

S.C.A.R. Wins Four Winds '98 — The USA Supreme Adventure Race/Montana



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Sedona, Ariz. — Capping a week that barraged participants with rain, hail, freezing white water rapids, high winds, snow, sleet and more rain, Team S.C.A.R. mountain biked to the finish at Bear Canyon Campground at 9:02 a.m., Friday, June 19 to win Four Winds '98 — The USA Supreme Adventure Race/Montana.

Led by team captain David Kelly, S.C.A.R. team members included Jacques Boutet, Will Burkhart, Richard Ruid and Rebecca Rusch. On the team's strategy, Kelly said, "Our intent was to go out and assert ourselves early. We wanted to push the pace and make others make a mistake early."

Arriving later the same day to capture second place was Team Knuckleheads, who won last year's Four Winds Supreme Adventure Race. Also finishing on Friday were Montana Misfits (unranked) and Team Rolex (four-person). Team Kiwis USA came in the following day to finish third, followed by Team Houston (unranked) and Alpine Aire Adventure Racers (unranked), respectively.

Kicking off the previous Saturday from the Museum of the Rockies, the race began at 6:32 a.m. and included the following venues with approximate mileage:

- Mountain biking — to Hyalite Creek (25 miles)
- Mountaineering — Hyalite Creek to Red Cliff along the Gallatin Range (40-plus miles)
- White water rafting — Red Cliff to Squaw Creek on the Gallatin River (25 miles)
- Ropes — Ascending (250 feet) and rappelling (600 feet)
- Mountaineering — Squaw Creek to Ennis Lake over the Madison Range (25 miles)
- Canoeing — Ennis Lake (5 miles)
- Mountain biking — Two large loops on the west side of Ennis Lake, passing through Norris, Pony and Nevada City (100 miles)
- Horseback riding — Wall Creek (10 miles)
- Mountain biking — Wall Creek to Lyons Bridge (23 miles)
- Canoeing — Lyons Bridge to Ennis Lake (50 miles)
- Mountaineering — Ennis Lake to Spanish Creek Ranger Station (18 miles)
- Mountain biking — Spanish Creek to Beckman Flat (12 miles)
- White water rafting — Beckman Flat to Axtell Bridge on the Gallatin River (12 miles)
- Mountain biking — Axtell Bridge to Bear Canyon Campground (15 miles)

As a result of the unusually extreme weather during the course of the race — which forced three athletes from the race because of frostbite — the original 385-mile course was shortened (by about 30 miles) and abbreviated (the second ropes section was eliminated due to wet and snowy conditions) for safety reasons and to ensure that as many participants as possible be able to finish in the allotted time.

In addition to overall first, second and third place finishing honors, awards were presented to teams who posted the fastest combined times in each of three venues. The Knuckleheads won the bicycling venue, S.C.A.R. captured the mountaineering venue and the water venue went to Kiwis USA.

For its victory, Team S.C.A.R. receives full entry into Four Winds '99 — The USA Supreme Adventure Race, as well as the coming Southern Traverse and Beast of the East races this fall. Team Knuckleheads receives half-entry into next year's Four Winds '99 competition, and Team Kiwis USA receives an entry into this fall's Four Winds '98 Mountain Rage Series race at Lake Powell.

FOUR WINDS '98 — THE USA SUPREME ADVENTURE RACE Top finishers roster

1. S.C.A.R.

Jacques Boutet: 42, Anchorage, AK
 Will Burkhart: 32, Littleton, CO
 David Kelly: 33, Corte Madera, CA
 Richard Ruid: 37, Washington, MO
 Rebecca Rusch: 29

2. Knuckleheads

Chris Axelson: 40, Cumberland, ME
John Funk: 36, South Kent, CT
Theo Grayson: 34, South Kent, CT
Dave Lamb: 38, Kingston, NH
Mark Yardley: 37, Stowe, VT

3. Kiwis USA

Mark 'Ox' Foster: 36, Christchurch, NZ
John Howard: 42, Christchurch, NZ
Andrew Matulionis: 33, Whitefish, MT
Lisa Smith: 37, Bernardsville, NJ
Eric Speck: 28, Sitka, AK

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