

Qualcomm Venture Four Captures Title At First Mountain Rage Series Race Of 1999



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Sedona, AZ. — In a closely watched race between first and second place, first-time Four Winds competitor Qualcomm Venture Four zoomed through a foul weather-designed course to win the Mountain Rage Adventure Race at Lake Roosevelt in a record time of less than 18 hours.

The mixed-gender team is an international roster of members originally from Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and the U.S. Team captain Marc Secades led Bettina Ernst, Christian Krombach and Harald Zundal to victory under what eventually became nearly flawless weather conditions.

Red Wolf, captained by Jacques Boutet — member of last year's Mountain Rage/Lake Roosevelt winner S.C.A.R. — and comprising veteran adventure racers Will Burkhart, Norm Greenberg and Tracyn Thayer, dogged Qualcomm within minutes throughout the race. The spread widened during the night navigation paddling leg, and Red Wolf came in a solid second.

Arriving third at the finish was the four-member, all-male team NorCal, followed by four-member, mixed-gender squad Pinnacle. The rest of the field arrived throughout the night and into late morning. Anozira won the two-person, mixed gender team category.

The race began in pre-dawn darkness as teams portaged their hard-shelled kayaks for a mile during the first of three paddling legs. From the saguaro-laced desert they mountain biked and hiked up into pine tree-covered mountains for the high-line ropes section of the course. As they hiked and ran back down into the desert via rocky mountain trails, they were greeted by 100-degree ground temperatures before heading into the night with more mountain biking and paddling — culminating with a short hike to the finish line.

The race was the first of Four Winds' yearlong series in which racers can accumulate points towards the overall 1999 championship title. In May, the series continues at Lake Mead outside of Las Vegas, May 15-16. This summer's expedition-length USA Supreme Adventure Race will commence in Western Wyoming June 19-27. Fall will kick off with Mountain Rage CalEco Style September 10-11, with the final Mountain Rage Series race of the year returning to Lake Powell November 5-6.

In an unprecedented move earlier this year, the Four Winds Adventure Co. announced limited time entry fee discounts in response to racer requests, in addition to offering multiple race entry reductions for racers signing up now for the 1999 season.

Four-person teams can race in the two-day Mountain Rage Series races for \$750; two-person teams for \$385. USA Supreme Adventure Race entry fees are \$2500 for four-person teams and \$1350 for two-person teams. The low entry fees combined with upcoming Four Winds Adventure Race coverage and lifestyle programming on FOX Sports Net, Outdoor Life Network and FitTV will afford racers everywhere the opportunity to experience the adventure live or through television. National airdates will be announced on the Four Winds website: 4windsadventure.com.