



Riverboarding World Championship

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Flash Infos N° 1

Dear Boarderhood

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Community and the importance of event

We are just a few months away from the second Riverboarding World Championship. The Event will bring together Riverboarders from all over the world to compete against each other but also, probably more significantly, to enjoy the opportunity to see old faces, meet new friends and of course to run some class whitewater.

The demographic of participants in the Event is as diverse as the location is exotic. National Champions, novices, men, women, young and old will all take to the water to experience the thrill of participating in a World Championship in the hope of being crowned the next Riverboarding World Champion. That is what a World Championship is all about, but not entirely. There is more to an Event such as this. It is also an opportunity to unite with other members of our International Tribe, to spend time with other people who choose to run whitewater in this way, because we all seem to share certain characteristics:

Energy

Riverboarders are different to other whitewater enthusiasts. Rather than avoid being in the water, we immerse ourselves completely in it. We love feeling the raw energy of mother nature, the intensity of something that is at once powerful and graceful, to find ourselves in the flow to become part of it. We become one with the river's energy.

Boarderhood

Some of us started Riverboarding with others as part of a club or a group of friends. Many others pursued the sport on their own, often faced with blank stares and even ridicule from those who just don't get it. Why would you place yourself in the most dangerous parts of a river, willingly, and how can you smile and enjoy it? Technology has enabled us, Riverboarders from around the World, to



connect with each other, to share ideas and experiences. We have become united, a group that recognises each other; even if we ride different types of boards, use different length fins and speak different languages. Our passion has united us. We have become a Boarderhood, a tribe that cannot be held by boundaries of nations or prejudices.

The Riverboarding World Championship allows us, the Boarderhood, to come together, share our passion and play a part in growing and developing the sport. It is not simply a competition, it is a celebration.

Environment

As people who pursue our passion outdoors in nature, we understand the importance of looking after the earth, the need to preserve the environment. We strive to do this, not simply from conviction but also because it makes sense. Our conviction is that we need to be good stewards of the resources at our disposal, but more than that. We also recognise that it makes sense for us to look after rivers, because that is our playground, the place from which we draw energy and enjoyment. Rivers challenge, inspire and test us, it makes us feel alive and we want to draw this enjoyment from places that are pristine, places that embody the very thing we search after. Good, clean fun.

Rivers

The waterways of the World are our playgrounds. Liquid rollercoasters; some steep and narrow, others wide and winding. We draw life from the blue veins that cut across borders and wash over lands. Meandering paths which both direct us and gives us freedom. Freedom to experience the thrill of discovery, like Explorers of old, never knowing what lies around the next corner or what will come after the next eddy. That is why we go, why we tap into the pulse of the coursing waters to experience life on another level, briefly suspended in a state of equilibrium floating between the unknown and that which can only be known in this place, the heart of the river.

Purity

There is a purity to our pursuit. Something almost innocent in its simplicity. Putting ourselves in the midst of seemingly terrifying situations, with water gushing around us, rocks to the left and right, rain pouring down and somehow in the midst of this torrential chaos we find peace. An inner calm, even when our hearts are racing and we have to concentrate so hard on facing the next rapid that nothing else can exist in that instant, only that which we are faced with right now. Everything else is drained out, and in those flashes we experience some of the purest moments of our lives. We are more lucid, more in tune with ourselves and with nature. Intuition takes over from reason and we transcend ourselves and momentarily tap into something that is both much greater than ourselves and somehow part of us already. **Purity**.

Charl

Member of World Riverboarding Association