

# NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE



August 2021

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### **Questions? Want to contribute to the newsletter?**

Patty Geisinger at [pattyjoeg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pattyjoeg@sbcglobal.net)

**Membership:** Membership: 2021 Membership Benefits! A members-only invitation to our 2021 TCKRA party! You will also receive 2 vinyl TCKRA stickers, a parking pass for the new Fentress Amigos Beach/the Spencers property at Staples, and the TCKRA Newsletter before everyone else! Thank you for supporting Texas paddling sports!

[Join the TCKRA](#)

## About the TCKRA

The Texas Canoe and Kayak Racing Association is a statewide club for persons interested in paddle sport racing. The primary focus of the club is USCA and ICF class marathon racing, but other disciplines of paddle sports are promoted through [TCKRA Home Page and Calendar](#)

In 1971 a group of canoe paddlers with an interest in canoe and kayak racing joined together and formed the TCRA (which later evolved into the TCKRA). During the past years the organization has grown to one of the largest canoe and kayak clubs in the state. The club is now recognized as the voice for canoe racing in Texas and its members have gained national recognition. Each year the TCKRA participates in approximately 20 canoe races and the TCKRA also organizes and sponsors the Texas State Canoe and Kayak Racing Championship Series. These championship level race events compliment the other annual racing events by recognizing the top competitors in a variety of paddle sport disciplines and classes.

Whether you are a novice paddler, intermediate or seasoned racer, TCKRA is a great way to meet new people, improve your skills and get out on the river. Our membership spans the state and varies widely by age, gender, skill-level and boat type; even our working careers and professions. We also share a great deal in common-the competitive spirit and an enduring love of the water.

Your annual dues help fund events and activities throughout the year and around the state. By joining the TCKRA you enjoy the following benefits:

- 8 championship races, (Unlimited, Aluminum, USCA and ICF, Surfski)
- The Spring Break Open and the Elm Fork Regatta races
- The Martindale Triathlon
- Spring and fall river cleanups
- Newsletter
- Annual banquet
- Paddling clinics – free to TCKRA members
- 2 TCKRA decals for every member
- A 2021 TCKRA wall or fridge magnet calendar
- A 2021 TCKRA parking pass at Fentress Amigos Beach and Staples
- A TCKRA membership will give you a voice in the racing community and allow us to continue to promote canoe and kayak racing in Texas.

Our members paddle kayaks and canoes crafted from wood, plastic, aluminum, carbon and Kevlar.

Please check out our new TCKRA Website! We are so excited for all the options we can now offer!  
<http://www.tckra.org>

## 2021 TCKRA Officers and Board of Directors

### Officers

Nathan Tart (President)  
Shannon Issendorf (Vice President)  
Grady Hicks (Treasurer)  
Patty Geisinger (Secretary)

### Board Members

Sandy Yonley  
Kaitlin Mynar  
Holly Orr  
Jay Daniel  
Ed Jones  
David Kaiser

### Alternates

Brian Jones  
Morgan Kohut

## 2021 Race Calendar

*(Editor's Note: We will continue to update the 2021 Race Calendar as soon as information on the races becomes available.)*

<b>August 21<sup>st</sup></b>	Junction Up and Back Race, Junction Tx, 9am	<a href="#">Junction Up and Back Race</a>
<b>August 28<sup>th</sup></b>	TCKRA Aluminum State Championship, Bastrop Tx, 9:30am	<a href="#">Register Here</a>
<b>Sept 4<sup>th</sup></b>	Moonlight Madness Canoe Race, 6pm	<a href="#">Moonlight Madness Canoe Race</a>
<b>Sept 11<sup>th</sup></b>	Inaugural Elm Fork Regatta, Carrollton Tx, 9am	<a href="#">Register Here!</a>
<b>Sept 18<sup>th</sup></b>	Junior TWS, San Marcos Tx, 9am	<a href="#">Junior Texas Water Safari</a>
<b>Oct 1<sup>st</sup>-3<sup>rd</sup></b>	Tour de Teche, Port Barre LA 9am	<a href="#">Race the Tour de Teche 2021</a>
<b>Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Buffalo Bayou Regatta, Houston Tx, 8am	<a href="#">49th Annual Buffalo Bayou Regatta</a>
<b>Oct. 2<sup>nd</sup></b>	Come and Take It, Gonzales Tx, 10am	<a href="#">Come and Take It Canoe Race</a>
<b>Oct. 9<sup>th</sup></b>	Cuero Turkeyfest, Cuero Tx, 9am/10am	<a href="#">Cuero Turkeyfest</a>
<b>Oct. 16<sup>th</sup></b>	TCKRA Open Water Championship, Galveston Tx, 2pm	<a href="#">Open Water Championship</a>
<b>Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup></b>	Lost River 50, Martindale Tx, 9am	<a href="#">The Lost River 50</a>
<b>Oct. 30<sup>th</sup></b>	Martindale Triathlon, Martindale Tx, 9am	<a href="#">Martindale Triathlon Information</a>
<b>Nov. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Kanu Rennen, New Braunfels Tx, Noon	<a href="#">Kanu Rennen</a>
<b>Nov. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Dickinson Bayou Brawl, Dickinson Tx, 9am	<a href="#">Dickinson Bayou Brawl</a>
<b>Oct. 23<sup>rd</sup>- Nov. 6<sup>th</sup></b>	Fall River Social Distance Clean Up, San Marcos River	<a href="#">Info Coming Soon</a>
<b>Nov. 13<sup>th</sup></b>	TCKRA Member Banquet, San Marcos Tx, TBD	<a href="#">Info Coming Soon</a>
<b>Dec. 4<sup>th</sup></b>	December Solos, San Marcos Tx, Staggered Start 10am	<a href="#">December Solos</a>

### Message from the TCKRA President

*Nate Tart*

As we dive into the second half of the racing season I want to highlight that there are some great races still left on the calendar. For those of you that paddled the Texas Water Safari, or the MR340, or the Ausable River Marathon, you may be in slight depression mode with the "marathon" racing season over. Now is NOT the time to put those paddles away! This is great time to get out and try new race hulls, grab a different partner, and enjoy some of the shorter races throughout Texas. I'm especially excited about the TCKRA Elm Fork Regatta inaugural race in Dallas on Sept. 11th! Be sure to check out the calendar and mark your favorite races still left in the year.

See you on the River!

# TCKRA Board Elections

*Jay Daniel*

**It is time for the 2021 TCKRA Board of Directors elections.**

**On August 29<sup>th</sup> look for an email asking for nominations to the Board of Directors. You can nominate yourself or any current member. Please send a short bio with the nomination. Nominations will end on September 3rd at 6:00 pm.**

**Please bear in mind that being a member of the TCKRA Board of Directors takes a good deal of work and is not a social position.**

**On September 5th look for the email that has the slate of candidates, their bios, and instructions on how to send in your ballot. Voting will end at 6:00 pm on Friday September 17th.**

**Results of the election will be announced at the TCKRA meeting following the Jr. Texas Water Safari on September 18th.**

<https://www.tckra.org/bylaws>

## **ARTICLE II – ELECTION OF BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS**

### **SECTION 1**

The Board of Directors shall be elected yearly as follows:

Board elections shall be held at a meeting annually scheduled to follow the Jr. Texas Water Safari, or the closest proximate date possible. The exact date and time of the meeting to be determined and announced by the president with as much advance notice as possible. Any member wishing to be named on the ballot for the board election must submit their names or be nominated by a member prior to the start of the election. The president will announce when the election begins and when no further submissions or nominations will be taken.

The form of the ballots is intentionally not specified. Members shall vote for ten board members with two alternates. Ballots are not required to have votes for all positions to be valid, but in no event will a vote for a single person be counted more than once per ballot. Each individual or individual lifetime member over the age of 16 shall be entitled to one ballot. Each family membership or lifetime family membership shall be entitled to two ballots.

The four officers – President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary – shall tally the votes. Any irregularities in the voting shall be resolved by agreement of the officers. To the extent the officers

are unable to agree on how to resolve any issue with the voting, the President shall serve as the tie-breaker with the authority to resolve the issue.

The top ten vote-getting individuals shall serve as the board for the following calendar year. The next two top vote-getting individuals shall serve as alternates. An alternate shall have the same rights and duties at any meeting in the absence of a regular board member. In no event shall the acting board exceed ten members.

The Secretary shall certify the results of the board election and publish the results.

### **SECTION 2**

Elections for the four officer positions – President, Vice President, Treasurer, and Secretary – shall be held at a meeting annually scheduled to follow the December Solo Race, or in the event the December Solo Race is not held, the first Saturday of December, or the closest proximate date possible.

All TCKRA members in good standing and who are in attendance at the meeting may vote in the officer elections. Officers may be selected only from the members of the new board.

