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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Event Organizer: Royn Bartholdi

Sport: Windsurfing

Dates: July 6th - July 20th (First windy day, One day event)

Location: Spring Creek Fish Hatchery, aka The Hatchery

Region: Columbia River Gorge

Tel: (541) 490-0366

Email: royn@roynbartholdi.com

Web: www.gorgefreestylefrenzy.com

The Gorge Freestyle Frenzy, North America's premier high-wind freestyle windsurfing competition, returns to the Columbia River Gorge this July, announces event founder and organizer Royn Bartholdi. Top windsurfers from across North America are expected to compete. Last year's event—the only advanced freestyle competition held in North America—drew 48 competitors from as far away as Maui and Ontario.

The one-day competition will take place at the Spring Creek Fish Hatchery in Underwood, Wash. "The Hatchery is a world-renowned windsurfing venue, famous for big winds and big swell—in other words, epic Gorge conditions," says Bartholdi. It also offers ample seating for hundreds of spectators. Admission for spectators is free.

The Frenzy is slated for the first sufficiently windy day in the two-week period from July 6–20. Working with local weather forecasters, Bartholdi will make the determination each morning by 7 a.m. whether the event will take place that day. Participants and spectators can check the day's decision by visiting the Gorge Freestyle Frenzy website, www.gorgefreestylefrenzy.com, or calling the Frenzy hotline, TBA. Last year, the event took place on the first day of the two-week window.

Windsurfers will compete in five divisions: Super Frenzy, Women, Men, Kids, and Masters. Super Frenzy is the showcase division, the most demanding with the biggest prizes. It summons all competitors to push their limits and promises to deliver a wild display of aerials, tricks and wipe-outs. The Kids division (17 years and younger) was a crowd favorite last year, and is the North American qualifying competition for the Starboard ProKids World Championship; the winner qualifying to

enter the international freestyle competition held in Bonaire in July. The Men's and Women's division focus on "Gorge Style" sailing, with a stronger emphasis on aerials and classic Gorge maneuvers. The Masters division is for men age 35 and older; some of the best and most experienced sailors are now sailing in this division.

Competition will begin at 9 a.m. A panel of judges will rate contestants on overall impression, and each sailor is guaranteed a minimum of two seven-minute heats.