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## **USARA Adventure Race National Championship™ begins on Pepacton Reservoir**

**October 3, 2012** -- The United States Adventure Racing Association will present the 2012 USARA Adventure Race National Championship in the Catskills this weekend, October 12 and 13, when 165 competitors from around the nation will paddle, bike, run trails and race through an orienteering course in Delaware, Sullivan and Ulster Counties.

A challenging rappel down a waterfall in Minnewaska State Park concludes the rigorous race, which requires participants to climb more than 12,000 feet in total elevation over the two-day event.

This prestigious race began in 2000 and has continually grown into the premier amateur adventure racing event in the United States.

The 30-hour, 100-mile event began at 8:30 a.m. Friday with a 12-mile paddle down the Pepacton Reservoir, the largest reservoir in the New York City water system. Three-person teams were bused to the start at the Raynor Brook boat launch near Downsville to begin the race. The NYC DEP approved the race in this the first year that it has allowed recreational boating on the Pepacton, and on three other reservoirs in the Catskills. More than 900 boating permits have been issued this season.

The adventure racers will get off the water at the Shavertown Bridge between 10:30 and 12:30. Spectators are welcome at this point. They will then pick up their mountain bikes for a "King of the Mountain" timed race to Sullivan County, and then a rugged bike ride through the Mongaup Pond, Willowemoc Creek and Denman Mountain areas, and around New York City's Rondout Reservoir.

A nighttime trek through Sundown and Vernooykill Forests will lead the racers to Minnewaska State Park and an 85-foot waterfall. Racers will finish at Hudson Valley Resort, Kerhonkson, between 3 a.m. and 2 p.m. Saturday.

Teams compete in over 45 regional qualifying events throughout the year, all chasing the same goal of reaching the USARA Adventure Race National Championships. These regional champions have assembled in the Catskills to compete in this grueling championship contest. When the dust (or mud) settles, one team will be crowned 2012 USARA Adventure Race National Champions.

Adventure race fans who cannot attend can still follow all of the action on the USARA Nationals website, [www.usaranationals.com](http://www.usaranationals.com), which had over 20,000 visits during the 2011 championship race. The website posts live coverage, video and photos as the teams battle it out for top bragging rights and the title of USARA Adventure Race National Champions!