

FibArk Boat Races

June 16, 17, 18, 19
Salida, Colorado

Official
Program

FREE



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Tumbling water on the Arkansas River is what kayakers face during the running of the FibArk Boat Races. The Arkansas has some of the most challenging stretches of whitewater a boater will find on the North American continent. At the First

National Bank, we believe in and support the boat races and the festivities that surround the races. Not only does the weekend provide fine entertainment for our community, it also provides excellent advertising for the Heart of the Rockies.

The  *National Bank of Salida*

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TELEPHONE 303—539-6696

Tenderfoot race a tradition

The annual Tenderfoot Marathon, held in conjunction with the FibArk boat race weekend, is as exhausting for competitors as the 26-mile downriver race.

Runners start at the intersection of First and F Streets in downtown Salida and race down F Street, across the Arkansas River bridge, and up the steep side of Tenderfoot Mountain.

Contestants must get to the white observation building at the top of the mountain and then scamper

back down to the finish line at the intersection downtown.

There is competition for individuals and for relay teams as well.

The record in the event belongs to Harold Bristol of nearby Nathrop, who won the race last year in 11:59, cutting almost two minutes off the old mark.

The race begins this year at 5 p.m. on Thursday, June 16, and is one of the first of the FibArk weekend events.

Airport hosts fly-in events

Among the events held here in conjunction with the FibArk boat race weekend is the annual Fly-In Breakfast and Air Show at the Salida airport, Harriet Alexander Field.

Activities there this summer will begin at 6 a.m. on Sunday, June 19, and will continue through 11 a.m.

Last year, some 3,000 people flocked to the field for the event, now in its 28th year.

Breakfast of sausage, pancakes and eggs will be served from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m. at a cost of \$2.50 for all you can fit on one plate.

At about 9:30 a.m. there will be acrobatic stunts and parachute demonstrations.

Awards will be given for the best spot landing plane, the oldest plane and the plane that has come from the furthest away to the breakfast.

There will also be plane rides offered at \$5 per person.

The Salida airport is at 10415 County Road 140.

There will be no admission charge for the air show, just for the breakfast itself and for the plane rides.

28th Annual Salida

Fly-In—Drive-In Breakfast and Air Show

Sunday, June 19 — Breakfast
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THROUGH THE GATES—A FibArk slalom competitor attempts to negotiate a tricky gate despite the pressures of the churning current.

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Kayakers competing in the slalom event are competing against both the clock and the river currents.

In slalom competition, kayakers must pass through the course marked by poles strung over the river.

The color and position of the "gates" tell the contestant how he is required to maneuver through them.

A gate hung with the green to the left and red to the right is a forward gate and the competitor must be facing forward (downriver) when his body passes the gate to negotiate it properly.

On a reverse gate the poles are hung opposite of the forward gate. There is an R next to the number. This gate must be negotiated with the competitors back going through first. A gate whose poles are hung as for a reverse gate, but the number on the backside with an arrow next to it indicates an upstream gate. The competitor must paddle forward upstream through it, to negotiate it properly.

In the team event, there is a team gate where all three competitors must make it through the gate within 15 seconds or they will incur a 50 point penalty. This gate is marked with a "T" on the crossbar next to the number.

The Slalom event is held in two heats. The best score is the one that counts. Scores are figured by adding the total time elapsed from start to finish, plus the total penalty points.

Each slalom gate has a judge who makes sure that the gate is properly negotiated by each competitor. If the Kayaker does not, in the opinion of the judge, correctly pass through the gate then he or she will assess points against the kayaker.

The judges use such rules as the following to score the contestants:

1. A pole must not be touched from outside.
2. The gate must be negotiated in accordance with the colors and (if applicable) the "R" sign.
3. The body of the competitor must pass through

between the poles.

4. The competitor must not intentionally push aside a pole in order to pass through the gate.

5. The boats of a team must negotiate the team gate within 15 seconds.

6. A faultless negotiation occurs if boat and body have passed through between the poles (gate line) in the direction indicated by the colors and neither pole has been touched by boat, body or paddle.