## **ARTICLE III – DUTIES OF OFFICERS AND APPOINTED POSITION**

### **SECTION 1**

**President** – Represents the Club, calls and presides at meetings.

**Vice President** – Assists the President in the discharge of all duties and presides in absence of the President.

**Secretary** – Receives and records membership applications and dues and forwards the dues to the treasurer. Maintains membership rolls. Transcribes all minutes of meetings. Minutes of all meetings will be emailed to all board members whether present or not.

**Treasurer** – Collects all monies due, has charge of the funds of the organization, keeps a correct record and account of all monies received and paid out, Newsletter Editor – Prepares and distributes newsletters.

There shall be standing committees for the following:

**Membership** – Actively seeks out new members and develops programs to attract new members. Welcomes new members.

**River Cleanup** – Organizes, schedules and coordinates the fall and spring river cleanups.

**Newsletter** – Serves as editor, responsible for all content, of the TCKRA newsletter, which shall be published at least four times annually.

Requests for volunteers to chair each committee shall be made by the President at the same meeting where officer elections are held. Committee chairs can, but are not required to be officers or board members. Other committees for other purposes may be formed by the president or by vote of the board.

# Paddler Profile

In each edition of the newsletter, we will feature an interesting and accomplished member of the Texas Paddling Community. If you would like to nominate someone to be featured in the Paddler Profile, please email their name and contact info to [pattyjoeg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pattyjoeg@sbcglobal.net)

## Logan Mynar

**What is your name, where are you from originally and where do you live now?**

**Logan-** Logan Boyd Mynar, Originally I'm from Brazos Point, Texas. I currently live in New Braunfels, Texas.

**How and why did you get started in paddling?**

**Logan -** I was introduced to paddling by my family members and growing up around different races in Texas. I started paddling because I did not have a choice.



**How did you get started racing?**

**Logan -** I started racing with my family members when I was a kid.



**Where do you paddle most frequently?**

**Logan -** The Guadalupe River in New Braunfels and the San Marcos River in San Marcos and Martindale.

**What is your favorite race?**

**Logan -** The Ausable River Canoe Marathon.



Photos: Crystal Brabant, Don Peel Jr.

**What is the most interesting race you have done?**

**Logan -** The Molokai Hoe Canoe Race.



**What kind of boats do you paddle? What kind of paddles do you use?**

**Logan -** I mostly paddle USCA pro boats and USCA C1s, but I also paddle kayaks, surfskis and safari style multi-man boats. I use carbon fiber single blades made by Zaveral Racing Equipment and I use a Jantex double blade when kayaking.



**What is your training regimen?**

**Logan -** When I am training for a big race, I typically try and train between 2-3 hours a day which usually includes a combination of running, paddling, and lifting.

**What type of cross training do you do?**

**Logan** - Mostly running, but some biking.



**What kind of food or supplements do you use during training and racing?**

**Logan** - I use Spiz more than anything, but also use Tailwind as well

**What are your significant accomplishments in paddling?**

**Logan**- I have won the Texas Water Safari twice. I have multiple top ten finishes in the Ausable River Canoe Marathon including a 5<sup>th</sup> place and 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish. I was an under 23 kayak marathon national champion and have been a runner up in the men’s open division in the same race.



Photos: Ashley Landis, Kate Tart & Caleb Casey

**What do you enjoy most about paddling?**

**Logan** - Spending time with my family and friends on the river.



**Do you have any training or racing goals for the next few years?**

**Logan** - I’d like to continue to have good results at the Ausable River Canoe Marathon and the Texas Water Safari.



**Do you have any advice or words of wisdom for paddlers just starting out?**

**Logan** - There is a huge learning curve to canoe racing/paddling, you can get over that curve quicker and easier by listening and learning from experienced paddlers. Take all the advice you can get. Try not to form bad habits early on, they can be tough to get rid of.

**Any final words?**

**Logan** - Thanks to the Texas paddling community for the support and all the good times. I’m looking forward to seeing the community grow in the years to come.



## Race Reports

### **Texas River Marathon (the Prelim)**

*Patty Geisinger*



*Photo: Sandy Yonley*

129 Boats raced the Texas River Marathon on May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2021. It was a battle of the 4-man and 6-man boats up front. Unusual rains after months of training in low water brought a much higher flow for all the racers. It was so good to be back together with friends on the river and along the banks. A modified award ceremony on the outdoor patio of the Pumphouse Restaurant still allowed for post race food and beverages! The excitement was definitely building towards a Safari after so many months of quarantine.



*Photos: Patty Geisinger, Jill Mulder*



Photos: Sandy Yonley

We are so fortunate to have many talented photographers who capture race moments during the year! These photos can be found on the TCKRA Facebook page and most will have links to the photographers separate google drive, flickr or website to download full resolution copies for your own personal use! Free!

<https://www.facebook.com/TCKRA/photos/>

Sandy Yonley: <http://www.SandyYonley.com>

Kate Tart Photography: <https://www.katetart.com/water-sports>

Patty Geisinger: [https://www.facebook.com/patty.geisinger/photos\\_albums](https://www.facebook.com/patty.geisinger/photos_albums)

Jill Mulder: [https://www.facebook.com/jill.a.mulder/photos\\_albums](https://www.facebook.com/jill.a.mulder/photos_albums)

# 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Water Safari

*Patty Geisinger*

*Photos by Ashley Landis, Erich Schlegel, Sandy Yonley, Kate Tart, Jill Mulder & Patty Geisinger*

99 of 138 Teams finished this year's Texas Water Safari. After a year away from our beloved Safari, the excitement was super high from the most experienced down to our youngest novice! All the training on low water, the big rains did make for an exciting race this year. The HEAT arrived and kicked many folks down! And then the STORMS....sigh, thank goodness for rescue teams. It was one for the record books with a new finish line at Bill Sanders Memorial Park on Swan Point. Oyster shells, spoil islands and more made for a few new challenges. But the joy of being together outweighed the rest!

Same time next year?



*Photos: Sandy Yonley*



# TCKRA USCA State Championship & SUP Race

Shannon Issendorf

Photos Kate Tart & Patty Geisinger

The USCA race was granted wonderful weather this year as 44 adults and 11 children brought out their finest single blade skills in Luling Tx.

The first races of the morning were the Men's C1, Women's C2 and the SUP race. The men's C1 started off with some minor bumping as 8 men started off up the course. After 1 lap Logan Mynar came in 1st, Jeff Glock in 2nd (1st Masters and Brian Jones in 3rd.



Two minutes after the men took off the Women's C2 chased after. It was one of the biggest C2 women's race turnout and a field full of talent. Gwen Hills and Yumi Chen came in 1st making it look effortless, followed by Kaitlin Mynar and Holly Orr being chased by Lydia Huelskamp and Shannon Issendorf. Tina and Debbie Sackett muscled their way into 1st place Masters.



There was a field of 7 SUP racers with Men's winner Mark Devall and Women's winner Linda McCoy. Their field wasn't without its own challenges: a prone racer, an inflatable SUP board that was missing a skeg, and Joy Emshoff learning her new Savage River board.



The next race was the Mixed C2 race with an astounding 13 teams. Logan Mynar and Gwen Hills, Chris Issendorf and Kaitlin Mynar fought it out for the lead, with Logan and Gwen winning 1<sup>st</sup> overall! Third place was earned by Teddy Gray and Don Walls.



We had 9 women lined up at our start line of the Women's C1 race. Red in the face and paddling her

hardest, Kaitlin Mynar was crowned C1 female champion, followed by Gwen Hills and Holly Orr.



The Men's C2 course consisted of 2 laps this year. 1st place went to Logan Mynar and Chris Issendorf, 2nd (1st masters in a woodstrip Jeff Glock boat) was Ian Rolls and Gaston Jones, and 3rd went to Wade Binion and Jeff Glock.



The most entertaining race of the day was the Kids race. 7 teams with ferocious skill lined up and after the gun went off-- played bumper boats in C2s. Have no fear, everyone stayed upright with smiles on all their faces. In a clear victory, the Orr boys got 1st, followed by Welch and Mayne, 3rd was Gwen and Kennedy Tart.



Lunch was served by Mom's Front porch in Luling, and non alcoholic beer from Athletic Brewing. Thank you to all my volunteers: Darryl Jiral, Libby Geisinger, John Bugge, my husband Chris Issendorf, Renee Mynar, Patty Geisinger and Kate Tart.



## MR 340

### Patty Geisinger

Been a few years since we made our way up to the MR340. I always enjoy reporting on FB about our paddlers or Texafriends who are racing. Definitely a harder job to TC and take pics and report to everyone! Although over 500 boats had registered this year, only about 450+ turned out the morning of July 20<sup>th</sup>. Most of the records are held by Texas racers, but one was not—the unofficial Aluminum Cup trophy! 16 Boats with Texans was a good showing! Water level had been dropping so everyone knew that although it was not super high at the start, everyone would be racing towards the fast water around Jeff City. The Solo start was huge at 7am! Kelleen, David, Chuck, Ellen and Sup John took off strong with our other Texans.



