



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

**NEW YORK OUTRIGGER CANOE CLUB PRESENTS THE ANNUAL
LIBERTY WORLD OUTRIGGER COMPETITION
JULY 31, 2010
IN NEW YORK HARBOR**

(New York, May 26, 2010) -- New York Outrigger Canoe Club (NYO) will once again host the annual *Liberty World Outrigger Competition* on July 31, 2010. *Liberty* is one of the largest sporting events in New York Harbor and one of the most prestigious outrigger canoe races in the world. Teams will race along a challenging and visually-stunning course in New York Harbor, past landmarks such as the Statue of Liberty and the Brooklyn Bridge with the Manhattan skyline as a backdrop. The currents and boat traffic create an unpredictable and washing machine like effect making this race one of the most difficult in the world. Thousands of spectators are expected to watch the event unfold along the New York and New Jersey waterfronts.

This year, approximately 250 paddlers from around the world are expected to compete. Past participants have included teams from Tahiti, Australia, Costa Rica, England, Sweden, France and Canada, as well as US teams from Hawaii, California, Florida, Connecticut, Massachusetts, Maryland, Washington DC, and Pennsylvania.

There are three categories of races:

Women	(15 miles)	Start time 7:30 a.m.
Men	(15 miles)	Start time 11:00 a.m.
Mixed (co-ed)	(11 miles)	Start time 2:30 p.m.

All races will launch from the Brooklyn Bridge Park in Brooklyn. From there, crews will head south around the Battery and north up the Hudson River. At 34th Street, they will head west across the river, then south down the New Jersey side of the Hudson River past Hoboken, Jersey City and Ellis Island. At the Statue of Liberty, crews will turn east across New York Harbor and around the southern end of Governors Island and past the Brooklyn Piers. The finish line is directly in front of the Brooklyn Bridge Park. *For a detailed map, vantage points, and estimated arrival times, please visit www.newyorkoutrigger.org/liberty (Note: the course may change in inclement weather or for other safety reasons.)*

After all three races have concluded, a celebratory luau and awards ceremony will be held at Pier 66 Maritime on the Hudson River.

Outrigger canoeing is the ancestral Hawaiian sport of kings, and it comes from the Polynesian heritage of seafaring outrigger canoes. The narrow, tapered canoes are 40 feet long and accommodate six paddlers. A long, thin stabilizer lashed to the left side gives the canoe its distinctive look. This type of canoe carried the ancient Polynesian people through uncharted waters to populate islands as far away as Hawaii and New Zealand. Inside the boat, all six paddlers must work in unison, yet each has a distinctive role. Even as the sport spreads to new islands such as Manhattan, it still emphasizes bravery, teamwork and respect for Polynesian traditions.

About New York Outrigger: New York Outrigger was established in 1995 and is a 501(c)3 non-profit, educational water sports organization based at Pier 66 Boathouse in Hudson River Park in Manhattan. NYO is dedicated to providing recreational, cultural, and athletic activity to a revitalized New York Harbor and its adjoining waterways. NYO has proudly advanced the sport of Polynesian outrigger canoeing on the Eastern shores of the United States. A full description of our activities and the *Liberty World Outrigger Competition* is available at www.newyorkoutrigger.org. Contributions to New York Outrigger and the *Liberty World Outrigger Competition* are tax deductible.

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