

NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE



April 2025

In this Issue

About the TCKRA	2
2025 TCKRA Board and Officers	3
2025 Race Calendar.....	3
Paddler Profile.....	4
Tips from Safari Veterans.....	7
USCA Report.....	8
Race Reports.....	10
Upcoming Races	14
Palmetto Hotline.....	19

Questions? Want to contribute to the newsletter?

Patty Geisinger at pattyjoeg55@gmail.com

Membership:

Are you unsure of your membership status? Email pattyjoeg55@gmail.com and Patty will check! Many races remain in the 2024 racing season, and we would love to send you the 2024 Fridge magnet and parking pass!

The link to the website is below. Fill out the form and submit at your chosen level. You will a 2025 TCKRA Fridge Magnet Calendar, a free parking pass for shuttle setting only at Fentress Amigos Beach, San Marcos River Retreat (the Goynes) and Calhoun's in Tivoli, an invite to the annual banquet and the TCKRA Newsletter before everyone else! Thank you for supporting Texas paddle sports!

[Click Here to Become a Member](#)

About the TCKRA

The Texas Canoe and Kayak Racing Association is a statewide club for people 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 Race 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 complement 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 Martindale Triathlon
- Spring and fall river cleanups
- Newsletter
- Annual banquet
- Paddling clinics – free to TCKRA members
- 2 TCKRA decals for every member
- A 2024 TCKRA fridge magnet calendar
- A 2024 TCKRA parking pass (for setting shuttles only) at Fentress Amigos Beach and the San Marcos River Retreat, Calhoun's in Tivoli
- 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.
- Volunteer opportunities throughout the year.

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

Follow us on Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/TCKRA>

Follow us on Instagram: <https://www.instagram.com/tckra/>

2024 TCKRA Officers and Board of Directors

Officers

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

Board Members

Sandy Yonley
Stahl Urban
Clint Sutherland
Jonathan Zeek
Tommy Yonley
Holly Orr
Kaitlin Mynar

Letter from the TCKRA President

Nathan Tart

It's THAT time of year again! Canoe racing in Texas is underway and members are showing up in force. If you have renewed your TCKRA membership, you should have received your membership packet in the mail, so if not, please reach out to me ASAP and we can get that fixed. Lots and Lots of racing on the calendar, so if you are just getting in beach bod shape, we hope to see you on the river soon!

Nathan Tart
2025 TCKRA President

2025 Race Calendar

(Editor's Note: Races listed are not all TCKRA events but a compilation of all races we know of)

April 28th – MAC #4, The Night Race, Palmetto to Gonzo Gravel Bar
April 26th – the Bay Rat Race, Calhoun's to Bill Sanders Park, 9am
May 3rd – Texas River Marathon (the Prelim) Cuero to Victoria, 9am
May 4th – Calhoun's Gator Chase, Swinging Bridge to Tivoli, 9am
May 10th – Race the River: Goliad Race, Goliad Paddling Trail, Goliad TX, 9am
June 13th – 62nd Texas Water Safari, Meadows Center, San Marcos to Seadrift, 9am **FRIDAY**
Aug. 2nd – Neches River Wilderness Race, Palestine Tx, 8am
Aug. 23rd – TCKRA Aluminum State Championship, 969 to Bastrop, 8:30am
Aug 30th – Junction Up and Back Race, Junction Tx, 8am
Sept. 6th – Trinity River Challenge, Carrollton, 9am
Sept. 6th – SASPAMCO, San Antonio, 10am
Sept. 13th – Colorado River 100, Fisherman's Park, Bastrop, 5am
Sept. 20th – Junior Texas Water Safari, City Park, San Marcos, 9am
Sept. 21st – TCKRA USCA State Championships, tbd
Sept. 27th – Rotary Regatta, Friendswood, 8am
Sept. 28th – TCKRA Open Water State Championships, Galveston, 12noon

[Upcoming Races and Events](#)

Paddler(s) Profile

In each edition of the newsletter, we will feature an interesting and accomplished member of the Texas Paddling Community. **This Edition contains a special feature as we are highlighting another married couple!** If you would like to nominate someone to be featured in the Paddler Profile, please email their name(s) and contact info to pattyjoeg55@gmail.com

Shannon & Chris Issendorf

What are your full names?

Shannon & Chris- Shannon Issendorf & Christopher Issendorf. Married for almost 18 years!



Where are you from originally and where do you live now?

Shannon – I was born in Houston, but now live in New Braunfels

Chris - I lived in New Jersey for 22 years before moving to Texas.