The MR is definitely a forgiving race if you come from Texas. You can get help from just about anyone and it was definitely great to have the Weber's, John Moore and others come up to follow the race and lend a hand! Morgan, Dylan and Brad came in 1<sup>st</sup> overall in a time of 36 hours and 20 minutes, breaking John Moore, Mike Smith and Mike Dey's former record of 37 hours, 51 minutes. Morgan now holds the records in both Team and Mixed Tandem! Joe & Eric placed 4<sup>th</sup> overall, 1<sup>st</sup> tandem and 1<sup>st</sup> Aluminum—winning the "unofficial Aluminum Cup" and breaking the aluminum record! 16<sup>th</sup> was Jack Basler, 19<sup>th</sup> Taylor Hering's 4 man, 32<sup>nd</sup> overall and 4<sup>th</sup> woman, Kelleen Arquette, 34<sup>th</sup> Brad, Bruce, Trey & Lee, 71<sup>st</sup> Chuck Scheidt, 126<sup>th</sup> John Knippers and 238<sup>th</sup> David Carlson. Congratulations to all our Texas paddlers and Texafriends who raced this year!



The solo start was followed by the 8am Tandem and multi-man start. Morgan Kohut (with Dylan & Brad) jumped to an early lead, staying ahead of the Kracken 3man pedal drive boat! Joe & Eric pushed out hard in Joy & Bob's Beaver to stay with Edoh & Liam (TWS veterans). Most of the other aluminums have rudders—so weird! The 4-man of Bruce, Lee, Brad and Trey started out in the middle of the pack and they were joined by Taylor Hering's 4-man with his buddies.



## The Gorge Downwind Championship

*SandyYonley*

Held on the 3<sup>rd</sup> week in July, the Gorge Downwind Championships is a week-long downwind adventure on the Columbia River, ~1hr East of Portland in Stevenson, WA. Daily shuttles, beer garden, merchant booths that offer paddling demos, paddling clinics, riding the sternwheeler, hiking, waterfalls, GORGEous scenery: this is definitely a bucket list race for those who enjoy downwind paddling (whether SUP, OC, or Surfski). The race is held on either Thurs, Fri, or Sat for the best wind. This year, the race ran on Thursday with 30mph wind and great waves. This year had smaller attendance, with 283 teams racing (most were solo, but there were quite a number of OC2 and tandem surfski). Tommy Yonley and Jackson Hau, both from Houston, TX raced surfski and OC1 (Kelly Truitt, current FL resident but former Texan, also raced OC1). Tommy got a podium finish, finishing 9<sup>th</sup> overall and 5<sup>th</sup> Men's Surfski. Looking forward to next year!



## AuSable Canoe Marathon

*Patty Geisinger*

After a year with no AuSable, our Texas paddlers were super trained to head north and enjoy the intense 120 mile sprint in Michigan! With record numbers of TX competitors, feeders and family support, you couldn't throw a rock without hitting a Texan in Grayling this year! Many folks went up early to paddle in Spike's Challenge and other small races which lead up to the Sprints and the Big Race. Lots of rain brought the river up and Texas showed up and raced well! Top 3 women's teams were all Texas! Great job everyone!

### Au Sable Results

- 3<sup>rd</sup> place Chris Issendorf/Logan Mynar: 14:11:01
- 7<sup>th</sup> place Kyle Mynar/Kyle Stonehouse: 14:24:23
- 11<sup>th</sup> place Ian Rolls/Danny Medina: 14:33:40
- 24<sup>th</sup> place Andrew Condie/Brandon Stafford: 15:30:02
- 29<sup>th</sup> place Brian Jones/Gwen Hills (3<sup>rd</sup> mixed):15:41:07
- 37<sup>th</sup> place Virginia Condie/Kaitlin Mynar:  
(1<sup>st</sup> Women's):15:56:08
- 40<sup>th</sup> place Shannon Issendorf/Nate Tart: 16:03:48
- 43<sup>rd</sup> place Mollie Binion/Lydia Huelskamp:  
(2<sup>nd</sup> Women's):16:13:51
- 45<sup>th</sup> place Cecili Bugge/Holly Orr:  
(3<sup>rd</sup> Women's): 16:17:55
- 54<sup>th</sup> place Sam & Wade Binion: 16:37:15
- 55<sup>th</sup> place Jason Cade/Chris Champion: 16:38:05



Photos: Kate Tart

## Neches Wilderness Race

*Jill Mulder & Trab Seyn*

tons of fun with a twist, or three.....

This race is always loads of fun. The turnout this year was larger with the river running 5 feet higher than average. This made for some fast racing on a narrow, twisty river that does not cease to challenge.

This year was a first for Neches allowing for 3 man boats with the added rigors of navigating a longer boat through tight spots. In a less planned and more off the cuff approach Ray Arquette, Darren Dodd, and Trab Seyn put into the river with a "here goes something" approach. Two Dads and the Dude took off in Pro class accompanied by savvy paddlers Will Leeds and Matt Wagner to our left, and Safari veterans West Hansen and Jeff West to our right. Shortly after our launch to the lead, West and Jeff managed to pull off a nifty pass at the first log portage which gave them a huge advantage they were able to exploit with the traffic we were quickly gaining on. About a mile and a half into the race we wound up taking a refreshing swim, losing some hydration to the river, and allowing Will and Matt to coast past our thrashing mess of a 27 ft. of boat. Whew, we had our work cut out for us at this point.



Another log portage brought us to a decision to switch off to singles and moving Darren to the bow. Refocus, realign, and GO. This happy accident allowed us to catch up to and eventually pass a majority of the traffic pileup we had contributed to thus far. With a good deal of work, another swim over a log, and some thirsty determination we were able to gain on Will and Matt. This became a race within a race which we traded some paddle splashing which helped cool things off throughout the middle of the race. As we approached checkpoint 2 and the river straightens out a bit we moved back to doubles to pull out a discernible lead. By now we were in a groove. After a brief stop at Checkpoint two for a badly needed water handoff we set our sights on the lead aluminum boat being moved at a dangerous pace by Andrew Delta and Luke Zolnierowski. These guys were tough to catch and as

the river began to twist and turn we managed to pull off a pass.....for about 200 yards. In our effort to squeeze through one of the many downed trees we had the third swim in a deep, muddy, and surprisingly current driven pool at a sharp turn. Andrew and Luke sped by our garage sale like a silver bullet, their laughter was infectious as we pulled things together. Back in the boat and moving through twists on singles again we allowed Will and Matt to gain within sight of our soaked and thirsty crew. It was just the adrenaline punch we needed to dash through the remaining twists. By this point we knew we had little hope of catching the Big W boat (those guys are a well oiled machine) but at the railroad trellis (3/4 mile from finish line) we rounded a corner to find Andrew and Luke pushing a nice wash with their aluminum. With Will and Matt hot on our heels and a boat to chase in Andrew and Luke we just did what came natural and went all in. Last right turn we managed to squeeze by the speedy Alumcraft and bolt straight to the finish. With a final time of 3:18 we slid into the muddy bank to be congratulated for a good race by the Big W crew.....they took a well deserved win and we barely managed to pull off a 2nd place finish given a wayyyy long boat on a twisty river and three paddlers that had never run this configuration before (it was a let's see what happens approach). Always good to land on the podium all three boats in class received medals. The chow at the end of the race is always a winner as well. That is the best part of this race.....the people that put this thing on are the best. So you could say there are no losers in this race. This year with the higher water there were "survivors" a plenty. Such a great time and can't wait until 2022!

**\*\*\*Neches Olympics Report from the Neches:**  
Ginsie Stauss and Joy Emshoff received a 9/10 on Ginsie's half twist back flip out of their aluminum after rounding a bend and hitting an unseen underwater object. All eyes were on the duo, wisely wearing pfd's, as they facilitated Ginsie's swim and deep water re-entry which did have the Louisiana judges Dugas & D'Abundo remarking "Who Dat?" Congrats also to Tina & Debbie Sackett on their 1<sup>st</sup> place Master's Women's finish and Bruce Bodson Senior Men's Kayak 1<sup>st</sup> Place\*\*\*



## Upcoming Races

### Junction Up and Back Race

Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup>, 10 am

Wanted: Paddlers! The Junction Up and Back Boat Race offers a unique paddling experience up the South Llano River and then back down again! Racers have 12 hours to finish the 35-ish mile course that both starts and ends at Lake Junction in the city's municipal park. Divisions include tandem, men's solo, women's solo and SUP. Any man-powered craft is permitted. All racers who compete the race within the 12 hour time frame will be entered into the finisher's drawing for cash and other prizes! \$5 of every registration benefits the Junction Lions Club charities fund! Come enjoy our beautiful river and support a great cause! Register at [PaddleGuru - Up and Back Race](#)



### TCKRA Aluminum State Championship

Saturday, August 28<sup>th</sup>, 9:30 am



Come join us on Saturday August 28<sup>th</sup> for the best Aluminum Race in Texas! The 14 miles course begins at the bridge at FM 969 and ends at Fisherman's Park in Bastrop! Online Registration is Open and Preferred!! Race start time is 9:30am.

