitewater that awaits him in a land unknown, this inner city kid is awaiting his departure...

# MEMBER FEDERATION PAGE

## Danish Rafting Federation - Overweight Children go rafting

Scandinavian Rafting Klub (SRK) situated in Copenhagen Denmark, has recently kicked off a 2 year long project that involves getting overweight children from 12-17 years old activated into different sports activities in the context of sports clubs. The rafting club has chosen to focus on getting the children to participate in experience based sports, so called extreme sports, such as mountain biking, adventure racing and rafting.

President of SRK, Morten Bertelsen says: “Young kids from the big city and especially youngsters which are overweight, are sitting on the couch in front of Playstation, DVD movies and such stuff. If you should try to get them out of their rooms and activated in a sports club, we believe that you need to offer them more than just activities such as soccer and tennis”. He and the board members of the club believe that rafting can be a way for the children to experience that being physically active can be a great feeling. “In the sports in nature you have a sort of short cut to the exhilaration and pleasant body sensations – for example rafting down a beautiful river, navigating difficult obstacles and paddling through big waves”, he says.

Apparently more than just the clubs’ board members believe this to be true. The Danish Ministry of Culture and the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs has granted their project with over \$ 175.000,-, from a governmental foundation for “Children at risk”. This money enables the club to engage a full time project leader and several instructors to take care of the sports instruction. In the fall 2006 training sessions in rafting and strength training will start up. In spring 2007 also weekly training in mountain biking and regularly occurring adventure races will be arranged.



Head instructor from SRK, Jakob Faerch says; “With this project we can show that rafting is for everybody. These kids have not had many great experiences with sports in their lives, being marginalized in the sports you normally play in school and the schoolyard. With rafting they will get great experiences in nature, develop social skills as they participate as a team, and see how funny it can be to play a sport”.



The experience tells the club that being x-large in rafting is not a disadvantage if you are a kid. The extra kilos that overweight children carry around, is a burden in many sports where you have to move your body around on your feet. Project leader Mette Ring adds; “It is all about having fun and getting great experiences. We don’t focus on the kids loosing their weight. If it happens on the way it is good. But our primary goal is that they should be activated and stay active in sports. And we believe that sports such as rafting and mountain biking could be it. After only 3 weeks of programme already 12 youngsters have signed on to the club and the project. They are digging it. What they love the most right now on the flat-water is the flip and rescue drills. They just love getting wet.”

This fall the children and instructors will take a trip to raft on white water in Sweden and next year there is three weekend trips planned to Sweden and one 7-day training camp to Czech Republic, where all will be training both rafting and mountain biking. “We plan to go to Czech Rep., which has beautiful nature and good possibilities for nature sport, and also several artificial courses where the kids can raft in safe environments. When the project is over the kids will have learned the basics in rafting, and fulfilled the normal standards equivalent for an IRF Guide Course”, head instructor Jakob Faerch says.

What will happen with the children in the future? Morten Bertelsen hopes that all the kids will stay active in the club for many years. “Initialising this project we are doing a very important social task for the society, hopefully helping each individual, and at the same time developing our own club. We are gaining a lot of new members, that are starting to raft at age 12. If they stick with us guys for some years, they will be racing us out when they are 18. Its going to be wild to experience their personal development over time in the years to come”, Morten ends.