Judges assess penalty points as follows:

10 seconds penalty:

One pole touched from inside

20 seconds penalty:

Both poles touched from inside

50 seconds penalty:

Touching a gate from outside without subsequent negotiation according to Art. 22A

50 seconds penalty:

Intentional pushing aside of a pole in order to pass through the gate

50 seconds penalty:

Exceeding 15 seconds in negotiation the "T" gate

50 seconds penalty:

Eskimo Roll within the gate irrespective of whether or not the body has crossed the gate line

50 seconds penalty:

Negotiation of a gate contrary to the color indications according to Art. 22A2.

50 seconds penalty:

Gate missed out—(omitted). The boat passes outside the gate without touching. A gate is only regarded as definitely missed out when the competitor continues down the course or touches the next following gate in the numerical order.

50 seconds penalty:

Repeated attempt at a gate after the body of the competitor has crossed the gate line (that means once the competitor has crossed the gate line he must continue in the indicated direction of travel).

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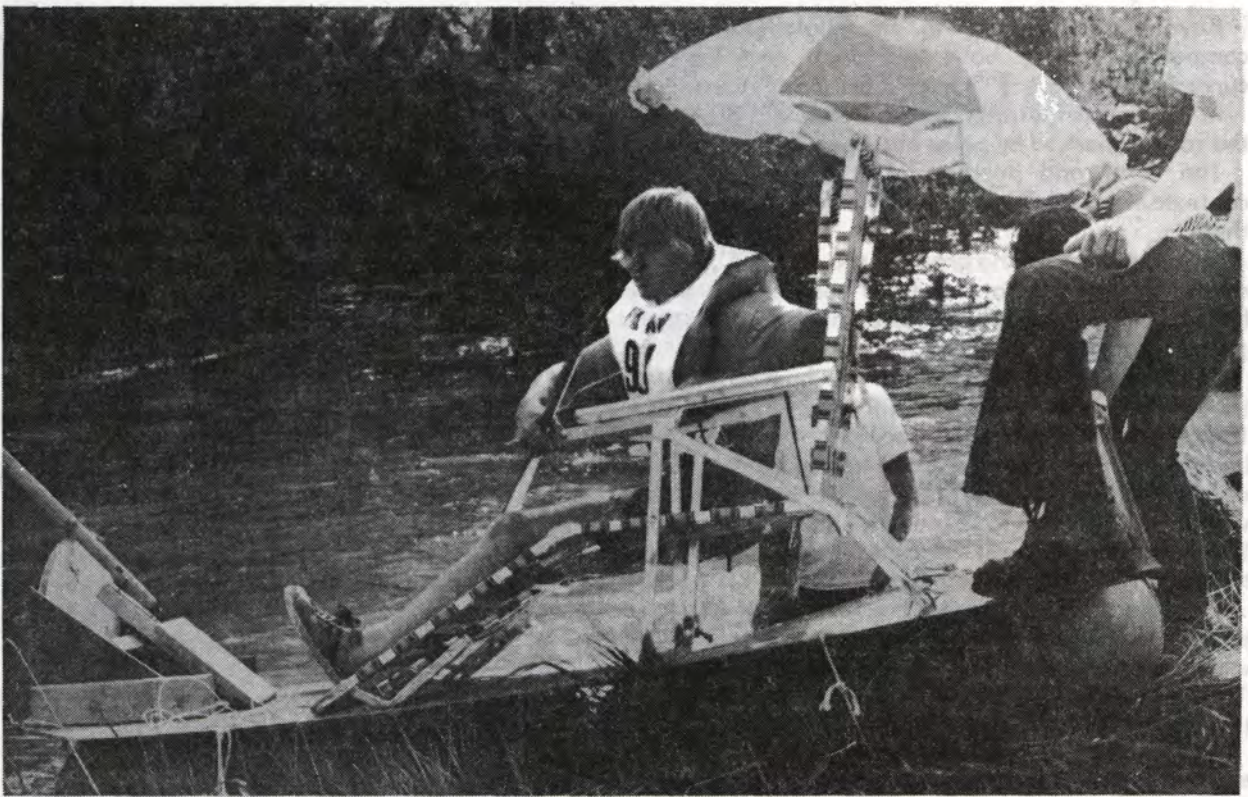
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READY TO GO—A contestant in the annual Hooligan Race, oar in hand, sits beneath the shade of an umbrella on his delux entry. Many ornate

craft are entered in the annual event every summer.

Hooligan Race is 'fun' event staged each year

The annual Hooligan Race—an event designed for fun and laughter—will again play its role in the FibArk weekend festivities in Salida.