We are pleased to have an Adult/Child and Youth Aluminum race as well this year! It will begin at 1pm and the course begins at the finish line of the adult race at Fisherman's park, goes downstream to the bridge, and back to the buoy (~less than a mile total) If we have older youth – they may do 2 laps.

Adult Entry fees: \$25/person (\$50/team Adult/Child and Youth, which will be \$5/person (\$10/team)

#### [State Aluminum Registration](#)

Awards given to the Champions in the following classes:

Men's 18-49

Men's Masters 50+

Women's 18-49

Women's Masters 50+

Mixed 18-49

Mixed Masters 50+

Adult/Child

Youth

***Online registration is open (note that the entry fees for the Adult/Child and Youth race differ from the other classes).***



## Moonlight Madness Canoe Race

Sat. Sept. 4<sup>th</sup>, 6pm-Sun Sept. 5<sup>th</sup> Noon

This inaugural race on the evening of Sept. 4<sup>th</sup> is a 27 mile Canoe Race on Guadalupe River from FM 1117 crossing (near Seguin) down to Garcia's River Camp - Belmont TX. September 4th, 7 pm. - Pro C2, Usca C1, Aluminum classes - Guaranteed \$1000 purse for Pro C2. \$25 entry per person.....includes admission to campground, camping for night of the 4th, food and beer at the finish.

[More Information- Moonlight Madness Canoe Race](#)



## TCKRA Elm Fork Regatta

Saturday, Sept. 11<sup>th</sup>

[Register for the Elm Fork Regatta](#)

Join us for the TCKRA Elm Fork Regatta on September 11, 2021 featuring downriver racing for Canoes, Kayaks, and SUPS! This Dallas-based race will be held on the Elm Fork of the Trinity River for a total of 15 miles from Lewisville to California Crossing Park for the competitor and aluminum classes, and 10 miles for the adventure and SUP classes. Be sure to note that there are two separate starting locations depending on the race classification entered, but everyone will finish at the same location.

**All classes will start at the same time, 9:00 AM,** leading to more interaction between paddlers downstream and **ending about the same time at the common finish line.**

Lunch will be provided following the race. Custom-cut wooden medals will be awarded to the 1st place finishers of all the classes and the first 50

*Elm Fork Regatta (cont.*

paddlers to participate will receive a drybag imprinted with the Elm Fork Regatta logo.

Cost per paddler is \$30 and registration is made online or on the morning of the race. Be sure to check the TCKRA race event page for updates.



### **Course Description:**

- Competitor and Aluminum start: **Trinity Fork Park** (the Kayak Launch), one mandatory left portage at Carrollton Dam, 15 miles
- Adventure and SUP start: **Mclnnish Park** (enter water river left below Carrollton Dam), 10 miles
- Finish line: **California Crossing Park, Dallas**

### **15-mile Competitor and Aluminum**

- **Location:** **Trinity Fork Park** (the Kayak Launch), Lewisville
- 8 am Registration Open
- 8:30 am Pre-Race Meeting
- 9 am Race Start
- Classes:
  - Aluminum (male, female, mixed) -- Max length 17'4" -- Aluminum -- No Beaver boats -- Single blade paddle
  - Competitor Solo (male, female) -- Any length or material -- Single or double blade paddles
  - Competitor Tandem (male, female, mixed) -- Any length or material -- Single or double blade paddles

### **10-mile Adventure (recreation) and SUP**

- **Location:** **Mclnnish Park**, Carrollton
- 8 am Registration Open
- 8:30 am Pre-Race Meeting
- 9 am Race Start
- Classes:
  - SUP (male, female)
  - Adventure Solo\* (male, female) -- Max length 18' -- Aluminum, composite, wood, or plastic (no carbon/Kevlar) -- Single or double blade paddles
  - Adventure Tandem\* (male, female, mixed) -- Max length 18' -- Aluminum, composite, wood, or plastic (no carbon/Kevlar) -- Single or double blade paddles

## Junior Texas Water Safari Saturday, Sept. 18<sup>th</sup>

### [Junior Texas Water Safari Info](#)

Race Day Registration only – San Marcos City Park

The Junior TWS is a 16 mile canoe race from San Marcos City Park to Staples Hwy 1977 bridge. Entry fee \$35 per paddler (race day registration only). Registration begins at 8 a.m. at San Marcos City Park. Race starts at 9 a.m. Cut-off deadline for reaching Hwy 1979 Martindale Bridge is 12 noon. Food and drinks will be provided at the finish. There will be cash drawings at the awards; you must be present to win.



## Buffalo Bayou Regatta Saturday, October 2<sup>nd</sup>

Come to Houston and join in Texas' largest canoe and kayak race! Participants, ages 12 and up, are invited to take part in this 15-mile race along scenic Buffalo Bayou. Whether you're entering competitively or paddling for fun, don't miss out on this longstanding tradition in support of Houston's historic waterway. Register now for the 49th Annual Buffalo Bayou Partnership Regatta presented by Gillman Subaru!

Register: <https://app.etapestry.com/hosted/BuffaloBayouPartnership/OnlineRegistration.html?fbclid=IwAR3pJXPcHrnqcyLx74T6kTIUxddNK1RdyvaYiCqFjWRVWCxfuvBqZV29B0s>



## Tour du Teche Oct 1-3rd, 2021

The Tour du Teche 135 is an annual race for canoes, kayaks, pirogues (the traditional Cajun canoe) and Sup's along the entire length of the Bayou Teche in southwestern Louisiana. A total of 135 miles includes small sections of the Bayou Courtableau and the Atchafalaya River. It is a three day staged race beginning in Port Barre, LA on the first Friday in October. Come enjoy all the beauty food and paddling that LA has to offer!!

### [Register for the Tour du Teche](#)



## TCKRA Open Water State Championship Saturday, October 16<sup>th</sup>, 2pm, Stewart Beach, Galveston

### [Open Water Championship Information & Registration](#)

The typical course will be out and back short distance laps approx 1/4-1/2 mile out from the beach. 4-6 miles total. **Race fee: \$20:** You will also need to pay \$15/car to enter Stewart Beach.

We will give an update on the racecourse Thursday, before the race based on the anticipated weather forecast. The race will have championship classes for Surfski, OC1, and SUP. First place medals will be awarded for winners in each overall category (in Surfski, OC1, and SUP): Men's, Men's Masters 50+, Women's, Women's Masters 50+



## **Lost River 50**

October 23, 2021. Cedar Hill Park in Wallisville, TX  
9 am start time. Final cutoff at midnight.



Over 50 miles around the lower Trinity. Lost rivers, lost lakes, navigation, alligators, portages, and tough water. Brutal paddling, but nice scenery. A truly unique adventure course that is guaranteed to beat you down.

Lost River 50 Mile - \$65 Classes: Tandem Unlimited, Solo Unlimited, USCA C2, Aluminum canoe.

Lost River 10 Miler - \$40 Classes: Canoe, kayak, and Sup

[Registration](#) More Information: [Event Info](#)

## **TCKRA Fall River Clean Up**

October 27<sup>th</sup> – November 6<sup>th</sup>

Holly Orr & Morgan Kohut invite you to a socially distanced, on your own, earn good river karma San Marcos River Clean up. Often times, the weather causes a lower than ideal turnout for the fall clean up. To remedy this—the TCKRA is hoping folks will pick up some bags, hit the river and do an Individual Clean up during this time period!! Pictures of your haul will enter you into a prize competition for 1. Biggest boatload of trash, 2. Most unique or unusual find and 3. Most useful item found! Want to participate? Email Holly at [Paddlewithstyle@yahoo.com](mailto:Paddlewithstyle@yahoo.com) to arrange borrowing a canoe, picking up trash bags or assistance with hauling trash and shuttles. Stay tuned on Facebook for information on where to drop your boatload of trash. Thanks for all your help keeping the river clean!



## **43<sup>rd</sup> Annual Martindale Triathlon**

October 30<sup>th</sup>, 2021

The Martindale Tri is reputed to be the oldest triathlon in Texas. It is brought to you by the Texas Canoe and Kayak Racing Association. It is unique in that the swim leg has been replaced by a paddle leg (canoe, kayak, or SUP) down the beautiful San Marcos River.

