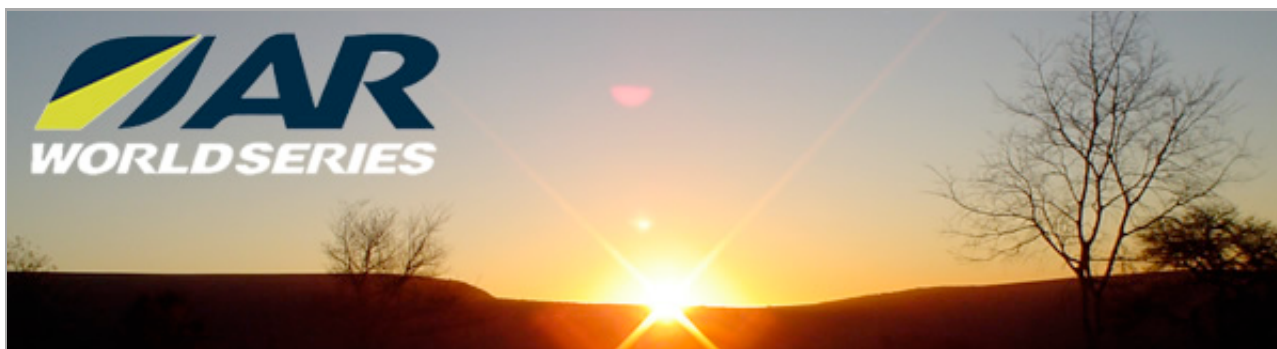


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## ARWorld Series News from around the World

At the start of the year in February we had two events in widely different parts of the world. From the erupting volcanoes of Ecuador to the frozen forests of Poland. These two events accurately reflect the diversity in the ARWorld Series

A couple of short race reports follow as we now look forward to the next events in the Series - the Bimbache Extreme starting next week in Spain and at the end of the month the Raid in France.

We also have releases from 'The Monster' in Sweden, the XPD Australia, and reports of a large field already signed up for the Untamed New England Adventure race

The XPD Portugal has launched the new ARWC 2009 web site and Ecomotion announces the dates and location for this year.



### Huairasinchi

A new event in the ARWorld Series.

Huairasinchi, the race that challenges human strength. "Huairasinchi" (the wind's strength in Kichwa) is considered the highest adventure race in the world at 4400 metres with a lot of time spent above 3500m, but it also descended to the low of 33 meters at the finish line.

Thirty two national teams and eight international teams competed in the Huarasinchi's 7th edition. Among the international elite teams were: Speleo Salomon from Poland; Vibram Sport 2000 from France; Bosi from Colombia; Adventure World Magazine from USA; Buff - Thermocool from Spain; Safety Smart Wear-Aerogal from Colombia; Karen's Aventura Briko from Colombia; and Retos.Info from Venezuela.

The winners of the elite category were: Buff Thermocool in first place, 11 minutes of difference with team Ecuador that arrived on second place. Fuji Kinetiko USFQ in third place, Safety Smart Wear Aereogal in fourth place and Club de Paracaidistas 1 in fifth place.

Web: [Huairasinchi](#)



### Bergson Winter Challenge

On the 20th February the Bergson Winter Challenge offered this short note

"Competitors won't complain about lack of winter weather. Tonight the temperature in the center of Rabka-Zdrój was -21 degrees and at 9 am -12 degrees. We advise you to take warm winter caps."

After last year's unusually warm winter, when even the British team complained about the warm weather, this year it proved to be real again. Heavy snowing just a few days prior the race caused difficult terrain, and temperatures reaching – 20 degrees centigrade made the race really difficult.

A report from Bjørn Axelsen of Roadrunners Adventureteam is at [http://www.sleepmonsters.com//racereport.php?page\\_action=rep&race\\_id=7221&article\\_id=5737](http://www.sleepmonsters.com//racereport.php?page_action=rep&race_id=7221&article_id=5737) but he had this to say

'Coming to Rabka Zdroj, about 50km South of Krakow in Southern Poland, in the evening we felt that this could be a cold experience. With a little bit of snow falling through the air and low temperatures, maybe - 10 Celcius, and about 80 cm of snow in the terrain this would be a true winter race.

