

Ridgway River Fest Bobs Downstream This Saturday

by [Peter Shelton](#)

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6th Annual Once Again Features 'Junc of the Unc'

RIDGWAY – Head down to the river at Rollans Park this Saturday, June 29, and be ready for some playboating: enders in the holes, bracing, rolling, wet exits, spray skirts, foot pegs, creek boats, play boats, downriver boats, homemade boats.

It's that time of year again. The 6th Annual Ridgway River Festival is happening. And that means a full day of river races, tube rides, food, beer, music and fun activities for kids of all ages in celebration and support of the Uncompahgre River.

The Uncompahgre Watershed Partnership in collaboration with the Mosaic Community Project is putting the event together downstream of the new bridge over Hwy 62 and, even with relatively low water this year, spirits will not be dampened.

"It's a great way to get out, enjoy your river, and support great causes in our community," said UWP's Emily Galanto.

The day will begin with kayak races: white water, hardshell, and inflatables. The next competition will be the Whitewater Rodeo, followed by the infamous Junk of the Unc race. To enter the Junk race, teams must build a buoyant boat or raft out of "junk" and safely race it down the river. All are welcome to enter any race. Prizes have been locally crafted by stone-and-metal genius Lisa Issenberg, and donated specially for these events.

Music will be provided by the Douglas and Heather band from 12 to 2 p.m., and then from 3 to 6 p.m. by the Papagoya Band down from Fort Collins.

Throughout the day, there will be a "Kid's Eddy" and a Watershed Education Tent, where adults and kids can enjoy fun activities while learning about their local rivers and waterways. Weehawken Arts, Voyager Youth, American Whitewater, the US Forest Service and others will be among the organizations represented.

One of the exciting new additions to Riverfest this year is RIG's Fly Shop will be running tube rides on the river all day. Partial proceeds from the tube rides will benefit the Mosaic Community Project and the UWP, for their river restoration projects in the future.

MCP will be bringing their famous "Glenda the Blenda" stationary bike that blends margaritas and virgin drinks as you pedal. All "Glenda" proceeds will benefit MCP and their "Big Ideas" Grants, which help fund small art and environment-based projects throughout Ouray County.

The UWP will be also organize a silent auction with support from local businesses and community members. All proceeds from the silent auction will benefit the UWP and their mine remediation and river restoration projects.

Both MCP and the UWP are still actively seeking sponsorship, silent auction donations, and volunteers. If you are interested, please e-mail ridgwayriverfest@gmail.com for more information.

For more information, please visit www.ridgwayriverfestival.org.

River Fest Schedule

Saturday, June 29 ~ Rollans Park

9-11 a.m.: River Event Registration

11 a.m.-5 p.m.: Kid's Eddy Activity Area

11 a.m.-5 p.m.: Watershed Education & Silent Auction

11:10 a.m.: Safety Briefing

11:20 a.m.: Wildwater Kayak Race

11:30 a.m.: Hard Shell Kayak Race

11:40 a.m.: Inflatable Race

12-2 p.m.: Douglas and Heather Band

2 p.m.: Whitewater Rodeo

2:30 p.m.: Junk of Unc Race

3-6 p.m.: Papagoya Band

3:30 p.m.: Awards Ceremony

5 p.m.: Silent Auction Ends

Festival Parking is on the east side of the river. The entrance to this lot is off HWY 550 North of the Acme Healing Center.

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