

# 41st Annual Vermilion River Race

Sunday, March 29<sup>th</sup> 2009

(High water backup date April 5, 2009)



**Sponsors:** Keel-Haulers Canoe Club [www.keelhauler.org](http://www.keelhauler.org)  
Keel Line Canoe and Kayak Supply [www.keelline.com](http://www.keelline.com)

## Please Read All Information

The course is an eight mile section of the Vermilion River from the Schoepfle Gardens in Birmingham, Ohio, (Rt. 113, 14 miles west of Elyria, Ohio) to the bridge at the Vermilion River, Mill Hollow-Bacon Woods Reservation near the city of Vermilion. This very beautiful stretch of river can be challenging at different water levels.

### **WATER LEVEL**

The race will be run over the designated course described above, if the reading on the Birmingham Bridge Gauge is 3 feet or less and the river is deemed navigable by the race officials. If not, the race will be moved downstream to start and finish at the South Street Boat Launch Ramp on West River road in Vermilion. If the water level is deemed too high, the race will be canceled and held on the high water date. Because of the inability to predict the water level in advance, you may call Hank Annable at 440-775-4953 or check <http://keelhauler.org> for a race status the day before the race.

### **KNOW YOUR ABILITY**

At this time of year the water is 40 degrees or less, in the event of boat upset, hypothermia is a very serious risk. It is advisable to wear a wet/dry suit or have a change of clothes in a waterproof bag tied to boat. A spray cover is a good idea. This is class I/II water.

## Rules of the Race

### **1. EQUIPMENT**

Boats for all classes except as otherwise noted shall be standard stock models of aluminum, plastic, wood, wood-canvas, or fiberglass construction. No alterations to the manufacturer's original measurements will be permitted. No movable controls are allowed - steering is limited to paddles only. No powered pumps or bailers are allowed.

#### **Canoes – C1 and C2 classes**

Paddles must be single-blade, of any type. Open canoes only, no closed boats.

##### **Unrestricted**

The canoe may be of any type, length, or width, except no Pro or ICF boats.

##### **Standard**

Length shall not exceed 18' 6". Minimum width shall be 14 3/8% of the length (.14375 times the length) at the 4 inch water line, measured within 12 inches of the center of the canoe.

#### **Kayaks - K1 classes**

Any type double-blade paddle is allowed.

**One person Kayaks** - (Slalom or cruising type). Shall have a length as specified by the class.

### **2. BOAT INSPECTION**

Contestants entering in any of the classes agree by entering that their boat conforms to these rules. All boats must be inspected on the day of the race. The decision of the race officials as to conformance for any boat and/or equipment proposed for entry will be final. If you have any questions on your boat's eligibility, contact **Hank Annable at 440-775-4953**.

### **3. AGE**

In all classes which have an age restriction, the paddler's age shall be considered to be the age attained as of the day of the race. Senior class boaters must be at least 50 years old on the day of the race. Senior classes include men and women.

### **4. ENTRY FEE & REGISTRATION**

An entry fee of \$13 (\$17 on the day of the race) per person per event is required. Keel Hauler members may take a \$2 discount. On the day of the race, all contestants (including those who pre-registered) must stop at registration to get a starting number and registration form. Numbers will be assigned in numerical order. Each boat will be identified by this racing number **worn on the chest by the bow paddler**. Registration is open from **9 to 11:30 a.m.** Cancellation or failure to participate in the event forfeits the entry fee.

### **5. STARTING**

An instructional meeting will be held at **10 a.m.** The race will start at **10:30 a.m. sharp!** All contestants will start individually at one minute intervals and will be racing against the clock. **Race starting will end at 12 p.m.**

The finish line will close at 2 p.m. Any person not finishing within 2-hours after starting will be posted as DNF

### **6. CLASSES – Read carefully there are changes from previous years**

<i>Class</i>	<i>Description</i>
0	nonconforming class or race for time only- no award given
1	C2 Unrestricted (no Pro or ICF boats).
2	C2 Mixed and Women's.
3	C2 Men's Standard.
4	C2S Person Senior (Both 50 years or older) a handicap of 10 seconds per year per paddler over 50 will be deducted from the finish time.
5	C2 Over and Under Standard One contestant is 15 or under, the other is at least 18 years older than the first.
6	C1 One person open canoe, no measurements.
7	K1 Jr. Contestant must be 15 years old or younger.
8	K1 Short One Man Kayak 11.49 feet and under.
9	K1W Short One Woman Kayak: 11.49 feet and under.
10	K1 One Man Kayak: 11.5 to 14.49 feet.
11	K1W One Woman Kayak 11.5 feet and over.
12	K1S One Person Senior: 14.49 feet and under (50 years or older).
13	K1 Long One Man 14.5 feet and over and all downriver boats.
14	K1S Long One Person Senior: 14.5 feet and over and all downriver boats (50 or older).

### **7. SAFETY**

An approved vest-type life jacket (Personal Flotation Device, PFD) must be worn properly by each contestant throughout the race. **In each closed boat, the boater is required to wear a helmet.** Each boat will be subject to inspection for sufficient flotation. Each contestant is required to render assistance, if needed, to other contestants in trouble. Failure to comply with any of the safety requirements will result in disqualification. Boats may be checked by the Ohio Department of Natural Resources for a current boat license and approved life jackets.

### **8. MULTIPLE RUNS**

Each contestant intending to race in more than one class must arrive early and be prepared to start their first race by 10:30. Contestants must have transportation available and be ready to start their second run before the starting line closes. A starting time extension may be granted for multiple run racers if river conditions warrant and approved by the race committee.

### **9. CREWS & PORTAGE**

Each crew must remain together and not substitute members after the race has begun. Once a crew starts an event, they must stay in the river bed. No trespassing will be allowed.

### **10. DISQUALIFICATION**

Commonly accepted rules of good sportsmanship prevail. Intentional capsizing or damaging of an opponent's boat will result in disqualification. Any boat or team receiving assistance will be disqualified. If a team drops out of the race, they must report to a member of the race committee or be barred from future races. Any contestants interfering with officials at the start or finish line or at the scoring area, will be disqualified.

### **11. PROTESTS**

Protests must be submitted in writing to the Protest Committee at the No. 2 Picnic Shelter within 30 minutes after posting time.

### **12. TRANSPORTATION**

Each contestant must provide their own transportation between the start and finish lines.

### **13. PHYSICAL CONDITION**

If doubt exists as to the adequacy of a contestant's physical condition, the race officials reserve the right to disqualify the contestant.

#### 14. AMATEUR STATUS

These races are open only to amateurs, and no professional racers may compete for awards. Professionals may compete for time only.

#### 15. AWARDS

Awards will be provided for the first three places in each class. Awards are donated by the Keel-Haulers Canoe Club, Inc. All awards will be given at 3 p.m. You should make arrangements for your award to be picked up if you're not still there. Awards will be mailed upon a request to the race chairman and receipt of proper postage.

#### 16. FOOD

Hot food and refreshments will be available at the Picnic Shelter.

#### 17. USCA SANCTIONING

The event is sanctioned by the United States Canoe Association (USCA).

#### 18. FINAL DECISION

In any matter involving interpretation of these rules, acceptability of canoes and equipment, or of any dispute, the decision of the race officials will be final.