2013 Chris 1st Safari: 19th overall, 6th Men's Solo

How and why did you get started in paddling?

Shannon – Chris was paddling and racing and I was a great team captain/bank bunny. I became friends with the paddler chicks along the way, and they convinced me to hang up my running sneakers and grab a paddle.

Chris - I had been fishing from my kayak for years, then I heard about the Water Safari and I was interested in checking it out.



2014 Shannon "Bank Bunny" Issendorf



Chris - I had been fishing from my kayak for years, then I heard about the Water Safari and I was interested in checking it out.

How did you get started racing?

Shannon – Virginia told me I should do the race and I told her, "only if you do it with me", Kaitlin was kind enough to throw her excellence in too, Team Hustle and Grind was formed.

Chris - I paddled the Texas Water Safari course as a training run and decided I should give the actual race a shot.



Where do you paddle most frequently? Together or Solo?

Shannon & Chris - We spend a lot of time paddling on Lake Dunlap. This year, Chris and I have spent a lot of time paddling together, it's nice to have a built in training partner.

What is your favorite race?

Shannon - I think the AuSable Canoe Marathon is one of my favorite, I have had some really great partners. There's always time in the pain cave to have a laugh with your partner in the middle and the pain is over before you know it.



Chris - My favorite races are the ones I do with the next generation of paddlers. But if I have to pick one specific race, it would be the Texas Water Safari. All my friends are out there together, and we all get to hang out at the end.

What kind of boats do you paddle? What kind of paddles do you prefer?

Shannon & Chris - We do a lot of C2 paddling, it's a boat that rewards you when you paddle it right and punishes you when you do it wrong. We have a wall full of ZRE Paddles. Chris likes to paddle his Mohican when he double blades.



What is your training regimen? What cross training do you do?

Shannon - I paddle 3 days a week, lots of intervals. I do Cross-Fit 2-3 times a week. I think it balances out my muscle imbalances from paddling.

Chris - I paddle or run almost every day. I've started throwing some mountain biking in there too.



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

Shannon & Chris - Fueled by Spiz, Tailwind and Uncrustables.



What are your significant accomplishments in paddling?

Shannon - I've gotten 25th twice in the AuSable Canoe Marathon. I've gotten 3rd in the Texas Water Safari, as well as won the mixed and women's divisions.

Chris - I've won the Texas Water Safari twice, podiumed the AuSable Canoe Marathon twice, won and set the record for the MR340, won the mixed division in the TWS, and paddled the full Safari course 3 times outside of the race.



What do you enjoy most about paddling?

Shannon – I enjoy the training the most. I like being out there getting a good workout with friends. Meeting up with friends on the weekends to paddle.

Chris - The feeling I get when the boat is gliding effortlessly across the water. Whether I'm part of a team or paddling solo.

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

Shannon – I'm on a great team for Safari this year, so I'm pretty pumped up about that.

Chris - Currently training to win the Safari and hope to be the first Texas to win the AuSable Canoe Marathon.



How difficult has it been to paddle with a life partner? How do you deal with tense race conditions? How do you plan ahead for those relationship stressors?

Shannon & Chris - Honestly, this is the first year that Chris and I have trained together and actually leave our training runs having had a good time. We try to keep the boat pointed downstream and not to lose too much speed.



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

Shannon – I've learned to have thick skin when paddling with Chris. It's common to have less of a filter when paddling with family members.

Chris - Just Remember: Your Wife is always right!

Any final words?

Shannon & Chris - For all novice paddlers or even paddlers that want to move up in placement, don't be afraid to ask the people that are placing higher than you for advice and tricks!



Training Tips from Safari Veterans

Tim Clark

As the start of the 2025 Texas Water Safari looms less than three months away, solo paddlers and teams are deep into their training runs and preparations. I asked a group of paddlers some of their favorite paddling tips and tricks to get ready for the “The World’s Toughest Canoe Race.” Here is what we heard:

*What Holly (Orr) says is: “Smooth is strong, and strong is fast.” And that was a good reminder that proper paddling technique is the way to go. Holly also told us to train like you want to race because you’re gonna race like you trained. -

Kaari Gerber

*The name of the game is being efficient with your paddling. You have to get good at paddling. It’s the best thing you could do. You will see the biggest gains. Improving paddling technique has the biggest payoff. - **Jason Cade**

