

Epinephrine Wins Mountain Rage/Ventura



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Ojai, Calif. — Under 50-plus degree temperature swings that topped 108 degrees during dry, breezeless days, Southern California-based team Epinephrine took home the victor's title at Four Winds' Mountain Rage Series race in Ventura County over the weekend.

Captain Paul Romero led the mixed, four-person team consisting of Carla Conti Bender, Adam Goodvibes and Karen Lundgren to the finish line early Sunday morning in a little more than 21 hours after the 6:36 a.m. Saturday start.

Following Epinephrine's finish at Camp Comfort County park in Ojai, Dawg-4Winds arrived less than two hours later to secure second place, followed by Pure Adreneline, who captured third.

Two-person, mixed squad Extreme Madness won first-place honors in their category. And in the two-person, open division, Golden Palace.com Online Casino-Media took the top spot, followed by Adventure El Dorado.

Racers gathered at the Ventura Marina during the pre-dawn hours of Saturday morning, and at the starter's "go," began the approximately 105-mile race by portaging their kayaks, running across the sand to the water's edge and onto the Pacific Ocean—where they were met with calm, blue waters of near perfect conditions. Teams paddled their way north 12 miles up the coast and into the first transition at Hobson's Beach.

On mountain bikes, teams rode back along the beach toward Ventura, then headed into the searing heat inland, climbing up and onto the ridge top of Sulphur Mountain where midday temperatures hit 108 degrees. They were rewarded with stunning vistas of the Topa Topa Mountains, Lake Casitas and the Pacific coast. The 55-mile leg led them up and down severe elevation gains and losses as they rode through dense, oak-covered creek canyons and over bare, southern-exposed mountain crests to Rose Valley in the Los Padres National Forest. Racers then transitioned to the nighttime hiking venue, which featured a grueling climb encompassing more than 2,500 feet in elevation gain, as well as a 300-foot rappel that dropped racers down the granite face of Rose Valley Falls.

Returning to the Rose Valley transition area after 14 miles on foot, teams prepared themselves for the competition's last leg—a challenging, quadriceps-burning mountain bike leg up to the Nordhoff Ridge that began with a 2000-foot climb in only two miles. After reaching the top, a fast—and fun, according to many racers—technical single-track trail with hairpin turns sped them toward Ojai and to the finish at Camp Comfort County Park.

One of the keys to the success of Mountain Rage/Ventura was the local search and rescue efforts, one of the largest teams—comprising water and mountain expertise—ever assembled for an adventure race.

With their win, Epinephrine joins such other teams as Santa Fe, Epicor, Dawg -4Winds, S.C.A.R./press.htm/Hi-Tec and Subaru, who have been accumulating points throughout the season in a race for the Mountain Rage 2000 Series title that will be determined at the year's last race—Mountain Rage/Lake Mead, Nov. 4-5.