Contestants may enter almost anything in the short race, staged in the area near the F Street bridge over the Arkansas. Anything, that is, except a boat.

Past winners have sailed to victory on a toboggan wrapped in bicycle inner tuves, in lounge chairs strapped to tubes from tractor tires, and in miniature houseboats built atop (again) inner tubes.

This year's race is scheduled for 5:45 p.m. on Friday, June 17.

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FibArk began in 1949

The annual FibArk boat races in Salida every June had humble beginnings as a challenge issued by one city merchant to another in the winter of 1949.

The two were boating enthusiasts and had been proudly telling their own exploits, each trying to outdo the other. A 56-mile race down the Arkansas River from Salida to Canon City was the result.

Word of the contest spread rapidly, and others were caught up in the hubbub.

Canon City and Salida groups agreed on a date of Sunday, June 19, for the first race down the Arkansas, through the Royal Gorge.

The first race came off on schedule, but the only boat to finish the demanding jaunt was piloted by the winners, Robert Ris and Max Romer.

Bob Wildgen and Jim Pickerell of Canon City took on so much water that their boat sank in the Royal Gorge. They were pulled from the currents by Red Cross volunteers. Two Salida amateurs, Bill Anderson and Paul Pasquale, set off downstream in an all-metal craft made from an airplane belly gas tank and two pontoons. But they had to abandon their boat when they couldn't get it to shore as it approached the first portage. It smashed on the rocks.

John A. Wells of Thermopolis, Wyo., made it 21 miles before his metal canoe got so battered that it leaked too much for him to continue. He was scheduled to race with Robert W. Noble, but Noble withdrew after one look at the rain-swollen river. An inexperienced Salidan, Joe Scales, filled in for Noble.

J. Kessner of Long Island, N. Y., participated but did not actually compete. He was the national amateur whitewater champion and did not want to endanger

his ranking by participating in a cash prize event. Kessner also ran into trouble, however, and had to be pulled from the white water after his Floboat struck a submerged log and capsized.

Another entry was Preston Walker, then the general manager of the Daily Sentinel in Grand Junction. He was also forced to withdraw when his canoe crashed.

Ris and Romer, exhausted from their ordeal, suggested immediately after that initial race that the course was more a test of endurance than of skill and recommended that the length of the trip be cut back, eliminating the Royal Gorge section.

Race sponsors settled on a 49-mile course in 1950, when Clyde Jones of Denver was the only man to finish. They cut down to 30 miles for 1951, 1952 and 1953, and the following year mapped out the present 25.7 mile course.

There have been other changes, too. The first races were "wildcat", publicity-motivated affairs with cash prizes for the winners and circus-type side attractions. But in 1953 when a German contestant refused the \$1,000 first prize to retain his amateur standing the sponsors began to look at the event in a more respectful light.

The following year marked the end of the last professional class and the event was given full approval by the American and International Canoe Associations. That same year, boat slalom, long hailed by the Europeans as the event requiring the greatest amount of skill, was formally instituted as a part of the boating festival. The first United States Slalom championship race was run in Salida that year.

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Swiss team was first to win

Some of the past winners of the annual FibArk downriver race were the only ones able to finish the demanding course.

In 1949 and 1950, before the course was shortened to its present 26 miles of white water, circumstances were especially difficult.

Robert Ris and Max Romer, a pair of Swiss boaters, were the only team that survived the initial event, and it took them 7:18.13 to finish. In 1950, only one man made it all the way. Clyde Jones of Denver managed it in 10:50.40.

Times have varied from just over two to three hours since the 1951 race, when the distance was trimmed and boaters fought the rapids only as far as Cotopaxi.

There have been two three-time winners since then. Art Viteralli of California won in 1971 in 2:07.28. He won again in 1972 in 2:12.40. And in 1975 he got his third victory, finishing in 2:17.10.

A Frenchman, Roger Paris, marked his first win in 1954 in 2:54.41. He won again in 1956 in 2:24.01, and then posted his third triumph in 1958 in 2:26.35.

Bob Ehrman, another Californian, is a two-time winner. He prevailed in 1951 in 2:56.22 and in 1952 in 3:10.52.

The record, incidentally, belongs to a German, Berndt Kast. He set it in 1970 when he broke the two-minute barrier with a time of 1:58.41.

