








# Bozeman, Montana North America's Supreme Adventure Race Results June 13-20, 1998



## Day 0 - Registration Friday, June 12th

Registration began Thursday June 11 and continued Friday. Gear check began at noon, Friday, followed by the opening ceremonies.

		
Team Amerifit	Team Rolex	Team Alpine Aire
		
Team Kiwis		4Winds Founders Bill & Karen

## Day 1 - Start Saturday, June 13th

Four Winds '98--The USA Supreme Adventure Race kicked off at the Museum of The Rockies in Bozeman, Montana. Around 5:30 a.m., a caravan of excited racers proceeded from the Bear Canyon Campground to the museum parking lot. Teams were not given any maps of the course nor any information on the first venues prior to the race. The hand-off of the maps to the team captains would signal the start of the race. While the teams and support crew laid out their gear, anxiety ran high trying to figure out what their first venue would be. At 6 a.m. the Four Winds staff met at the entrance to the museum with the racers' maps and last-minute instructions. The captains of each team then proceeded to the museum entrance and lined up face-to-face with a Four Winds staffer for the map hand-off.

At 6:32 a.m., a silent bang was felt as the rolled maps were handed to each captain and the frenzy began to pack gear, change clothes and most important, figure out where to go. In most cases, while each team's navigators plotted the course, their teammates got equipment ready. Four Winds personnel went from team to team answering questions as athletes packed and unpacked the necessary equipment, which included zero-degree rated sleeping bags and tent or bivy sacks.

First team out of the parking lot was Team S.C.A.R. at 7 a.m., followed by the rest of the field over the next 30 minutes. Team Rolex forgot their check point control record that is signed at each check point and transition area, and quickly returned to the museum, snagged it and got back on the road.

The first segment of the course was a bike ride from the museum to the Hyalite Peak trailhead. This was checkpoint 1 where riders dropped their bikes and trekked up to Hyalite Peak (checkpoint 2), then proceeded along the ridge of the Gallatin Mountain Range (upwards of 10,000 feet elevation) through Windy Pass (checkpoint 3), Ramshorn Lake (checkpoint 4), and down to the Gallatin River at the Red Cliff Campground, where they crossed the river and headed one mile south to the fishing access road to meet their crews at transition area 1. This information was given to the teams as UTM's that they must correctly plot on their topo maps.

Teams arrived closely together at CP1 between 8:45 and 10:27 a.m., where they had a mandatory gear check to make sure they had the gear needed in case of severe weather changes. They quickly headed out for the trekking section and reached Hyalite Peak (CP2) between noon and 3 p.m.

As the afternoon progressed, the weather turned nasty. A large thunderstorm blew in bringing snow, sleet and less than 100-foot visibility. Checkpoint agents reported 30-mile-an-hour winds and no visibility. At Windy Pass (checkpoint 3), teams S.C.A.R., Kiwis USA, Knuckleheads, Rolex and Montana Misfits decided to use the shelter of the Forest Service cabin to warm up before continuing their trek (27 athletes plus two checkpoint agents in a space designed to hold 14).



Maps and instructions ready to pass to racers.



The handoff.



Team SUNN plotting their course on topos.



Montana Misfits are on their way.



Kiwis-USA depart on first mountaineering section.

## **Day 2**

### **Sunday, June 14th**

At 3:48 a.m., Kiwis USA left the Forest Service cabin to continue the more than 40-mile mountaineering course, followed shortly by S.C.A.R., Knuckleheads and Rolex. The Montana Misfits, who also arrived at Windy Pass the night before, headed out at 7 a.m. Houston checked in at 1:15 p.m. and were out an hour later, while Alpine Aire Adventure Racing, Amerifit and S.U.N.N. never reached the checkpoint due to the severity of last night's weather.

Instead, Alpine Aire Adventure Racing and Amerifit sought shelter from the snow, sleet and high winds by heading down the east side of the mountains toward Yellowstone, while S.U.N.N. opted to head down the west side of the range toward the shelter of the tree line. The former were retrieved by their support crews, and ultimately, all three teams were brought to transition area one (TA1)-Red Cliff Campground-to rejoin the race, albeit unranked.

S.C.A.R. arrived at TA1 at 2:25 p.m. and soon were in rafts on the snow-fed Gallatin River traveling through class three and four rapids. Knuckleheads, Kiwis USA and Rolex arrived within 50 minutes of S.C.A.R. and also wasted little time getting on the icy cold river for their 25-mile ride.

Rope work awaited the teams after pulling out near the Squaw Creek Ranger Station, including a 250-foot ascent and 600-foot rappel. Then it was on foot again for a 25-mile mountaineering section, heading west toward Ennis Lake.



Knuckleheads on the Gallatin River.

## **Day 3**

### **Monday, June 15th**

After resting at TA1 last night, Amerifit, Montana Misfits, S.U.N.N. and Alpine Aire Adventure Racing took off down the Gallatin River this morning for their white water rafting segments. Because of a knee injury sustained by racer Janelle Doughty, Team S.U.N.N. decided to forgo the ropes and mountaineering sections and continue the race from Lake Ennis. The Montana Misfits also lost a member when Janet Clarkson developed frostbite in her toes and face and dropped out after the rafting venue-however, the rest of the team will continue as a four-person squad. By 6:15 this evening, Amerifit, Montana Misfits and Alpine Aire Adventure Racing had begun their trek into the mountains-where two inches of snow had already fallen since last night-toward Ennis Lake.

