

Knuckleheads Win Inaugural Four Winds Adventure Race



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Taos, N.M. — After more than 360 grueling miles through the beautiful Rocky Mountain Southwest and a sprint to the finish, The Knuckleheads, whose members came from Maine to California, won the first-ever Four Winds Adventure Race.

Their overall time of 103 hours and 32 minutes was less than an hour ahead of second place finishers Team Sherpa, who clocked in at 104:28. Team Intrepid came in third, at 113:29, and was followed by Team Soar at 121:53 and Team Adidas/G Force at 125:06.

Among the teams qualifying as four-member squads, Team Adventure Racing from Battle Creek, Mich. was awarded first place with the time of 112:09, followed by Aussie Rugged Wear at 129:30.

Awards also were presented for overall best times in five venues, including:

- Mountain biking — The Knuckleheads
- White water — The Knuckleheads
- Mountaineering — Team Sherpa
- Canoeing — Team Sherpa
- Horseback ride-run — The Knuckleheads

The Four Winds Spirit Award, voted on by the race's staff and core volunteers, was presented to Team Adidas/G Force for best exemplifying the spirit of the competition and adventure racing. They demonstrated this spirit from the beginning when, just a day before the race began, they offered their crew members to two other teams that needed a fifth racer, in addition to their efforts to stay together as a team through injuries and other delays.

Traveling through Colorado and New Mexico, the Four Winds Adventure Race began Saturday, June 14 in Durango, Colo. as extreme adventure athletes from around the country mountain biked, trekked, rappelled, Tyrolean traversed, boulder bounded, horseback rode, rafted and canoed their way in five-member, mixed gender teams up the Continental Divide, across mesas, down and across rivers, and on rugged mountain trails to Taos, N.M. The first teams arrived Friday, June 20, with the last teams to cross the finish line the following day.

At closing ceremonies Sunday, June 22, representatives and entertainers from the Southern Ute and Taos Pueblo tribes — upon whose ancestral lands the racers crossed — provided entertainment and their blessings during the program. Following final comments and thank yous, Four Winds Adventure Race founders Dr. Bill Lionberger and Karen Livesay announced the location of next year's race... Montana.

FOUR WINDS ADVENTURE RACE

Top finishers roster

1. THE KNUCKLEHEADS

Chris Axelson: 39, Cumberland, ME
 Kim Flowers: 29, Fair Oaks, CA
 Theo Grayson: 33, Kent, CT
 Dave Lamb: 37, Hampstead, NH
 Bill Watters: Fair Oaks, CA

2. TEAM SHERPA

Liz Caldwell: 41, Fort Collins, CO
 Jack Crawford: 31, Fort Collins, CO
 Mike Phillips: 32, Potomac, MD
 Fred Schempp: 36, Collegeville, PA
 Toby Wright: 35, Fort Collins, CO

3. TEAM INTREPID

Gina Aubrey: 34, San Clemente, CA

Bill Lovelace: 49, Tarzana, CA
Duane McDowell: 38, Canoga Park, CA
Doug Wilde: 43, Van Nuys, CA
Julie Wolfe: Lancaster, CA

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