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Oklahoma City to Host 2011 USRowing Masters National Championships

USRowing is pleased to announce that the OKC Boathouse Foundation and Oklahoma City will play host to the 2011 USRowing Masters National Championships August 11-14, 2011, on the Oklahoma River.

USRowing's Masters National Championships, the organization's largest event, features more than 1,600 athletes competing for titles in more than 200 events.

Located adjacent to downtown Oklahoma City and the Bricktown Entertainment District, the Oklahoma River offers one of the nation's best training and race venues with both sprint and head race courses. The Oklahoma River has hosted numerous national and international events including the 2007 Head of the Oklahoma/Rowing World Challenge, which drew more than 1,200 athletes and 51,000 spectators. Other major events include the 2009 Boot of the Oklahoma, 2008 Head of the Oklahoma, 2008 American Collegiate Rowing Association National Championship and 2008 U.S. Olympic Team Trials – Canoe/Kayak.

"We are excited to bring the 2011 USRowing Masters National Championships to Oklahoma City, site of the USRowing High Performance Center," said Glenn Merry, USRowing's chief executive officer. "Oklahoma City and the OKC Boathouse Foundation have shown an unparalleled commitment to the sport of rowing. Their events are first-rate and cutting-edge, with an emphasis on the participant experience both on and off the water. I encourage all of our masters rowers to attend and explore what Oklahoma City is doing in both rowing and entertainment."

Development along the river in the area now known as the "Boathouse District" is progressing rapidly with a total of four boathouses, a \$5 million finish-line tower and racecourse improvements planned. The first boathouse in the Boathouse District – the Chesapeake Boathouse – will be joined by the Devon Boathouse and Chesapeake Finish Line Tower prior to masters nationals' racing in 2011. Recently completed shoreline improvements include a river walk and expanded staging grounds, providing both athletes and spectators with unparalleled views of racing.

The city also recently passed a one-cent sales tax to fund, among other projects, \$60 million in new facilities on the Oklahoma River including racecourse infrastructure, grandstands and permanent lighting.

"We are thrilled to be hosting masters nationals in 2011," said Mike Knopp, executive director of the OKC Boathouse Foundation. "We've partnered with both the city and the local corporate community to create what we believe is one of the best venues in the nation, and it's all to provide athletes with the best racing and training experiences possible."

The Oklahoma River was named a US Olympic and Paralympic Training Site in July, 2009, and is the site of the OKC National High Performance Center offering elite athlete training in conjunction with both USRowing and USA Canoe/Kayak. For more information about the Oklahoma River, contact the OKC Boathouse Foundation at (405) 552-4040 or online, riversportokc.org.

USRowing is a nonprofit organization recognized by the United States Olympic Committee as the governing body for the sport of rowing in the United States. USRowing's Official Suppliers are Boathouse Sports, Filippi, Croker Oars and Rudy Project; its Official Patron is Concept2; its Official Electronics Outfitter is Nielsen Kellerman; and its Official Timer is Powerhouse Timing. USRowing also receives generous support from the National Rowing Foundation. For more information on USRowing, please visit www.usrowing.org.