The Tri kicks off with a 7-mile run through the quaint little town of Martindale, TX. Next up is the bike, which covers 16.5 miles of rolling hills just outside of Martindale and Staples. Finally, a 5.5 mile paddle from Shady Grove Campground (aka Spencer Canoes) down to the 1977 bridge in Staples. Sign up solo, as a two-person team (one person runs, the other bikes, and both paddle together in a 2-person boat) or as a three-person relay (one person per leg).

[Register Here!](#)



Race Classes:

- Solo (Men's, Men's Masters 40+, Women's, Women's Masters 40+) –
- 2-Person Tandem (Men's, Men's Masters 40+, Women's, Women's Masters 40+, Mixed, Mixed Masters 40+)
- 3-Person Relay (Men's, Women's, Mixed)

Start: Shady Grove Campground, 9515 FM 1979, Martindale, TX. Finish Line: Staples Bridge FM 1977.

No Race Day Registration. No Shuttle provided.

Need to rent a canoe or kayak? Call Holly at [Paddle With Style](#).

Camping is also available at Shady Grove Campground. Please call them at (512) 357-6113 to make a reservation.

## TWS 2021 Novices recall their 1st Safari

*Patty Geisinger*

*Photos: Ashley Landis, Erich Schlegel, Sandy Yonley, Kate Tart, Jill Mulder, Patty Geisinger*

Congratulations to the whole novice class this year. It was hard to have to postpone your novice year due to Covid and so many of you came out prepared and ready to race! The heat, the water level, the storms took their toll but we were proud to welcome many of you to the finish line!! To those whose race finished before Seadrift, we have loved getting to know you and hope to see you out on the river again soon!!

### Embrace the Suck

**Boat # 6 – Bruce Beall & Lee Lichlyter - New Braunfels, TX**

**Finish Time:** 75:41, 13<sup>th</sup> Novice, 76<sup>th</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race?** Cold beer

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** Definitely a love/hate relationship but in the end it was awesome!

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** These were our starting goals updated with our after race outcome

1. *Don't Die* - We definitely didn't die (maybe wearing a pfd on night 3 would be a good idea)
2. *Spend as few nights as possible* - Gonna have to work on this one, but learned a lot of lessons
3. *Don't club your buddy with paddle* - It was touch and go for awhile there but we pulled each other through
4. *Don't get lost* - Bad idea "Hey, let's take 3 o'clock cut for the first time ever"
5. *Finish* - Heck yeah...can't wait for next year!!



### Nice Racks (boat is named Gema)

**Boat # 17 – Ha Nguyen & Felicia Ziegler- Houston TX**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 70:15, 9<sup>th</sup> Novice, 58<sup>th</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race? What did you learn that would have been helpful to know ahead of time?**

**Felicia-** I wish I would have known to sleep less the first night and I would have brought more chilled fruit.

**Ha-** Felicia's encouragement to register last year and something to focus on during challenging times. Practice last 16 miles several times and fine tune nutrition: salt low with detour to Mosquito Island after multiple logjams

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again? Felicia-** I definitely will do it again! **Ha-** Loved it!

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal? Felicia-** I was thrilled to finish! **Ha-** Bucket list.



## **Good**

**Boat # 44 – Joshua Hulin - Tyler, Tx**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 55:57, 2<sup>nd</sup> USCA-C1, 31st overall

**What made you want to do the race?** For a long time I have looked up to the men and women who have overcome all of the obstacles and finished the Safari. I wanted to put myself to the test and see if I could be part of this great tradition. I learned so much from the race that it's impossible to succinctly summarize so I will just mention a few of the most tangible lessons:

- Digestion is much harder in the heat of June than the cool spring months.
- An amazing land crew makes for an amazing race!
- Water quickly drains out of an upside down submerged jug.
- Nestle Boost drinks are amazing!
- Staying awake is easy when you have so many interesting hallucinations to talk to.
- The weather on the bay changes quickly!

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** Absolutely loved it! I expected to be mostly miserable and only find enjoyment looking back after the fact, but I was surprised to find how much I enjoyed every minute of the race. Well maybe not dry heaving...everything else. I would do the Safari again if they had it this weekend. I wanted to go to MO to do the MR340, but I need to fix my boat and don't have enough vacation time. One of my sisters who helped land crew for me got close enough to catch the Safari contagion. She wants to do it next year, so I am trying to learn how to repair my Kevlar C2 so we can start training.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** Finishing the Safari has been a lifelong goal, so yes. Not knowing what to expect, I set achievable goals as far as pace/time that I was able to meet. Immediately after finishing, I started thinking of all the ways I could shave hours off my finish time. Next time I will definitely be shooting for a faster finish.



## **Night Fury**

**Boat # 45 – Colton Moore – Sonora, TX**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 67:21, 3<sup>rd</sup> Solo Unlimited Male, 52<sup>nd</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race?** I felt the need to immerse myself into paddling culture, and this experience turned into so much more. I learned that there is no substitute for preparation. I realized that I'm not a fan of me when I'm sleep deprived, neither are my TC's ( thanks for seeing me thru Chad and Felecity!). I learned that you're supposed to turn left at the end of the San Marcos, and there's nothing that'll bring you out of a sleep fog like realizing you screwed up. I plan on living the river guide life, and figured that safari patch would set an adventure resume apart!

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** I loved it, I'll be back with a partner! If I solo again it'll be after I chase down Shane Perrin for SUP advice.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** I finished and I learned a lot about myself, the boat, and the river! I had vague ambition of a 50 hour finish, but I didn't prepare like a 50 hour paddler, those folks work hard! I'm honored to have finished third in my division, but honest enough with myself to know that several more experienced and faster paddlers ran into some hard luck that left that slot open. Tim, Geoff, Porter, Keifer, and everyone else that raced solo unlimited, congratulations, hats off to you gentlemen, hell of a run!



**Wooder Weasels**

**Boat # 47 – Ryan McNair & Amy Stansberry - Austin, Tx**  
**Finish Time/DNF:** 79:40:00, 17<sup>th</sup> Novice, 83<sup>rd</sup> overall



**Ord Ord**

**Boat # 98 – Micah Wheeler-Point Venture, TX & Tony Krenz – Castle Rock, CO**  
**Finish Time/DNF:** 74:21:00 10<sup>th</sup> Novice, 69<sup>th</sup> overall



**Metal Canü**

**Boat # 138 - TJ Korth (Bow), Alan Lindsey (Stern) - Houston, Texas**

**Finish Time/DNF:** DNF at Gonzales Dam around 2:30 a.m. Sunday. We were racing well and hitting our checkpoint goals when TJ started getting sick between I-10 and Broken Dam. At Palmetto, we hoped that he would start to feel better when the sun went down and it cooled off a little. No such luck. Between Palmetto and Gonzales, TJ wasn't able to hold down any food or water and was feeling worse and worse. We rested for about an hour after we pulled out at the dam, but he still wasn't recovering or able to hold down any water. At that point, TJ hadn't been able to drink any water for about six hours, and we were getting worried about dehydration. We ultimately decided around 2:30 a.m. that it wouldn't be safe to try to carry on to Hochheim.

**What made you want to do the race?** Doing this race has been a long-time goal for both of us. You can't really be a canoe racer in Texas and not do the Safari. Next year, we'll focus more on hydration and nutrition. We thought that we had it worked out pretty well through all of our training, but clearly we missed something.

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?:** Loved it. We really loved everything about the race - our disappointing end notwithstanding. We didn't spend much time at the checkpoints before Gonzales, but being out there in the middle of the night, watching the boats come through and seeing the dedication of the support teams was really cool. We're definitely planning on making another run at it in 2022.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** We completed the goal of just getting out there and starting the race – we’ve been trying to make that happen for years. We obviously hoped that we were going to complete the race and be competitive, but the Safari was humbling. The goal for 2022 is just to make it past Gonzo Dam!



**Dirty Oars**

**Boat # 199 – Jerry McCarty- Lufkin TX, Evan Reilly– New Braunfels, TX**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 83:53:00, 18<sup>th</sup> Novice, 90<sup>th</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race?** Intrigued us from the first time we heard about it, and the more research we did on the race the more we wanted to participate. The YouTube video, “Shut up and paddle”, produced by Yeti about the race was also responsible for hyping us up in the early stages of commitment.

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** 100% loved it, and actively working on logistics to race again in the future.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** Completed the race in under 90 hours without tossing teammate overboard.