Except for a Dutch team all other teams were from Eastern Europe: Poland, Ukraine, Czech Republic. Number 1 and 2 from 2008 (Suunto Navigators and Speleo) were not present. Most of the teams we had never met before so we had no idea of their competitive level. However, most of the teams happened to be strong and well prepared for the race.

Bergson Winter Challenge offered true winter challenges in a landscape fully covered by snow. Competition was intense as most teams were fighting closely. Our team's plan for the race went really well until we hit a disastrous last stage of the race, moving from 1st to 5th position overall'.

".....this was a great competition. We had close contact to the other teams during most of the race. This made the competitive element strong. The race was hard – the hardest I've done so far. I'll be back next year. This ..... race holds a reputation of being one of the most professionally organised adventure races in Europe. " Bjørn Axelsen

The results show that the racing was intense and close.

#### **Results**

1st – OpavaNet/Tilak/K&K (08) from Czech Republic - time: 82 h 28 min.

2nd – Team 360o (6) from Poland – time: 82 h 29 min.

3rd – OS-Direct Adventure Team (4) from Ukraine – time: 89 h 02 min.

4th – Traverse (5) z Ukrainy – from Ukraine – time: 89 h 03 min.

5th – AdventureTeam.dk – Roadrunners (7) from Denmark and Norway – time: 92 h 33 min.

6th – AlpinePro/Nutrend/Merida (2) from Czech Republic – time: 98 h 26 min.

Web: [Bergson Winter Challenge](#)

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### **Bimbache Extrem Castilla y León and the Raid in France**

This month will feature two European races in neighbouring countries with the Bimbache Extrem Castilla y León starting in one week followed by the Raid in France at the end of the month

#### **Bimbache Extrem Castilla y León**

**Antonio de la Rosa**, the race director (and famous racer) writes this of the 7th edition  
We are sure that you will have an unforgettable recollection of this race. It will be a very dynamic race, with continuous changes of activity. With 17 sections and more than 60 control points that will test the physical force, capacity of orientation and strategy of some of the best teams of adventure of the world.

The total time estimated for the first teams will be 65 to 70 hours. There will be two big loops that the more delayed teams will be able to avoid, so that all the competitors, independently of their level, will be able to cross the finish line before Friday 22nd at 5 p.m.

Web: [Bimbache Extrem Castilla y León](#)

#### **Raid in France**

In less than 3 weeks time, Raid in France - Alps to Sea 2009 will begin.

**Pascal Bahuaud** - the race director had this to say "Course setting has been taking place throughout the winter in order to insure good transition and some sublime passages. The vast quantity of snow has made things difficult and we must wait a couple of more weeks in order to return and check out some of the high mountain passages. The decision to allow competitors to undertake some of these itineraries will be taken at the last minute in relation to the snow cover still remaining.

The Route will be approx. 520 kms, including numerous activities to be carried out in total autonomy. The trekking + ropes + canyoning sections will represent 108 kms, mountain bike 241 kms, boats (canoe + raft) 133 kms, horse riding 27 kms.

As with the first edition you will progress in the wild often far from marked civilisation. Even though we are in France the areas we pass through are wild and isolated so don't expect to be able to pop into a restaurant en route!

The expected time for the first teams will be about 120 hours and the maximal time will be 147 hours.

Web: [Raid in France](#)

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## Racing in July

During the month of July we have another two events on the calendar. In the first week we have the **Explore Sweden 'Monster'** followed by record setting **Untamed New England Adventure Race**



### **Explore Sweden Dates: July 2-9, 2009**

When most races go to shorter and shorter racecourses, Explore Sweden goes bananas and creates a Monster, a 1000 km non stop race including everything an adventure junkie can dream about!

The teams will have great experiences. One day they will race in a big city with cheering crowds and the next they will be trekking on glaciers with ice axe and crampons in the wide-open wilderness. The midnight sun, will give light for at least 20 hours!

The course will contain every adventure racers highest expectations with trekking and orienteering along trails and in unmarked terrain. With highlands and lowlands, urban environment and spectacular mountain traverses with unrivaled scenery along the Sweden/Norway border.

The mountain bike will be on roads and single-track, including some really technical terrain. The race will feature a huge downhill section on world class MTB trails and a strategic "Tour de France" style bike section where teams will be allowed to receive support/food during their ride between check points.

And some spectacular rope sections that will entertain teams and media alike – not the least of which is a monster-long, high-speed zip-line section of totally 1400meter.