Local men haven't been shut out of the races. Laurence Campton won the race in 2:23.59 in 1959, Ted Makris won in 2:19.33 in 1961, and Dan Makris won in 2:42.14 in 1963.

Last year's victor was Gary Lacy, a 26-year-old Silverthorne boater. He crossed the finish line beneath the Cotopaxi bridge in 2:29.08.

Other winners include: German Erich Seidel in 3:04.32 in 1953; Rudy Pillwein, an Austrian, 2:38.44 in 1955; Rudolph Klepp, another Austrian, in 2:05.20 in 1957; Edward Kahl of Austria in 2:19.40 in 1960; German Rudi Gruenberg in 2:12.32 in 1962; Siegi Gunzenberger, another German, in 2:20.35 in 1964; Austrian Franz Hiebler in 2:03.38 in 1965; Marc Moens of Belgium in 2:26.45 in 1966; Jean-Pierre Burny of Belgium in 2:25.07 in 1967; Austrian Franz Baier in 2:18.02 in 1968; Austrian Manfred Pock in 2:15.36 in 1969; German Klaus Nenninger in 2:14.55 in 1973; and Californian Gunter Hammersbach in 2:18.58 in 1974.

Past and present Commodores noted

Commodore Stu Nadler of Salida is the coordinator of the 1977 FibArk boat race activities, 24th in a line of men who have served in that capacity since 1954.

The first FibArk Commodore in the summer of '54 was Howard Blakey.

Doyle Johns assumed the duties in 1955, and Ted Jacobs, Ted Riley, Riley Bartley and Steve Frazee served during the other years of the Fifties.

John Peebles took the helm in 1960, followed by

Ralph King, Laurence Campton, Tony Kolbeck, George Oylar, Ken Teter, Xavier Wuerfmannsdobler and, in 1967, Ralph Hagerman and Dan Makris. Vern Cato assumed the responsibilities in '68 and Lee Sharpe in '69.

The Seventies began with Glenn Vawser at the helm. George Theotokatos followed in 1971, and then came Phil Noll, John Stokes, Tom Bainbridge and Leland Leak. Al Sulzenfuss was the 1976 Commodore.

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ENTERTAINERS—Sapphire, a local band, will be providing entertainment at Riverside Park during the FibArk boat race weekend. From left to right are group members Martin Epp, Rick Berninger, Martin Maltas and Randy Marshall.

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BOAT RACE WEEKEND SCHEDULE

FibArk White Water Events

Thursday, June 16

7:00 a.m.—The Salida Sertoma Club's annual kick-off breakfast will be served outdoors from 7 to 9:30 a.m. in the 100 block of F Street downtown.

5:00 p.m.—The fourth annual Tenderfoot Marathon, individual and relay foot races up Tenderfoot, begins at the intersection of First and F Streets downtown.

5:00 p.m.—Booth space erection party begins at Riverside Park.

7:00 p.m.—Entertainment at the Riverside Park bandstand.

Friday, June 17

11:45 a.m.—Flag-raising ceremonies will be conducted by the Manuka Adventure Campfire Girls at Riverside Park.

1:00 p.m.—Slalom practice will be held through 4 p.m. on the Arkansas River in the F Street bridge area.

5:45 p.m.—The annual Hooligan Race will be held in the F Street bridge area.

6:00 p.m.—Food and fun booths open at Riverside Park.

7:00 p.m.—Entertainment at the Riverside Park bandstand.

Saturday, June 18

7:00 a.m.—The Boat Race open golf tournament, a two-day event, begins at the Salida Golf Club course.

9:30 a.m.—The Arkansas River Boat Race Parade will be held, with units marching from Alpine Park to First on F Street and then east on First to B Street, on B back to Fifth, and from there to Alpine.

10:30 a.m.—Entertainment by the Chaveneau Indian Dancers at Riverside Park immediately following the parade, as well as a band concert and a performance by students of Norma's Dance Studio.

10:55 a.m.—Flag-raising ceremonies at Riverside Park.

11:00 a.m.—Slalom events for juniors, women, men and teams will begin in the Arkansas River in the F Street bridge area. The second heat will begin immediately after the first.

3:30 p.m.—Entertainment by Sapphire at the Riverside Park bandstand.

6:30 p.m.—Awards presentations for slalom races will be held at the Riverside Park stage.