**The Spirit of Gerradstown**

**Boat #304 – Louie (Richard) Talbott and Jim Talbott – Gerrardstown, WV**

**Finish Time/DNF:** DNF in the bay during the storm Tuesday night,

**What made you want to do the race?**

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?:**

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?**



**WAP: Wet Ass Paddlers**

**Boat # 420 – Morgan O’Hanlon & Karyn Remsing - Austin, TX**

**Finish Time/DNF: 75:10:00, 12<sup>th</sup> Novice, 73<sup>rd</sup> overall**

**What made you want to do the race?**

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?**

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?**



**Flat Squirrel**

**Boat # 514 – Spencer & Janae Fuller – New Braunfels, TX, TC- Tommy Duran**

**Finish Time/DNF: 87:58:00, 20<sup>th</sup> Novice 97<sup>th</sup> overall**

**What made you want to do the race?** We were given a subscription of Texas Monthly (I think) magazine and on the front cover was a picture of a canoe and the caption “The World’s Toughest Canoe Race”. I (Spencer) read it and was hooked. This was in 2019. We started to mentally prepare for the race in 2020, then COVID hit.

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** Absolutely loved it! We will be doing it again, but hopefully, in a faster, lighter boat!

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** Our main goal was just to finish, which we accomplished!



**Mens Big and Tall**

**Boat # 762 – Austin Bodin & Aaron Zwahr – San Marcos, TX**

**Finish Time/DNF: 57:18:00 1<sup>st</sup> Novice, 34<sup>th</sup> overall**

**What made you want to do the race?** As local San Martians, A TWS run is a sort of a rite of passage, and we’ve been talking about it individually for a number of years. We finally got together and started racing in late 2019, then of course the race was canceled in 2020, but we made it happen this year.

**What did you learn that would have been helpful to know ahead of time?** Bobo’s taste great during training runs but are inedible during the race. Quadruple check your gear because someone (Auz) will forget things.

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** Love is a strong word. It’s definitely Tyle 2 fun (miserable while it’s happening, fun in retrospect). We both enjoyed ourselves thoroughly, and definitely want to make the venerated 10x finishers list.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** Big goals were to not die and to finish, so yeah, we crushed our goals. Winning novice wasn’t ever really a goal; we sorta had the loose idea that we could potentially podium, then by about Gonzo our TC’s told us we were out in front and the race was on!



**Frog Raiders**

**Boat # 817 –Chad Davis & Sammy Monge – Ft. Worth, TX**

**Finish Time/DNF: 77:40:00, 17<sup>th</sup> Novice, 80<sup>th</sup> overall**

**What made you want to do the race?**

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?:**

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?**



**Miss Honey:**

**Boat #1234 – Katie Bee – Austin, TX**

**Finish Time/DNF: DNF at Staples**

**What made you want to do the race?**

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?**

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?**



**Los Piratas (Juana Inés de Asbaje y Ramirez)**

**Boat #1251 – Alan Contreras – Southern California**

**Finish Time/DNF: 95:29:00, 11<sup>th</sup> Solo Unlimited Men's, 98<sup>th</sup> overall**

**What made you want to do the race?** Crazy experience, part of me wants to do it again because i felt like i could have finished much faster and made many mistakes and lived through a couple weeks f misfortunes, but despite all that im happy to have finished alive!

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?:** I loved parts of it of course, it is an unforgettable experience, some scenes and experiences are just completely out of your everyday normal life. It is very demanding and more preparation is needed from me if I attempt to try it again. I really feel like my second time should improve my finish time.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** Personal goal was just finished the race in general, this was huge I've gone through something that few people have gone through. It's really a life lesson. No fundraising yet, maybe someone out there can help me with some of the costs.



**In Deep Ship:**

**Boat #1507– Cody Nelson- Brock TX & Luke Brentlinger - Aledo, TX**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 63:21:00, 3<sup>rd</sup> Novice, 47<sup>th</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race?** It was a personal challenge and really wanted something to push ourselves.

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** One of us is for sure doing it again and the other is still on the fence. There were parts we loved and parts we hated. Overall the sense of accomplishment at the end was amazing. Also the team work it took to get through the log jams and the feeling once we finally made it through was the best part.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?**



**Lynny and the High Cotton Express:**

**Boat #1515 –Daniel Driver –Martindale, TX & Sam Driver - Nacogdoches, TX**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 69:59, 8<sup>th</sup> Novice 57<sup>rd</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race?** Our dream was to have Jay Daniel at the finish playing the triangle!

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** We loved it. I loved the hallucinations the most. We will definitely do it again!

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** One of my favorite moments was finishing and having my team captains playing "Honkey Tonk Women" by the Rolling Stones with Jay Daniel on the triangle. It was a very special and dreamy moment.



**Hot Yacht**

**Boat # 1839- Thomas Manfred Schiefer – Austin TX & James Willson- Houston TX**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 63:07:00, 6<sup>th</sup> Novice 54<sup>th</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race?** I saw the start of the race when I was 18 and the myth of the race never left me. Finally at age 41 I made it happen. Such a pure adventure!

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** We absolutely loved it. The community, the adventure, the nature, the unexpected. We will be involved in one form or fashion, that is for sure.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?**



### **The Northerners:**

**Boat #1851: Nate Dicks-Minnesotan recently moved to Houston & Joshua P. Halloran– Minnesota**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 67:22:00, 5<sup>th</sup> Novice, 53<sup>rd</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race?** We have been great friends for 20 years. We started adventuring together in high school. We called them Manathons. I moved to Texas in 2014 and learned about the race after the 2018 TWS. After that it I knew we would do it.

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** We are experienced paddlers but not racers. It's a different kind of stroke technique. We were definitely slower paddlers than most. We got better as we watched other more experienced racers and how they paddled. I recommend working on technique and actually spend some time in a canoe....

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** Directly after the race we both said Heck no. 2 weeks later we started talking about how we could have done better, prepped better, planned better. Now we are talking about next year....



### **Rippin' It**

**Boat # 1986 – Nick Fortenberry & Chuck Emerson**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 75:06 11<sup>th</sup> Novice, 72<sup>nd</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race?** We both love a challenge and when we heard about the Texas Water Safari we wanted to see what our breaking point was. After hearing veterans talk about their experiences, seeing their excitement, and listening to everyone's crazy stories, we knew we had to do the race.

**What did you learn that would have been helpful to know ahead of time?** The biggest thing that would have been helpful to know would be to pace yourself the first day. There is a lot of excitement and adrenaline but also a lot of heat and exhaustion. It's easy to tire yourself out on the first day by pushing yourself too hard so going at the pace you planned ahead of time is best. Another lesson learned is to make sure your team captains know what's going on - it's not great to show up at the first checkpoint with your team captains nowhere to be found! Driving the route with them and making sure they're familiar with every checkpoint would have been helpful for our captains and especially us.

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** Loved it! There may have been points during the race where we hated it, but the majority of the time and especially at the end of the race we loved it. The sense of accomplishment is like none other as you cross the finish line. We'll definitely be doing it again.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** Our only goal was to finish - which we accomplished!



**Hayduke Lives**

**Boat # 4302 – Jake Bleggi- Utah & Burke Collings- Utah (but been working in Alaska)**

**Finish Time/DNF: 83:12, 10<sup>th</sup> Aluminum, 87<sup>th</sup> overall**

**What made you want to do the race?**

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?:**

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?**



**Ol' Rock**

**Boat # 2013 – Michael Pritulsky- Austin TX & Doug McCoy- Dallas TX**

**Finish Time/DNF: 69:42:00, 7<sup>th</sup> Novice, 56<sup>th</sup> overall**

**What made you want to do the race?**

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?:**

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?**



**The Insufferables**

**Boat # 2602 –Timothy Snider and son Samuel Snider- Glencoe, OK**

**Finish Time/DNF: DNF at Staples**

**What made you want to do the race?** First, my dad and I canoed a lot during my childhood. Second, my son and I saw a PBS documentary about canoe racing and we thought it looked fun. Third, we did our research and found the Safari was our best closest option. And fourth, we went to the Safari Seminar in 2019 and we knew we wanted in!

**What did you learn that would have been helpful to know ahead of time?** I would have liked to know that my son hurt his shoulder in a workplace lifting injury 4 days before Safari. With TC ready, motels reserved, vacation days requested, and with few prospects to try again, I said let's do ice and ibuprofen and go for it! It was re-aggravated and he was basically done by Cottonseed. We pulled into Staples at 1:31pm and called it as a DNF.

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** Yes, we'd like to try again with more practice, more practice runs and more careful attention to detail about workplace injuries.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** We didn't achieve any goals, but we really appreciated the numerous photos captured of us by the Safari social media team. Giving us those memories was really redemptive.



### **Paddle Pachanga**

**Boat # 2717 – Travis Salinas – Buda TX & Claybourne Ross - Magnolia, TX**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 77:33, 15<sup>th</sup> Novice, 79<sup>th</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race?** **Travis:** Growing up in San Marcos, I've always wanted to do the race since I heard about it. Finding a good partner willing to put in the training work and sacrifice the time is a tough task. Finally found a good and willing partner. The past 6 June's have all been loaded with coaching little league All Star Baseball, but I needed to go this year for me. Claybourne's research, the seminars, and other paddlers had us super prepared. Our TC's, were the best in the race! Couldn't have finished the race without them!

