

***** Captains forward newsletter to all team members *****

Newsletter #1(Final)

Hello Odyssey Fall Finale 24 Hour and Sprint Competitors!!!!

I hope you are ready for a great time in the beautiful Blue Ridge Mountains! We feel like we have prepared a fun and challenging course for you. This is the inaugural year for these two events. It will be Odyssey's 84 and 85 adventure race that we have organized and managed on the close of our 13th year. We are looking forward to these events and the great events we will bring to you in 2011!

There are 29 teams in the Odyssey Fall Finale 24 HR, 64 competitors from 8 states and Canada (Connecticut, Washington DC, Illinois, Maryland, North Carolina, Ohio, Tennessee, Virginia and Ontario, Canada) and 29 teams for the Odyssey Fall Finale Sprint, 67 competitors from 4 states (Kentucky, Maryland, North Carolina, Virginia) that will experience paddling class I and II whitewater, mountain bike miles of single track and fire road and trek to a beautiful waterfall.

Registration is still open until Tuesday, if you know anyone still wanting to race I either of the events.

The 24hr race course is between 60-75 miles or longer depending on route choice and navigation skills. Extra miles are free of charge! The total elevation change is over 18,000ft, if you do all the optional points. Teams will be plotting their own points using an Universal Transverse Mercator (UTM) grid system.

The break down for the event is:

Whitewater Canoeing with bikes – 15-20 miles

Mountain Biking- 35-40 miles- mostly dirt and gravel road, double track and single track trails

Trekking-10-15 miles- mostly double track and single track trails and off trail bushwhacking

Navigation with map and compass at all times!

The Sprint race course is a fun 25-38 mile course with over 6000' of total elevation change. The maps will be pre-plotted.

The break down for the event is:

Whitewater Canoeing with bikes – 5-7miles

Mountain Biking- 15-23miles- mostly dirt and gravel road, double track and single track trails

Trekking-5-8 miles- mostly double track and single track trails and off trail bushwhacking

Navigation with map and compass at all times!

Both courses will have a lot of option checkpoints. Teams will have to get all the mandatory checkpoints in order to remain official and ranked. The optional checkpoints will make the course longer but the more optional checkpoints you have the higher your ranking, if you make it across the finish line be for the official race finish. Teams will be ranked by their mandatory checkpoints, then optional checkpoints, then total race time.

Teams will be paddling with their bikes in their boats for both events. I would practice taking the bikes apart, as in front wheel and seat post off and on as quickly as possible. Most of the time this is all you need to do to make your bikes fit in the middle of your canoes. Those with 29'ers good luck you may have to take both wheels off depending on frame size. Be sure to bring ropes or straps to tie your bikes in the boats.

We wish you safe travels and thank you for supporting Odyssey Adventure Racing and the sport of adventure racing.

Ronny Angell and the Odyssey Race Staff

- Sponsors
- C.P.T. Profiles
- Required Forms
- USARA
- Checkpoint Tracker National Points Series & LIVE Coverage
- Race Rules
- Map Scale & Plotting
- Gear List
- Gear Bins
- Lodging
- Food
- Schedule
- Special Offers
- Volunteers

Sponsors- We would like to thank our sponsors for supporting Odyssey Adventure Racing and the sport of adventure racing at large. ImONPoint.org, [Mad Athlete](#), [Zanfel](#), [Hammer Nutrition](#), [Sierra Summits](#), [Steve's Original](#), and [Nuun](#):

ImONPoint.org: The mission of the On Point Foundation is to help service members regain control of their lives through education, rehabilitation, services and equipment. Read more [here](#). You may make a donation at any of our events towards this worthy cause. Many thanks to those of you that already have.

[Nuun](#): Nuun is pleased to offer you a 40% discount off of [Nuun](#) and [SportMulti](#). You'll be able to redeem this offer via www.feedthemachine.com. We'll have the code/instructions available for you soon.

[Hammer Nutrition](#): You may receive 15% off of your first online order from Hammer Nutrition by first navigating [here](#) and utilizing the referral #29019. Many local running and biking shops offer their products at a rate competitive to that of online pricing + shipping. We use Hammer and encourage you to support them!

C.P.T. PROFILES: Go to Checkpoint Tracker(CPT) <http://www.checkpointtracker.com/> and create racer and team profiles for all members of your team. (Simply go to the "Sign Up" link and follow prompts from there.) This will allow your friends and family to follow you on Checkpoint Tracker on race day and this will also allow you to be eligible for the Checkpoint Tracker National Series points. There are many different divisions in the point series race!

Checkpoint Tracker National Points Series & LIVE Coverage:

We're excited to be a part of the CPT Series again this season. New this year: multiple divisions included in the rankings and competition. Read more [here](#).