*Paddle your own canoe. Don’t worry if someone is paddling faster than you or differently. Get miles of paddling in. Practice the portages and know the Safari route, but paddle lots of miles, and it doesn’t have to be on the San Marcos or the Guadalupe. - **Nicole and Kevin Ellis**

*Lights rigged in May work better than lights rigged in June. - **Wade Binion**

*My training primarily consists of paddling on the San Marcos River. I generally paddle two to three times a week March-September. Prior to the Safari, at least one of those days will be a 20-plus-mile training run down the river with my team. - **Holly Orr**

*Get a heart-rate monitor. That helped our paddling technique way more than anything else. - **Cameron Fanning**

*Get something that shows your heart rate and your speed so that you can see how much work you are putting in. Then you can see hey when we do these kinds of strokes we are cruising pretty well and not working that hard. - **Keith Campros**

*More time in the boat beats more time in the gym. - **Kaari Gerber**

*Aquaphor comes in a stick! - **Nicole and Kevin Ellis**

“The race doesn’t start until Victoria” is a John Bugge quote for anyone trying to be competitive. - **Wade Binion**

*My number one tip would be Spiz goes bad. It’s stable when it’s in the jar, but as soon as you mix it with water, it goes bad quickly. On a long run, you need to make sure you are changing them out each checkpoint if you don’t drink them. You should drink them, but if you leave them too long, it will explode and spray you with nasty stuff. - **Keith Campros**

*If your lights are new, plan for two night practice paddles. One to test everything and then another to test any adjustments. - **Nicole and Kevin Ellis**

*Don’t count strokes. It will drive you insane. - **Cameron Fanning**

*Make sure to take a weekend or a day off here and there to not burn out and to stay on top of life things. - **Kaari Gerber**

*Tecnu wipes for poison ivy encounters when you get off the river. Or if you are highly allergic, for while you are on the river. - **Nicole and Kevin Ellis**

*Nothing new on race day (seat cushions, food, portages, paddles, clothes, drink tubes, etc.) - **Wade Binion**

*Spend time on the river with people that have proven success in the race. - **Jason Cade**

*Ask questions and talk to people. There is a lot of knowledge, and this community is open to helping and sharing. - **Kaari Gerber**

*A flexible kid's hair rinsers works great for bailing as it conforms to the shape of your canoe. - **Nicole and Kevin Ellis**

*Do the Gator Chase and do the cuts. See the first 40 miles, do the cuts, and practice the bay. - **Keith Campros**

*Definitely do Gonzo to Hochheim just to make sure you can stay in the boat that long. At the checkpoints, make sure you don't spend a whole lot of time out of the boat. Make sure you can stay in the boat for long periods of time. -

Cameron Fanning

*Practice the bay before you race for the first time. That (stuff) is scary and intimidating, so give it a go before the race. -

Kaari Gerber

*If you are paddling with your spouse/partner, just stay married/together! ("Just Stay Married" was our alternate boat name.) - **Nicole and Kevin Ellis**

*Train in the heat. If you can't paddle in the heat, walk in the heat, bike in the heat. I walk my dog every day in the park. You have to acclimate to it. Be outside. - **Keith Campros**

*Practice swamping and recovery...in shallow and deep water. If you are new to paddling, talk to the veterans and consider a lesson. - **Nicole and Kevin Ellis**

Paddle, paddle, paddle, and wear sun protection. - **Kaari Gerber**

USCA Report

The 2025 USCA Annual Meeting

St. Petersburg Beach, Florida | January 10–12, 2025

The 2025 USCA Annual Meeting was held from January 10 to January 12 in St. Petersburg Beach, Florida. Attendance at the meeting was modest, as some participants faced travel difficulties due to severe weather in the northern regions. While Florida was free of snow, it was unseasonably cold and windy during the meeting. The lingering effects of Hurricane Milton were evident throughout the area, and the damage was devastating. Many places were still in the process of rebuilding, with substantial work yet to be done. Even our hotel had only a few completed rooms, and we were fortunate to secure the available accommodations.

USCA Officers for 2025

The following individuals were confirmed as USCA officers for the year:

- **President:** Don Walls
- **Vice President:** Holly Crouch
- **Treasurer:** John Edwards
- **Secretary:** Barb Bradley

Event Updates

1. 2026 USCA National Marathon/Sprint/Orienteering Championships

- A bid for the 2026 USCA National Marathon/Sprint/Orienteering Championships was offered and accepted.
- **Location:** Lockhaven, Pennsylvania, on the West Branch of the Susquehanna River.
- **Dates:** August 6–9, 2026.