**Claybourne:** TWS crew did a fantastic job doing what they could to help novices prepare. Enjoyed meeting so many of you! I wanted to do the race because I'm crazy and the race is crazy so it was a great fit. I'm turning 40 this year and suffice it to say the last 2 years have been pretty tough in many ways. Needed something to shake up the norm and shake out some life-fog I'm dealing with. IT DID JUST THAT!

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** Over all I had a blast, we laughed a ton, cracked plenty of jokes, and listened to Lonesome Dove on audio. **Travis:** The worst part was when I saw a drop line around Gonzales that surely had a catfish and Claybourne wouldn't let me check it! I can't believe how many good fishing spots we passed :) . The support from friends and family, my kids taking action pictures, the most cheerful volunteers ever, the friendly paddling community and a rock solid partner made for a wonderful experience. **Claybourne:** First off.....TEAM CAPTAINS AND BANK CREW!!!!!!!!!!!! My sister CherylInn Dry and my nephew (her son) Allen Dry and My wife Leigha Ross were TREMENDOUS support. They absolutely were a key element to keeping us going and couldn't imagine not having them. I loved this race, and I will be back! My good friend Cord Johnson took a run at it in 18 and had to pull out in Victoria. He drove down from Amarillo to meet us at Thomaston and cheer us on, and I told him right then and there that I was TC for him next year and we were getting his boat to Seadrift. That's goal #1 from here and after that I'll plan my next run.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** **Travis:** My personal goal was to finish, my team goal was to keep it fun, keep us efficient and avoid rocks, logs and poison ivy banks. **Claybourne:** My goal was to get in a boat with a close friend and paddle with excellence every stroke of the way. Training with Holly and getting as much water time as possible helped us in that. We had no idea how "possible" it was for us to finish, we just knew that we weren't coming out of that river bottom before Seadrift unless something had gone really really really wrong. All in all, we never even thought about quitting, like not even once. I did have a few conversations with trees and rocks along the way about joining their folk-grunge band and moving to Seattle, but once I woke up I was back on track to finish. Our biggest motivator was our fundraiser for the American Foundation for Suicide Prevention, which had a pledge per mile completed element to it. This was in tribute to a friend and coworker I lost in late 2020. The fundraiser was greeted with overwhelming support and success from friends and family across the globe and our new paddler friends, **raising over \$13,000!!!!** I didn't want to clue my friend's wife into the fundraiser until after we had successfully finished the race and maxed out the pledge. When it finally came time to share the good news with her, it was a special moment to honor my friend. Crazy Story....our late friend's wife had no idea about the race or what we were raising money for. She texted Travis at 10pm while we were going under 59 South of Victoria to say hello and thank him for his friendship with he

husband and family. WOW!!!! It was a moment of humble gratitude for this opportunity and such a cool thing to be a part of.



### **Good Line**

**Boat # 3006 – Warren Kay & Kyndel Bennett– Austin, TX**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 61:48:00, 2<sup>nd</sup> Novice, 45<sup>th</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race? Warren:** I needed a forcing mechanism to train and work out. A team-based race is a perfect motivator for me. **Kyndel:** was inspired by JT VanZandt. Over the years, JT has shared stories during their fishing trips and Kyndal finally found an opportunity to make training and make the TWS a priority.

**What did you learn that would have been helpful to know ahead of time?** 1. Waterproof bags do not hold up in rapids. They are great for splash water but not for deep submersion. 2. Bring a torch or something to heat and dry the boat in the event your boat gets a hole in it. 3. Keep it simple - We had a number of tools and gear that we never used. In the moment, during the race, you have to simplify. The brain can only focus on a few activities and priorities.

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** What is not to love about it. Great community, challenging experience, and lifelong memories.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** We finished the race. That was our big goal. In the future, we will include a fundraising element but training and finishing the race is as much as we could handle in our first competition.



### **Shut Up Walter**

**Boat # 4321 – Chris Pruitt -Houston TX & Charlie Agar – New Braunfels, TX**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 87:58:00, 19<sup>th</sup> Novice, 96<sup>th</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race?** Advancing age and swelling egos made us do it. Also, like the climber George Mallory said when asked why he wanted to climb Everest: "Because it's there."

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** We trained the bare minimum and went into the Safari hoping to simply survive and maybe finish. We broke one of our good carbon paddles on day one and had only a cheap, plastic backup. Our stern man got a good clunk on the head in a rapid, and we of course suffered the standard pains of ant bites, delusions, and a late night swim, both of us cursing the very idea of this whole ill-advised escapade. But now, having celebrated a finish alongside our new friends for life and fellow paddlers Spencer and Janae Fuller, we are like the mom who in time forgets the pain of child birth and plans to do it all over again. **Anyone got a sleek two-man boat for sale?**

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** No fundraising, but we feel we helped bolster the US economy a bit in our feverish preparations. Jeff Bezos is likely smiling and wringing his hands from the deck of his mega-yacht somewhere.



**Smalls 2 Talls**

**Boat # 5950 –Stacey Rasco – Faucett, MO & Larry Mooney – Plattsburg MO**

**Finish Time/DNF:** DNF at Luling 90

**What made you want to do the race?** Love adventure and a challenge. The Safari seemed the next level up for me.

Portages, razor back turns, heat! It didn't disappoint. Know some friends who have completed the TWS. Wanted to try it out.

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** It was great fun! It pushed all my abilities but I loved it. Learned a lot that you don't learn from anyone who has done the race. Many safety things were learned on the water. Would like to do it again. We'll see.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** No



**Go For David!**

**Boat # 6499 –Mark Howell & Son Doug Howell from Port Lavaca TX**

**Finish Time/DNF:** DNF at Victoria

**What made you want to do the race?**

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?:**

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?**



**Shirtless**

**Boat # 7866 – Isaac Wiegman & Aaron Fides – San Marcos TX**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 64:34:00, 4<sup>th</sup> Novice 49<sup>th</sup> overall

**What made you want to do the race?** (Isaac) wanted to push myself to try something new and expand the boundaries of what I thought was possible to experience and accomplish. I learned that bug spray is critical, even if you doused your clothes in permethrin. I learned that sleep really is optional and that it's kind of fun to share hallucinations with your teammate.

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** Absolutely loved it! Will definitely do it again. It was so many different adventures rolled into one. I can only imagine how it changes the race to compete in different classes.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** Yes, I was raising money for World Vision's Water and Sanitary Hygiene (WASH) program. The program works mostly in Africa to provide water to people who don't have easy access.

Imagine that! Here I am paddling around in the crystal clear San Marcos river and training in it for fun, and there they are having to walk miles every day to get to the nearest water source, often murky and unsanitary; wasting time they could be using to learn or work or care for family. It's been an amazing opportunity to get them some help while I train. I was able to meet my fundraising goal of \$10,000 soon after the Safari. But I'll continue raising funds as I train for Ironman Wisconsin (9/12) and into December. I would welcome any support from the Safari community. Every \$50 donated provides lasting water for one person <https://www.facebook.com/donate/1140007173083550>



**Team 830 Cycling and Fitness** (my wife and Bruce Beall's wife's gym in New Braunfels)

**Boat # 8981 – Trey Golden/Brad Mynatt (legal names Walter and Lee) - New Braunfels, TX**

**Finish Time/DNF:** 75:56:00, 14<sup>th</sup> Novice 78<sup>th</sup> overall

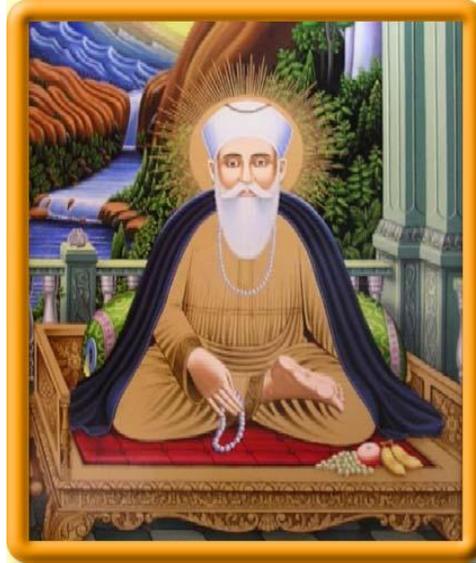
**What made you want to do the race?** **Brad:** I have always wanted to do the race, so moving back to Texas finally found someone will to go for it. Lesson learned: have a fall back fueling plan...I had a mid-race switch to Pedialyte and crackers (about the only thing I could keep down). **Trey:** Pushing myself to some levels of physical stress/suffering takes you to some sort of detox type state. I really need something like this. I learned that nothing out there looks the same at night. If you can figure out your times, then you REALLY need to learn those sections you will be going through at night because they will just NOT look the same.

