

Veteran Tean HI-TEC/SCAR Wins Four Winds' Third Annual Lake Roosevelt Mountain Rage Series Race



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Sedona, Ariz. — In a nearly flawless race across approximately 100 miles of the Tonto National Forest, team Hi-Tec/SCAR outstripped the competition to cross the finish line first in the Four Winds Mountain Rage Championship Series/Lake Roosevelt adventure race March 18-19.

Comprising members from Alaska to California, the four-person, mixed-gender, squad Hi-Tec/SCAR-captain David Kelly, Jacques Boutet, Jim Jager, Karen Lundgren-worked together to complete the course across seven eco-systems ranging from saguaro cactus desert to snow-capped mountains in approximately 25 hours.

Second place finishers, the four-person, mixed team Santa Fe-Jan Bear, Slate Stern (both from Santa Fe), Don Moden (Phoenix), Cindy Gagnon (Boulder)-stayed close to Hi-/Tec/SCAR early in the race, but subsequently fell back as the venues progressed from paddling to biking, and mountaineering to hiking. The team completed the course in just less than 30 hours.

Arriving third and fourth at the finish were the four-person, mixed-gender squads Epinephrine and Epicor at about 33 _ hours and 34 _ hours, respectively. The rest of the field came in later in the day and into the early evening on Sunday. The two-person, open category was won by EcoWarrior in just less than 36 hours, while Kitchell, who came in at approximately 38 hours, captured the two-person, mixed-gender team category.

Competition began at dawn Saturday with teams paddling hard-sided, two-person kayaks down the moving water of the Salt River, the first of two paddling legs. Racers were forced to portage their kayaks in shallow waters of the river channel and then resume paddling until spilling into Lake Roosevelt, which they crossed in its entirety. Teams then mountain biked, pumping up a steady climb of more than 4,000 feet from the desert to pine trees.

Now on foot, they continued their ascent up snow-capped mountains to elevations exceeding 7,000 feet to the ropes section, which culminated in a rappel alongside a waterfall into a canyon creek. Racers then hiked and navigated mountain trails through the pines and back out onto grassy mesas peppered with Indian ruins before making the final hiking descent back into desert climes and the final paddle across Roosevelt Lake to the finish line. For complete results and times, visit the Four Winds web site at 4windsadventure.com.

Mountain Rage/Lake Roosevelt was the first race of the Four Winds Adventure Company's yearlong race series in which teams can accumulate points toward the 2000 championship title. The series continues May 14-15 in Northern California for the second two-day race. In summer, athletes will gather in Idaho for the seven-day, expedition-level USA Supreme Adventure Race July 14-22. Mountain Rage picks up again in the fall in Southern California Sept. 15-16, and Nov. 4-5 sees the final two-day event of the year at Lake Mead near Las Vegas.