Meanwhile, Kiwis USA had some fun at the expense of two Four Winds checkpoint agents. Huddled in their tent to stay out of the constant downpour and winds, the pair was 'assaulted' by bear growls and grunts, only to find that those viscous rantings were none other than members of Kiwis USA. Two minutes later the New Zealand-America contingent was on its way.

Still in the lead, S.C.A.R. made it to Lake Ennis mid-afternoon and started their five-mile paddling segment amid rain and heavy winds that kicked up two-foot waves. Tonight they will start the 100-mile mountain bike leg of the race.

#### **Day 4 Tuesday, June 16th**

After another night of harsh weather, punctuated by snow, rain and winds, athletes continued trekking, paddling and mountain biking on day four of Four Winds '98-The USA Supreme Adventure Race/Montana.

By around 7 a.m., Knuckleheads was finishing their paddling leg on Lake Ennis (TA3/CPC12) as Rolex was just entering the water (CPC10). Around the same time, S.C.A.R. checked into Pony (CPC13), approximately a third of the way through the 100-mile bike venue. Kiwis USA had yet to arrive at the lake-at CPC9 they had only been three hours behind S.C.A.R.

Montana Misfits were struck yet again, this time with illness and injury shortly after Spanish Creek (CPC8). Three of the remaining four members dropped out from the leg, while team captain Jeff Tiegs-a local Bozeman resident who often runs solo in the mountains-continued on. His team, including Janet Clarkson, would meet him at Lake Ennis and possibly join him for the paddling section.

More than 18 hours after they left CPC9 and just as a Forest Service search and rescue team was about to be dispatched on horseback, Kiwis USA was spotted on a road heading toward the lake, along with Amerifit. It seems they attempted a 'shortcut' and instead, made a big loop. They maintained a sense of humor about it however, and after completing their paddling leg, set out on the bike venue in the early afternoon.

Although Knuckleheads left TA3 on their bikes first, Rolex checked into CPC13 ahead of them. S.C.A.R. was originally expected at Wall Creek around 3 p.m., and then 7 p.m. By the end of the day, they had not arrived. Meanwhile, reports came in from the field tonight that Kiwis USA and Knuckleheads had hunkered down on the dance floor of a bar somewhere off one of the highways, and Rolex and Montana Misfits also sought shelter from the relentless rain in a Four Winds volunteer cabin close to the lake.



Knuckleheads come off of Ennis Lake.

#### **Day 5 Wednesday, June 17th**

S.C.A.R. checked into Wall Creek (TA4) just before 2 a.m. and at 9 a.m., all five members were on horseback heading into white-out conditions at the 6,500 foot level. The original course included a rappel two miles into the equestrian leg, but snowfall adversely affected the site and ultimately, for safety reasons, was eliminated.

Knuckleheads continued the 100-mile mountain biking trek and made Nevada City (CPC14) before noon, followed shortly by Rolex, now a four-person squad, and

Montana Misfits-whose membership fluctuates from one to three. Kiwis USA reached Pony (CPC13) at 9 a.m.

Amerifit, meanwhile, dropped out of the competition today, and Alpine Aire Adventure Racers (unranked) has decided to complete only certain sections of the remaining course in order to get to finish by Saturday.

By the end of the day, Knuckleheads, Montana Misfits and Rolex had arrived at Wall Creek, and would start their horseback riding legs early tomorrow. Houston made it to Ennis Lake, and S.C.A.R., still in the lead, biked 22 miles to Lyons Bridge where they began the 50-mile canoe leg on the Madison River to Ennis Lake. As the skies finally cleared and temperatures dropped, the team decided to paddle their boats to shore and bed down for a few hours.

## Day 7

**Friday, June 19th**

It's official ... S.C.A.R. arrived at Bear Canyon Campground (CPC24) six days, two hours and 30 minutes after taking off from the Museum of the Rockies to win Four Winds '98-The USA Supreme Adventure Race/Montana. Their final trek began prior to 6 a.m. with a 12-mile white water rafting leg on the Gallatin River from Beckman Flat (CPC22) to Axtell Bridge (CPC23). From there, they hopped on their bikes and raced toward Bozeman to the finish at 9:02 a.m. for a winners' reception.

In a post-race interview with the Bozeman Daily Chronicle, S.C.A.R. team captain David 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." Kelly's fellow victors included Jacques Boutet, Will Burkhart, Richard Ruid and Rebecca Rusch.

Montana Misfits (unranked) were the second team to arrive, coming in this evening at 7:29 p.m., followed 19 minutes later by the Knuckleheads . Also clocking in tonight was Rolex, who arrived at 11:20 p.m. amid a chilling, steady rain.

Earlier in the day, Kiwis USA finished the Madison River leg at Ennis Lake (TA6) and by mid-afternoon, headed into the Madison Range toward Spanish Creek and the Gallatin River. Around the same time, Houston finished the horseback riding segment and like Alpine Aire Adventure Racers, decided to complete selected sections of the remaining course in order to arrive at the campground by Saturday-thus, no longer ranked. All three teams are expected to finish tomorrow.



Team S.C.A.R. at the finish line.



Montana Misfits at the finish line.



Knuckleheads at the finish line.

**Four Winds Adventure Company [www.4windsadventure.com](http://www.4windsadventure.com) (800) 775-7671**