

**The Exchange Hotel Named as Travel Sponsor for  
New York Outrigger's Liberty World Outrigger Competition.  
~9th annual race to take place in New York Harbor, June 24<sup>th</sup>, 2006~**

New York (May 16, 2006) – The Exchange Hotel, formerly the Manhattan Seaport Suites, has been named an official Travel Partner and Sponsor of New York Outrigger's Liberty World Outrigger Competition. In its ninth year, the annual race will take place in New York Harbor on June 24, 2006. The 53-room hotel has just completed extensive renovations, and relaunched as the Exchange Hotel this April. The Exchange will provide accommodations to racers and media.

“The Exchange Hotel is committed to strategic alignments that promote the unique and dynamic nature of the Lower Manhattan experience,” states Rani Carr, general manager of the Exchange Hotel. “We have been long time supporters of NYO and expect that this year's race will bring more attention to the area and the sport.”

The Liberty competition was established in 1997. It has become one of the most prestigious races in the world. The most competitive paddlers from Europe, Canada, Costa Rica, Australia, Hawaii, Tahiti and all over the continental United States flock to NYC for this event.

This year Liberty will be launched in Brooklyn Bridge Park in Brooklyn, between the Brooklyn and Manhattan Bridges. There are 3 races throughout the day, the women's at 7:30 am, men's at 11:00 am and the mixed at 2 pm. The course is 16.3 miles which passes the Statue of Liberty, up the Jersey side of the Hudson River, cuts across to the Manhattan side by the Intrepid Museum and back down the Hudson River, passes by Battery Park, around the Manhattan Bridge to the finish line.

***About the Exchange Hotel***

*Relaunched in April 2006 as the Exchange Hotel, this 53-room boutique hotel is nestled moments away from Wall Street's flurry and only a short distance from the South Street Seaport and Historic Front Street. The property accommodates both business and leisure travelers with dynamic amenities like WiFi access, flat-screen TVs, full kitchens, and exceptional guest service. Whether taking a break from work or from touring New York City, this renovated hotel pleases all guests with its comfortable atmosphere and stylish approach to hospitality services. For more information or reservations, please call 212-742-0003 or visit the website at [www.exchangehotel.com](http://www.exchangehotel.com).*

***About the New York Outrigger Club***

*New York Outrigger Canoe Club is a non-profit organization geared towards promoting fitness and camaraderie in the New York community by way of traditional Hawaiian canoe paddling. The Liberty World Outrigger Competition is the marquee outrigger race on the east coast. Teams will be arriving from around the globe, from as far away as Tahiti, Sweden, Canada and Hawaii. Your participation would be instrumental in making this event successful this year. Please contact Ed Acker at 848-250-5678 for more information on the NYOC.*

-Thank You -

**Editor's Note: Media interested in attending the Liberty competition, please contact Ed Acker at [973-632-7764](tel:973-632-7764) or Rebecca Kollaras at [305-754-5949](tel:305-754-5949).**