

## ***Rum River Marathon Canoe Race: A letter of Thanks***

I woke up on Saturday, May 10, 2003 and it looked like the weather was going to be nicer than what was predicted. The race was scheduled to start at 11 AM and I arrived at 8:45 AM at the Rum River South County Park in Anoka, Minnesota to start getting things set up. A few minutes after I arrived more clouds suddenly arrived causing the temperature to drop a few degrees. Even with just a very light wind it was chilly.

My two volunteers, Tuk and Susan Gove, arrived at the same time, as did two other paddlers, John and Kathy Sullivan. Thank you to the Sullivan's for finding me the two volunteers. I explained to Tuk and Susan what I wanted them to do and asked them if they would handle one more thing as well as all the other things I asked them to do. The person who I had lined up to take pictures had some family matters to deal with and was unable to take pictures of the race. Tuk said he would do it. Then I asked him one more thing, would he be able to take pictures with two different cameras. Tuk graciously agreed. I have a Nikon SLR 35 mm and I just got a new Canon Digital camera a few days earlier. I hope to learn how to upload or download (whatever the correct term) the pictures to be sent to the webmaster to be posted on the Minnesota Canoe Association website. This race wouldn't have happened without the assistance of Tuk and Susan. A very big **Thank You** goes out to both of you!

Dr. Richard Kragness, DC, (Chiropractor), adjusted those people who wanted to be adjusted using the activator method before and after the race. I believe the doctor said he had about nine people that he adjusted. I know I got adjusted before and after the race. The Doctor told me he was glad that he came to the race.

I really had no idea how people would show up at my race (I heard other people were going elsewhere) but I guess I did expect a few more people to show especially for the citizen classes. I want to thank each one of the racers: John and Kathy Sullivan, Kate Ellis, Al DuBois, Tom Gardner, Kevin Shriver, Scott Ankeny, Steve Peterson, Brett Arenz, Jason Larsen, Todd Ellison, Greg Zophy, Scott Richardson, Nicole Richardson, Ed Arenz, John Arenz and Becca Heath. Norman Strike showed up looking for a partner but none were to be found and he was unable to race.

I didn't get to speak to each racer about how their race went but I know a couple of them it didn't go so well. Kate Ellis did something to her back at the turn around in the longer Pro course. Al DuBois, her partner, paddled as she had to rudder back to the finish line. Tom Gardner and Kevin Shriver ended up in the river due to some very large boat wakes from an inexperienced boater or one who wasn't concerned about canoeist. This motorboat was one of the larger boats that I've seen on the Rum River and it was going at a speed that causes the largest wake possible. The speed where it appears the boat is going to "punch it" to get the boat planning but it never does. Another person in a little aluminum boat assisted Tom and Kevin to shore where they emptied the canoe and finished the last few minutes of the race. Tom and Kevin attempted to talk to the inconsiderate boater when the boat returned to the boat landing after finding that their boat was probably too large for the river, but the boater appeared to ignore their concerns.

All the racers were lined up for the start of the race. Brett Arenz and Jason Larson who were lined up closer to shore got the jump on Todd Ellison and I. Todd and I followed them all the way upstream. We would be on the stern wake but drop back a few waves in the shallows. This happened numerous times. There was no way that Jason and Brett were going to allow us to pass them on the upstream portion of the river. I was in the stern and worked very hard behind the other canoe going upstream. Later, Jason admitted he knew we could catch them going downstream but he wasn't going to let us pass on the upstream. Todd and I rode Jason and Brett's stern wake downstream and eventually moved up to their side wake about 15 minutes left in the race. The pace finally slowed. Brett and Jason dropped back from the outside and moved up on the inside two turns from the end. Both boats got tangled up and Jason and Brett moved ahead. Todd wanted to immediately get back on the inside and we slowed to almost a stop and that's when the other canoe put the hammer down. Todd and I gave pursuit but I now had "less of a hammer" and couldn't make up any ground. Jason and Brett hit the faster water sooner on the last corner and came across the finish line first. Good race, guys!

All the racers put their canoes back on their vehicles and it was time to hand out the prizes. I had all the cash prize amounts figured out earlier but now I needed to adjust them upward since there were a few less people. And next time I have to remember to put my name down for the random drawing.

REI supplied three-daypacks to the winners of both citizen classes. Becca Heath won the Citizen C1 and John and Ed Arenz won the Citizen C2 class and they each got a daypack. (REI also supplied three dry bags that were given away in the random drawing).

The Minnesota Canoe Association and We-no-nah Canoes donated cash prizes to the racers of the Pro classes. We-no-nah also supplied stickers.

John Sullivan won the paddle supplied by Black Bart Paddles.

Greg Zophy winner of the Pro C1 won the Paul Bunyan Jac Shirt supplied by Bemidji Woolen Mills.

Pearson Candies supplied the Salted Nut Roll candies that seemed to be a favorite snack afterwards.

I would like to thank each of the following race supporters in their support of the sport, Marathon Canoe Racing. I ask in return that the racers also support them.

**Minnesota Canoe Association-** (Cash Prizes) [www.canoe-kayak.org](http://www.canoe-kayak.org)

**Dr. Richard Kragness** – His time in giving free chiropractic adjustments using the activator <http://kragnesschiropractic.chiroweb.com>

**Black Bart Paddles-** (Paddle) [www.blackbartpaddles.com](http://www.blackbartpaddles.com)

**We-no-nah Canoes-** (Cash Prizes and Stickers) [www.wenonah.com](http://www.wenonah.com)

**Bemidji Woolen Mills-** (Paul Bunyan Jac Shirt) [www.bemidjiwoolenmills.com](http://www.bemidjiwoolenmills.com)

**REI- (Bloomington)-** (Three day packs and three dry bags) [www.rei.com](http://www.rei.com)

**Pearson Candies-** (Salted Nut Roll) [www.pearsoncandy.com](http://www.pearsoncandy.com)

**Jiffy Lube-** (Certificate) 8082 Brooklyn Blvd., Brooklyn Park, MN 763.424.5899

**Ruby Tuesday-** (Certificate) 11469 Market Place Blvd., Champlin, MN 763.421.0261

**Mansetti's Pizza and Pasta-** (Two certificates) Hwy 169 & Miller Rd., Champlin, MN  
763.422.0400

**Papa Murphy's Pizza-** (Two certificates) 11351 Aquila Dr., Champlin, MN  
763.427.3556

**Subway-** (Three certificates) 11351 Aquila Dr., Champlin, MN 763.427.3556

**Quizno's-** (Certificate) 11175 Commerce Dr., Champlin, MN

**Dairy Queen-** (Several certificates) 11200 Aquila Ave., Champlin, MN 55316

*Thank You Everyone!!!!*

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