7:00 p.m.—Entertainment by the Queen City Jazz Band will be held at the Riverside Park bandstand.

Sunday, June 19

6:00 a.m.—The annual Fly-In Breakfast and air show will be held at Harriet Alexander Field west of Salida until 11 a.m.

7:00 a.m.—The second day of competition in the Boat Race open golf tournament will be held at the local course.

11:00 a.m.—The second annual FibArk Raft Race will start at the F Street bridge area and finish at Cotopaxi.

12 noon—Flag-raising ceremonies will be held at Riverside Park.

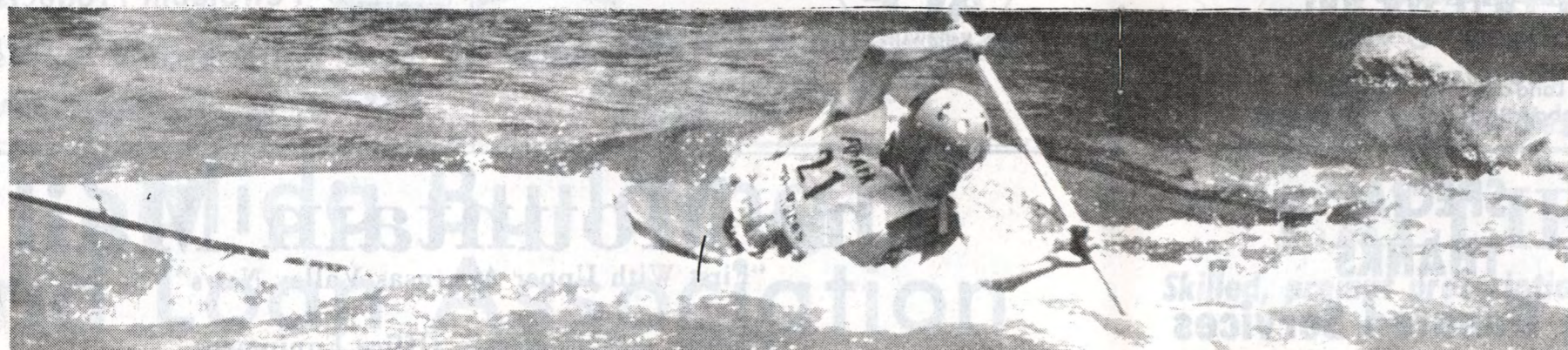
1:15 p.m.—The downriver race for women and junior contestants will begin at the F Street bridge, with the finish line at Bear Creek.

1:30 p.m.—The one and two-man downriver canoe race will start at the F Street Bridge and finish in Cotopaxi.

2:00 p.m.—The 29th annual Arkansas River Championship Downriver Race starts from the F Street bridge to Cotopaxi.

6:00 p.m.—Awards presentations for the downriver events will be held at the Riverside Park stage.

7:00 p.m.—Booth space tear-down party at Riverside Park.



FIGHTING THE RIVER—A kayaker fights the churning river during FibArk slalom competition.

PARADE ENTRY—A young lady rides a float in the 1976 FibArk parade through downtown Salida. The parade had a bicentennial theme that summer.

Annual parade planned



The traditional Arkansas River Boat Race Parade will be staged in conjunction with the FibArk weekend this year on Saturday, June 18.

The parade begins at 9:30 a.m. and will follow the usual route through downtown Salida.

Units will march some 12 blocks down F Street from Seventh into the downtown section, passing Alpine Park. The parade route will then turn east onto First Street and pass by Riverside Park before following B

Street back to Fifth and then to Alpine.

Prizes will be awarded this year for the best three floats, the best marching units, and the best equestrian units.

A special prize will also be awarded to the unit which most closely pertains to the theme of this year's parade: "Colorado Recreation."

A total of \$800 in prizes will be awarded.

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Kayaks began in Artic setting

The native Northern Americans developed three types of boats: the dugout canoe, the birchbark canoe, and the skin covered boat used in the barren Arctic.

The skinned boats became known as kayaks and were originally used as hunting crafts. The closed decks and sealed cockpits kept the hunter warm and dry.

Kayaking for sport developed in southern Germany around the turn of the century. Lured to the whitewater rivers rising in the Alps, people began experimenting with wood framed, fabric covered boats. These boats became known as "foldboats", because at the end of a trip one could disassemble the boat and carry it in a relatively small set of bags.

