



NOC Master Guide Breaks World Record

Brad McMillan ran a 70' waterfall in an open canoe, a new world record.

Bryson City, N.C. (July 2, 2014)—NOC Master Guide Brad McMillan ran a 70' waterfall in Alabama in April—a **new world record for an open canoe**. His party included three other paddlers, all of whom made the run successfully. Brad's only injury was a minor abrasion; his chin hit his canoe on impact.

The previous world record was 60', set by Jim Coffey on the Alseseca River's La Cascada de Truchas in Mexico. Jim's record only stood for six months, but he was the first person in 20 years to best the 55' mark set by Steve Frasier on the Elk River here in North Carolina.

A decked canoe is typically water-tight and uses a spray skirt to keep water out, but an open canoe is what most people think of when they think of a canoe. These boats aren't made to run enormous waterfalls, but float bags and modern designs have expanded their range—all the way to 70' drops.

Brad is one of NOC's star paddlers and has been on the water since he was a small child. He says, "For me, the draw of paddling is all about conquering different challenges." Because of this innate quest for more, in the beginning of April Brad shifted his focus to kayaking. He is now training and racing in the Pacific Northwest and recently competed in the Little White Salmon Race where he finished 15th in the extreme slalom race and 26th in the downriver race.