**Loved it/Hated it/Do it again?** **Brad:** It was an experience and I plan on doing it again. However, will volunteer in 2022 (let me know where I can help). Also, wanted to highlight the bargain...at the end of the race our GPS indicated we traveled 270+ miles (264.65 miles in race description)...all for free: what a deal! **Trey:** Loved it. Will definitely do it again. I don't think it's an every year thing for me just because now that I know more about what it takes I believe I need to be able to dedicate more training time in the spring in years I want to race.

**Did you achieve any personal or fundraising goal?** **Brad:** Goals met...did not die, finished close to target (within 1 hour), and Trey and are on speaking terms and racing in July. **Trey:** We didn't have a fundraising goal, but we were very happy with our race.



## Palmetto Hotline *River Guru*



Greetings Inferior Racers,

While the last boats came into Seadrift a month and a half ago, it feels like a year and a half ago. As a testament to how competitive the TWS has become, everybody got up and left the state to start their 2022 TWS training by competing in second-rate races before their catfish even got cold at the banquet. As we used to say in the 90s, “TWS is life, the rest is just details.”

What a strange year this was. With an extra year of training you would think we’d see some less disappointing times, but those extra pounds from the “Quarantine 15” add up...especially in the big boats. The water levels this year were trending to a historic low, then a historic high, then back down again giving an advantage to those who can read the river on the fly, and those who just followed their GPS blindly, even if it was through a wall of reeds in Alligator Lake. This adversity always drives tight competition with a few surprises, and below is a rundown of the top 15 with a few special mentions.

1<sup>st</sup> Place (1<sup>st</sup> Unlimited) – Tim Rask, Kyle Mynar, Nick Walton, Tommy Yonley – The obvious favorite for the Argosy win this year didn’t disappoint. The rumor gristmill was abuzz this year with the “A-boats” switching to a 4-man configuration and these guys made it work, having a solid, consistent run all the way to Seadrift.

2<sup>nd</sup> Place (2<sup>nd</sup> Unlimited) – Ryan Slebos, Wes Wyatt, Brad Daniels, Phil Bowden, Dylan McHardy, Ryan Martinez – When I said the winning four man did not disappoint, I should note that River Fitness was pretty disappointed to come in 1 hour and 45 min after them, but excited to finish with as many racers as they started with! This combo of paddlers has been setting records across TX, LA, and MS and while they didn’t get the overall win this year, they ran an awesome race.

3<sup>rd</sup> Place (3<sup>rd</sup> Unlimited) – Andrew Condie, Clay Wyatt, Danny Medina – In a last-minute change up, these guys lost one of the Michigan Schlimmers, cutting their overall power by at least 40%. Instead of finding a replacement they pulled off an impressive 3<sup>rd</sup> place finish, but we will always wonder if they would have given the Poseidon boat a run for their money.

4<sup>th</sup> Place (4<sup>th</sup> Unlimited) Rebekah Feaster, Jonathan Kittle, Dave Walliser, Jonathan Rask, Rachel Rask, Stephen Rask – The Partridge family meets Cannonball Run...the Rask family came and sent it! Throughout the season I kept thinking, “If I had 10+ siblings we would totally ride around in a van and kick butt in races across Texas.” Outsiders might start to wonder how tough this race is because the Rask family boat makes it look so easy.

5<sup>th</sup> Place (1<sup>st</sup> Women’s) Melissa James, Holly Orr, Mollie Binion, Cecili Bugge, Lydia Huelskamp – Two years in the making, the Single Bladies finally got their TWS run in and took 1<sup>st</sup> Women’s. Throughout the season this team would pass inferior teams while gleefully singing women’s empowerment songs...throwing off their competitors’ mojo and leaving them with Beyonce songs stuck in their head for hours to come.

6<sup>th</sup> Place (5<sup>th</sup> Unlimited) Jay Daniel, Morgan Kohut, Michael Tecci, Wayne Thorp – When you talk to certain teams about their race you realize how relentless you have to be to get a top 15 finish. After losing Wayne somewhere around Miller Creek, the three remaining teammates pressed on with a tandem on their heels. It was a quick move in the cuts that finally gave them some distance and won them 6<sup>th</sup> place after more than 44hrs.

7<sup>th</sup> Place (1<sup>st</sup> Tandem Unlimited, 1<sup>st</sup> Masters) – Jason Cade and Chris Champion – I had to check my list of people I would’ve beat, if I raced, and can’t believe these guys seemed to have snuck into the rankings with the unlimited teams. Quietly creeping up boat by boat, they played the long game well and ended with an excellent finish.

8<sup>th</sup> Place (6<sup>th</sup> Unlimited) - West Hansen, Jimmy Harvey, Jeff Wueste – While most teams will recover, then move on to preparing for the MR340 or Au Sable, these guys are thinking bigger, colder, longer as they prepped for the Northwest Passage. They’ve had an impressive racing season, proving that the older you get, the more you get dialed in, the further/faster you go.

9<sup>th</sup> Place (7<sup>th</sup> Unlimited) – John DuPont, John Mark Harras, Brandon Gabehart, Luke Z, Andrew Davis, Maxx Dugas – The Cowboys ride again!!! While these guys are 7<sup>th</sup> place unlimited, I feel that they should be 1<sup>st</sup> place single blades. Mr. TWS is even considering creating a GoFundMe to get these guys a lighter boat. One more year to solidify this iconic team’s legacy!

10<sup>th</sup> Place (1<sup>st</sup> Standard) – Joe Geisinger, John Bugge – Wait...what? Everybody was happy to see these guys team up, right up until Joe and John dropped them in the prelim. The hardest part about accepting this is not that a Standard Bugge boat went so fast for 46 straight hours, but the realization that you’ll never be able to do that until you have ~50 collective finishes under your belt, and that seems like a LONG time from now.

11<sup>th</sup> Place (1<sup>st</sup> Mixed, 1<sup>st</sup> Adult/Youth) – Ian and Adelaide Rolls – The crowd favorite this year. Every dad dreams of racing with their daughter, and every daughter wishes their dad was Ian Rolls. Adelaide was a hero for all ladies at the banquet as people shared stories of her grit and kindness, and 11<sup>th</sup> place ain’t bad for your Novice year!

12<sup>th</sup> Place (2<sup>nd</sup> Women's) – Courtney Martinez and Heather Harrison – “Hitman” Harrison joined forces with Courtney Martinez, dropped the “Red-Hot” moniker and by channeling their spirit animal, Phil Bowden, Phil's Angels stayed smart and consistent all the way to Seadrift.

13<sup>th</sup> Place (1<sup>st</sup> C1) – Gabe Haarsma – Once again, I'm checking to see if I read this right. The flying dutchman does it again, representing the Houston style of paddling pioneered by Roy Tyrone, where you dial it up to about 110% and don't back off until you run aground in Seadrift. If you want to catch Gabe in Batdog next year your better start training now, otherwise helaas pindekaas...

14<sup>th</sup> Place (8<sup>th</sup> Unlimited) - Alex Leonard, Yusuf Johnson, Cohl Brazil, Jhet Brazil – The most “Austin” of the Austin teams, The HippieDippie Jalopy...whatever they called themselves...pulled off a top 15 finish and get special recognition for being the most vocal when Will Leeds' boat kept getting in everybody's way at the portages and the first team to paddle under the jams instead of around.

15<sup>th</sup> Place (2<sup>nd</sup> Mixed) – Virginia Condie and Shawn Boyett – Each year there are new equipment innovations and I expect next year we'll see a lot of boat tethers. In what must have felt like the movie *Open Water*, Virginia and Shawn learned the importance of holding on to the boat when you flip and that the darnedest things can happen even with the finish line in sight. What is incredible about their finish is they never gave up, and their TCs were smart enough to find their boat and put crime scene tape around it until the racers arrived. In the end, they still finished ~45min ahead of the next boat.

After 15<sup>th</sup> place, another 84 boats came in. Ol' Polecat and Pavos took 1<sup>st</sup> place C2 while Nate and Shannon took the long way through Alligator Lake. Keifer Mauldin and Salli O'Donnell took 1<sup>st</sup> place solo unlimited men's and women's just minutes from each other. Gaston and Lilly Jones came in 1<sup>st</sup> Aluminum in an impressive 52:28 time (for Aluminum!) and 5hrs later Aaron Zwahr and Austin Bodin finished first Novice at 57:18.

In the end, all teams did pretty OK...except for the 39 DNFs that didn't do OK. For what it's worth, Mr. TWS commends you for shaking off the pandemic blues, putting the time in to train and once again tackling the world's toughest canoe race. See y'all next year...and I might even race this time.

*The river guru is a collective hallucination shared by the greater paddling community. The views and opinions of the Guru are not the views of the TWS or TCKRA...but we all think it's pretty darn funny.*