By the end of World War II, whitewater competition was well developed throughout Europe. The first world championship slalom was held in Switzerland in 1949 and the first championship downriver race was added in 1955.

In 1972, whitewater kayak events were added to the Munich Olympics.

Nearly 40,000 people watched the slalom event alone...and kayaking had become a sport in which boats made of fiberglass, weighing as little as 17 pounds were used.

Salida became the center of whitewater sports in the United States. In 1949 the first American downriver race was held in Salida. Salida can also boast of having the first whitewater slalom event on the North American continent in 1953.

The first boats used in Salida races were foldboats weighing up to 80 pounds. With the top European competitors came fiberglass boats of elaborate construction and super-light weight.

Salida has also hosted three World Champions, Erich Seidel, Kurt Prestmair and Jean Pierre Burny, as well as many United States champions in the past years of international racing.

Rodeo is part of big weekend here

Boat race weekend is also Little Britches Rodeo weekend in Salida.

The sixth annual Heart of the Rockies Little Britches Rodeo will be held at the local grounds three miles west of Salida on June 17, 18 and 19.

There are some 50 sanctioned LBR events held in the United States every summer. Salida's was the seventh largest in the country and almost 250 youngsters from Colorado, Utah, New Mexico and other western states were entered last year.

Four separate rodeo performances are planned, with the initial one on Friday, June 17, at 8 p.m. A 2

p.m. show and an 8 p.m. show are scheduled for Saturday, the 18th, and there will be a final show at 2 p.m. on Sunday.

All four performances are complete. A full schedule of events is planned for each.

Among the events are bull riding, goat tying, bareback and saddle bronc riding, calf roping, steer wrestling, trail course, pole bending, flag racing and barrel racing.

Hundreds of awards are presented each year. The top six finishers in each event will receive awards, as will the top three in all around competition.



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DIGGING IN—A FibArk downriver racer digs in with his oar as he guides his kayak through the

white water.

Buena Vista's 'June Fest' is scheduled

The town of Buena Vista, located 24 miles north of Salida on Highway 285, celebrates mid-June in its own way.

Buena Vista's third annual June Fest is scheduled for Saturday, June 18.

This year's event will be highlighted by the annual contests of the Colorado Volunteer Fire Department Association, with volunteer firemen from all over the state in competition.

Competition for teams of both men and women are to begin at 12 noon.

Other features of the day-long activity include entertainment by bands, singers and dancers, carnival games and booths, merchants' sidewalk sales and an evening street dance.

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A message
from
the Commodore



From its beginning 29 years ago, "FibArk Weekend" has constantly expanded into the community festival we have today.

Many organizations, groups, and individuals make plans several months ahead to participate and hold other activities in conjunction with the boat races. A street breakfast, foot race, golf tournament, fly in-drive in breakfast and air show, concession booths and entertainment in Riverside Park, a carnival, parade, and several other activities in addition to the boat races themselves truly make it a weekend for all to enjoy.

For years boaters from many parts of the world have marked their calendars for the third weekend in June in hopes that they would be able to schedule Salida in their boating tours, and spectators by the thousands line the banks of the Arkansas River to view the 25.7 mile downriver race.

As Commodore for the year 1977, I wish to give a big "THANKS" to the members of the Board of Directors of FibArk who have done their jobs well, and who have given many hours of their time to make my job much easier.

Also, a big "THANKS" to those who have helped make this "FibArk Weekend" a success by giving their time, dollars, and help. With continued cooperation, "FibArk Weekend" is bound to be bigger and better for years to come.

(s) Stu Nadler.



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MANEUVERS—A FibArk slalom competitor digs in with an oar in an attempt to maneuver his

kayak into position for a run through one of the gates on the course.

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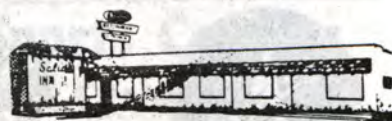
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HOSTESSES—The FibArk Hostesses (above) will take part in many of the boat race weekend activities. The ten girls are Margaret Coan, Lisa Hutchinson, Missy Mehos, Carla Miller, Brenda

Strandberg, Kathy Hollenbeck, Brenda Martellaro, Cindy Maichel, Mary Hatrick and Rochelle Beauchamp.