Live coverage of the Odyssey Fall Finale 24 HR Adventure Race will be offered via CPT. We believe your friends and family will be pleased by the evolution of its coverage from past seasons. **Race coverage may be found [here](#). NEW this season:** In the interest of growing the sport, expanding its exposure and that of teams' sponsors, Odyssey AR is going to allow you to **tweet from the course***- *You may only tweet from manned CPs in front of staff or volunteers. Any non-emergency use of cell phones beyond this exception will fall under the strict enforcement of the [race rules](#)(Rules for 24HR and Sprint are the same).

REQUIRED FORMS: Please have all team members complete the online forms if you haven't already done so. You'll save precious time and a couple of trees. (**Odyssey Fall Finale 24 HR** forms: click on "forms" tab) http://www.oarevents.com/events/2010/Fall_Finale_2010.shtml

(**Odyssey Fall Finale Sprint** forms: click on "forms" tab)
http://www.oarevents.com/events/2010/Fall_Finale_Sprint_2010.shtml

USARA: ALL competitors must have your USARA card (or printout from USARA website) with a valid membership number with you when you register at the race. **OR** Otherwise, **you will need to purchase a new membership. No card/membership...no race. A single -event USARA membership is \$8.00** or a yearly membership is \$35.00. Cash or checks made payable to USARA will be accepted. Credit cards NOT accepted. For more information on the benefits of USARA membership, visit www.USARA.com. If you sign up for an annual membership online, be sure to print out your temporary card and bring it with you! If your USARA racing license is lost, a replacement license can be purchased by sending \$5.00 along with your name, address, and phone number (include license number if possible) to USARA. If you forget to bring your license to a race, purchase a single event license so you are able to register. Send a copy of the single event license along with a note to the USARA and \$3.00 will be refunded. More about membership [here](#).

Race Rules: All competitors must review and familiarize themselves with the [race rules](#) (Rules for One Day and Sprint are the same) (click on "Rules" tab) prior to the start of the event.

There will be many options to acquire most of the checkpoints. Teams ARE required to get **all** mandatory checkpoints in sequential order to remain official. Teams will be ranked by the total number of checkpoints acquired.

Map scale & Plotting: You will be given MyTopo.com waterproof 36" x 48" (tablecloth size) 1:24,000 scale gridded map for the 24HR race and 24" X 36" 1:24,000 scale pre-plotted gridded maps for the Sprint race. We will be giving each team/soloist, a 1:24,000 scale map plotter with the maps. You will be issued maps after all paperwork and check-in is completed.

Gear list: The gear list that is posted on the website will be what is required for the event. [Odyssey Fall Finale 24 HR](#) and [Odyssey Fall Finale Sprint](#)

Odyssey has arranged with Twin River Outfitter to bring back your boats from the canoe take out location to the finish. You will be able to leave all paddling gear with the boats. It will be your reasonability to secure all of your paddling gear to the boats for transport.

No portaging will be allowed during the event.

Helmets(Bike is OK) will be required to be worn at all times during the water sections for **both** races. You may have to carry the helmet the entire race.

Most last minute gear items may be found at www.MadAthlete.com.

Schedule:

Odyssey Fall Finale 24HR **Saturday, October 16**

Check In: 6:00am - 9:00am

Race Brief: 10:00am

Race Start: 11:30 am

Sunday, October 17

Race Finish: 11:30 am

Post Race Lunch: 10am – 1:00 pm

Odyssey Fall Finale Sprint **Saturday, October 16, 2010**

Check In: 6:00am - 9:00am

Race Brief: 10:00am

Race Start: 11:30 am

Race Finish: 6:00pm

Post Race BBQ: 5:00-7:00pm

Volunteers: We can never have too many volunteers. If you've got any friends, family or unwitting neighbors that might like to come out and cheer you on firsthand, bring them along!

Volunteers may help for ANY length of time. They may gift their volunteer credit to you OR earn credit towards an event of their own. The current "exchange rate" is 4 days of volunteering for a free day of racing contact Susanna volunteer@OARevents.com. Free Camping will be available for the volunteers.

We will need volunteers to help with:

- **Setup** Headquarters Friday evening
- Check Teams in on Saturday morning

Hand out:

- Maps
- T-shirts
- Race Bibs

Breakdown at end of race

- Gather Check Points
- Some drive to /some off trail- orienteering points- bring map case and compass
- Break down HQ
- Load trailer

During the race:

Work a Checkpoint: (This is like car camping)

- Get times and team numbers as they check in
- Relay info back to HQ
- Gather any exciting news that happened out on the course to be used to paint a picture to the friends and family following us on CPT
- Take photos
- Tweet directly to CPT to give live updates from the field

Not the outdoor type? No problem!

We will need volunteer back at HQ to help:

- Enter data in the results excel spreadsheet
- Update Checkpoint Tracker
- Update our Facebook page
- Send out Tweets
- Post photos on Flickr
- Lots more fun stuff!