# FIRST DESCENTS IN GREECE!

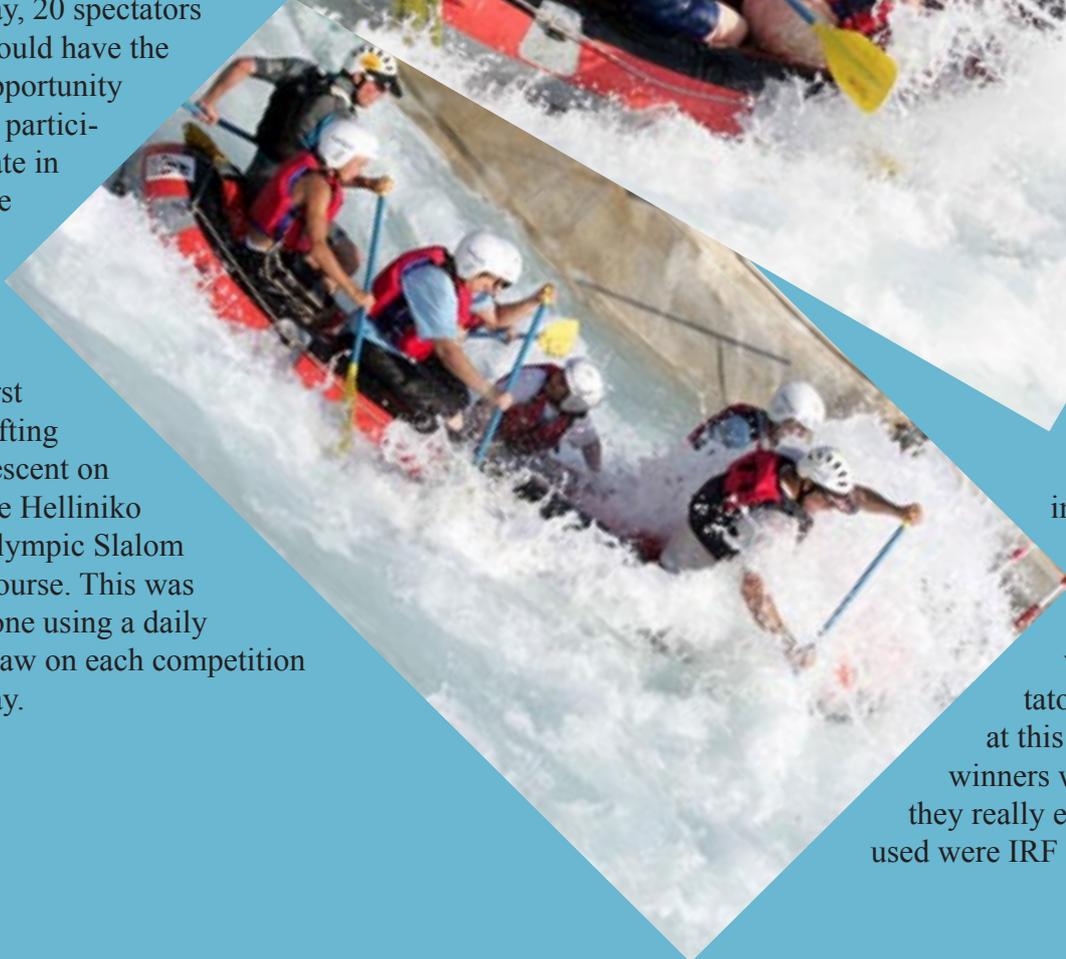
BY YIANNIS HOLEVAS

When advertising the Slalom Canoe/Kayak World Cup that took place in Athens on 27-28 May 2006 we also used Rafting in all leaflets, posters and print-outs we distributed to attract spectators. There was a rafting photo with reference that on each competition day, 20 spectators would have the opportunity to participate in the

first rafting descent on the Helliniko Olympic Slalom Course. This was done using a daily draw on each competition day.



Furthermore, at the venue video-wall a video of rafting was played to allow those that would not participate to see rafting as well as for those that were going to raft to see what they could expect. There were about 3000 spectators and the participants at this draw over 1500. All winners were enthusiastic and they really enjoyed it. All guides used were IRF certified!



## LINKS PAGE –

[www.iqitostimes.com/raft-race-2006-results.htm](http://www.iqitostimes.com/raft-race-2006-results.htm)  
- The Great River Amazon Raft Race 2006  
[www.e-rafting.info](http://www.e-rafting.info) – European rafting – focussing on the racing side of rafting  
[www.playak.com](http://www.playak.com) – “According to Google, The World’s Most Important Paddling Site.” – they say.  
[www.raft.pagina.nl](http://www.raft.pagina.nl) – all sorts of links for rafting  
[www.raft.startkabel.nl](http://www.raft.startkabel.nl) – mostly in Dutch, all sort of links for rafting

## COMPETITION FOR MAGAZINE NAME – VOTE!

Here are some names that have been suggested for our magazine. Vote for the one you like or make a suggestion on our Public Forum: [www.intraftfed.com/phpBB2/](http://www.intraftfed.com/phpBB2/) or email us.

- 1) CURRENT
- 2) Huck
- 3) R A F T I N G - around the world
- 4) R A W – Rafting Around the World
- 5) RAFT
- 6) RAFTER

Editors Morten Bertelsen & Jakob Faerch