Web: [Explore Sweden](#)

### **Untamed New England Adventure Race Sets Attendance Record Dates: July 9-12 2009**

The 3-day Untamed New England Adventure Race, North America's AR World Series Qualifier for 2009, is setting records for expedition race participation in the Northeast United States. With 40 teams and 150+ participants, Untamed New England will dwarf previous expedition races in the region with participants coming from across the US, Canada, and even Europe.

The 200 mile race course is truly worthy of being a World Championship Qualifier. Teams will bike staggering mountain passes and narrow, rooty trails; teams will navigate alpine summits, old wood forests, and bogs; teams will paddle the crystal clear rivers and lakes fed by mountain streams; teams will dangle from sheer rock faces on the ropes course.

The course travels through territory normally reserved just for New England's iconic wildlife: black bear, moose, and eagles. For a few days in July, adventure racers will share this terrain with the wild inhabitants.

Web: [Untamed New England](#)

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### October and November Racing

#### Ecomotion

**Dates: October 1st to 10th**

Ecomotion applications open on June 1st.

This year the event will be on Minas Gerais the host city being Diamantina – a very interesting city. Every racer who has gone to Brazil comes back speaking highly of the people and the country and the organisation. The opening and closing ceremonies are simply the best in the world. Treat yourself

Web: [Ecomotion](#)

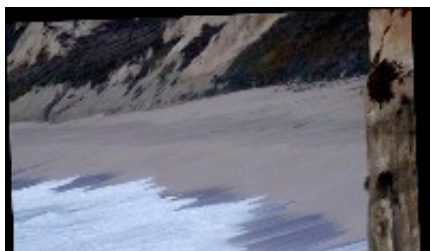
#### Cairns to Host XPD 5th Edition!

**Dates : 17-28th Nov**

Race Director Craig Bycroft said "Tropical North Queensland offers the ideal location to host the 5th edition of XPD. We plan to take competitors through the Great Barrier Reef and nearby islands, the rich and diverse rainforests of the wet tropics, over waterfalls and cascades that feed crystal clear rivers, across lakes of the tablelands and through eucalypt woodlands of the Eastern savannah country. "

The winning team is expected to trek, mountain bike and kayak the 700km course in 4-5 days. All other teams will be permitted up to 10 days to complete the expedition without mid-race cut offs. XPD will be challenging for first time racers and experienced teams alike.

Web: [XPD Australia](#)



### ARWC 2009 XPD Portugal

Lusitanea, is the name of the old Roman Empire Province who ultimately originates Portugal...

Long, tough and hilly will be the road to victory in ARWC Portugal 2009.

Schedule for the 5 to 15 November the ARWC Portugal 2009 will



be held in the Central Region of Portugal in an secret route with around 800 km and 20.000 m of ascent. This year race will join two of the most renowned Portuguese areas for Adventure Sports, the Estoril Coast and the Serra da Estrela Mountains.

The two regions will offer quite different scenarios and challenges for the teams as well as for the countless spectators who will follow the race in the internet by the new media.

The Estoril Coast is already known of many racers an its characterized by its high cliffs, beautiful forest and rough sea which allows all kinds of vertical and sea sports; its Natural Park of Sintra-Cascais is also the perfect ground for mountain bike and foot orienteering challenges.

The Serra da Estrela Mountain Range is the perfect playground for trekking, mountain biking, vertical rope activities, paragliding and snow sports. But to join these regions an almost epical route will lead the racers to some of the most varied scenarios ever present in a ARWC event. A full bunch of surprises will cross the racers route; historical heritage, natural features, ethnographical landmarks, and above all the renowned hospitality from the Portuguese people.

Sustainability and conservation are two key issues address in this year event. The race design will account for them and will demonstrate that a well planned route held in the correct time of the year and using adequate progression means has a minimal impact in the natural values to preserve and is fully compatible with the conservation goals.

The planned route will visit more than five Natural Parks or Special Conservation Areas in a beautiful and sustainable Adventure.

For more information and for team registration click [arwc2009](#)

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As we here in the Southern Hemisphere slide quickly into winter the north looks forward to the break from a snowy winter and some time in the sun.

It is time to get out and enjoy the wild that we all love so much and to enjoy the company of your race companions. Good luck for your racing.

Regards

Geoff Hunt  
ARWorld Series

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AR World Series

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