For Thrills & Spills . . . The 7th Annual Heart of The Rockies

Little Britches Rodeo

3 Miles West of Salida Off Hwy. 50

Friday, June 17, 8 p.m.

Saturday, June 18, 2 p.m.

Saturday, June 18, 8 p.m.

Sunday, June 22, 2 p.m.



Salida and Canon City

Supporting The Boat Races
and The Little Britches
Through The Years

Jazz sound

The Queen City Jazz Band will be featured in concert at Riverside Park during the FibArk weekend. Players include trombonist Al Frederickson (top) and (middle, from left) pianist Ray Leake, Wes Mix on the trumpet, Bill Clark on the tuba and bass and Mike Whited on the drums, and (front, from left) Lee Peters on the clarinet and Maurie Walker on the banjo.



THANKS Chaffee County City Of Salida

For The Help and Cooperation
In Putting This Years Race On

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Phone 539-6681

- Most Reasonable Rates In Town
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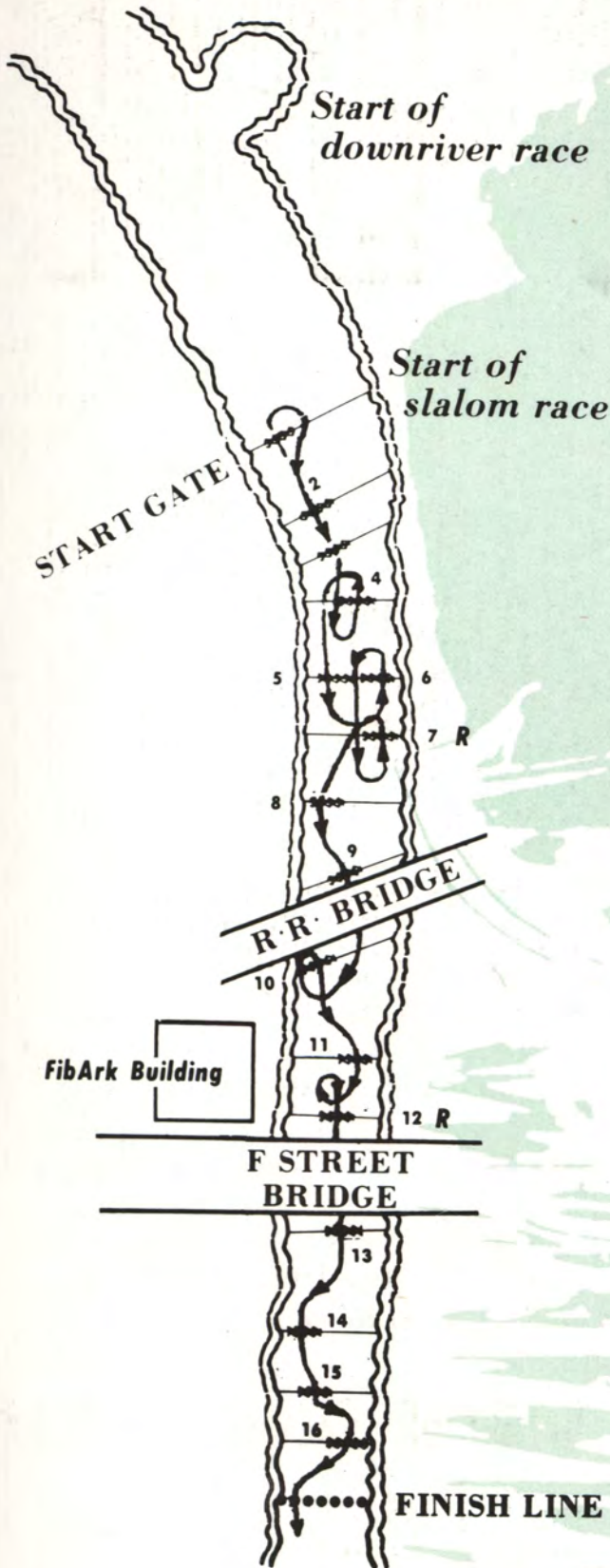
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- Models
- Financing

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INTERNATIONAL SLALOM COURSE



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SIZE

Does Not
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People Do.

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132 F Street

DOWNRIVER RACE COURSE

Maintain safe highway speeds or park.
Do not attempt to pace boats!

