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WORLD'S GREATEST WHITEWATER ATHLETES RETURN FOR 2009 RENO RIVER FESTIVAL, May 8-10

Reno event offers deepest field of competitive whitewater athletes in the world

RENO, Nev. (April 30, 2009) – As the Reno River Festival quickly approaches, kayaking's most talented paddlers once again gear up in preparation for one of the world's fiercest whitewater competitions May 8-10, 2009 at the Truckee River Whitewater Park at Wingfield. The 6th annual event brings names such as Eric and Emily Jackson, Ruth Gordon, Stephen Wright and Australia's Tanya Faux, along with nearly 40,000 people who crowd the banks, to downtown Reno for three days of professional and amateur contests and the battle for the River Festival Championship title.

The Reno River Festival enters its sixth year as one of the premier whitewater events in the country. This year's competitions include both open and professional freestyle competitions as well as a newly added tandem race in the ever popular boatercross, which takes place Sunday afternoon. The following is information on returning Reno River Festival champions:

Former Olympian and four-time world freestyle kayak champion Eric Jackson returns to the Reno River Festival to compete for the men's freestyle championship – a title he held in 2005, 2006 and 2008 – taking on current U.S. National Freestyle champion Stephen Wright of Rock Island, Tenn. and 2003 World Championship silver medalist Andrew Holcombe. Two-time world freestyle champion and manager of Team Wave Sport, Bryan Kirk, of Charlottesville, Va. also poses a threat, as do Washington native Jud Keiser, Canadian up-and-comer Nick Troutman, Kevin "KB" Benhart Brown and last year's boatercross champion Dave Fusili.

The Truckee River comes alive in 2009 with even more action in the women's division. Last year's Reno River Festival female freestyle champion Emily Jackson returns fresh from a honeymoon in Mexico to fight for her title against two-time Reno River Festival champion and 2008 boatercross titleholder, Tanya Faux of Australia. Current World Freestyle champion and newly transplanted Reno resident Ruth Gordon seeks to take both ladies out in her quest to return to the top of the podium before the upcoming World Championships in Thun, Switzerland this summer.

Keeping kayaking in the family – Dane Jackson, son of Men's World champion Eric Jackson and brother of junior women's titleholder Emily, competes against best friend and Reno native Jason Craig. Dane was named to the U.S. Freestyle Kayak Team at just 11 years old and Craig recently took first place at the 2008 World Cup of Freestyle in Switzerland.

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If kayaking's not the sport of choice, the Run Amuck obstacle-filled, 2-mile, fun run also returns for its second year and the world-famous Budweiser Clydesdales make a first-ever appearance at the event as well. For those looking to learn, free clinics from the top instructors are also held throughout the weekend as live entertainment takes the stage ensuring a good time is had by all. An expo featuring the hottest outdoor products on the market moves into Wingfield Park for the weekend as well as food for every craving and hand-crafted microbrews from local breweries. Recover from the annual River Festival Kick-Off Party Friday night with free Yoga in the Park each morning on the Wingfield Stage while a kids play area keeps the little ones entertained.

The Truckee River Whitewater Park is located just blocks from Reno's 24-hour gaming excitement and other attractions including dining and nightlife, golf, skiing, hiking and bike trails, lakes and a selection of art museums and galleries. For more details about the 6th annual Reno River Festival, visit www.RenoRiverFestival.com or call 775-784-9400 x 119.

The 6th annual Reno River Festival is held at the Truckee River Whitewater Park at Wingfield in the heart of downtown Reno's booming RiverWalk district. Hosting top whitewater athletes from around the world May 8-10, 2009, the city's \$1.5-million Whitewater Park contributes to the region's image as America's Adventure Place, providing an easily accessible venue for adventure and recreation just steps from downtown's Reno's entertainment and gaming district. The 6th annual Reno River Festival is presented by Reno River Festival LLC in Reno-Tahoe, America's Adventure Place.

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