The site is considered ideal for the Nationals, featuring deep water and low flow, which are optimal for all boats including those with rudders.

2. 2025 USCA National Marathon Championships

- **Location:** Connecticut River, Northfield, Massachusetts.

- This year's Marathon Nationals will be held on this scenic river, surrounded by historical landmarks and attractions. It will be sponsored by NECKRA.
 - **Dates:** August 7-10
 -
3. **2026 USCA National Stock Aluminum Championships**
No bids were submitted for the 2026 event.
4. **2025 USCA National Stock Aluminum Championships**
Location: Colorado River between Utley and Bastrop Texas.
Dates: October 11–12, 2025.
Sponsored by the Texas Canoe and Kayak Racing Association (TCKRA).

Key Decisions

USCA Insurance Program

After lengthy discussions, the decision was made to discontinue the USCA Insurance program. This decision was necessary due to significant financial losses incurred over the past few years.

Website Development and Virtual Meetings

Plans were approved to develop a new website to improve accessibility and information sharing. All future meetings will be accessible via Zoom, allowing attendees to watch the proceedings and delegates to vote remotely.

National Champion Recognition

The USCA had previously decided to verbally recognize the fastest paddler in each age class (e.g., Men C-1, Women C-1, Men C-2, Mixed, etc.) as the "Overall National Champion" for their respective class, regardless of which specific age class they were officially registered in. This decision created confusion regarding who would receive the trophies and medals, especially across different age groups.

To resolve this, the USCA recently approved a motion that reaffirms the original intent of the recognition:

1. The fastest paddler in each class will be verbally acknowledged as the "Overall National Champion" for that class.
2. However, all paddlers will still compete in their designated age classes.
3. The fastest paddler within each age class will be awarded the title "National Age Class Champion," along with the respective trophies and medals.

In summary, the "Overall National Champion" title is verbal recognition, while formal awards are tied to age-class performance.

Social Highlights

The 2-day meeting included a lively dinner at the Sea Dog Restaurant. Attendees enjoyed great food and camaraderie, making for a pleasant weekend of meetings.

For more information about the USCA, please visit www.uscanoe.com.

Respectfully submitted,
Joy Emshoff
TCKRA Delegate to USCA

Please consider joining the USCA! You get an incredible newsletter and to race in the Nationals, you must be a member. <https://uscanoe.org/>

Race Reports

TCKRA San Marcos River Clean Up

March 1st, 2025



Thank you to all those who came out and made the San Marcos River clean up a great success!

Beautiful weather, tons of trash clean from the river and surrounding banks. We had a good club turnout and were able to claim victory of cleaning the entire San Marcos River! The city of Luling and Palmetto State Park were very supportive of our efforts providing dumpsters. We appreciate the great Sponsors who made this day better for all the participants!



By working together, we as a club and paddling community, have been able to bring greater awareness to the general public as to the amount of trash that goes into our river. Thank you for making this possible! I do believe it is still our best practice to clean the river on our own time too. There is no shortage of litter, and it should NOT wait until an organized river clean up to be picked up. Great job and thank you to all of you who help keep our rivers beautiful.

Holly Orr

DTx Paddlers Panther Race Series

Clint Sutherland

2025 has started off with a great start introducing the Panther Island Race Series. Averaging 17 boats per race with the second race having 21 boats! We are utilizing a handicap % based on your age / gender / type of boat. So everyone can come and paddle with what they have. We even have 2 row boats in the race! So far 4 of the races have been held this spring. With the final race on September 6th "Trinity River Challenge" held there at Panther Island. Ripple FX Paddles has sponsored a paddle to be given away as a prize. Medals for 1,2,3 along with food and drinks.



TCKRA Spring Break Open

Tim Clark

Paddlers tackled the annual TCKRA Spring Break Open on March 2 and were greeted with a beautiful day but low water and low flow. The cubic feet per second for the day hovered around 90 cfs. The race start temperature was 63 degrees, rising to a high of 79. The wind was out of the south at 10 miles per hour. Thirty-nine teams started the race at Fentress, and 38 teams were credited with finishes at Luling 90.



Dodd Yeager and Ian Rolls captured the overall and men's tandem titles, covering the roughly 14-mile stretch in 1:38:06. Logan Mynar followed closely behind, winning men's solo in 1:40:50. Rounding out the top five were: David Earnest (men's solo, 1:48:58), Tommy and Drew Yonley (men's tandem, 1:49:36), and Gaston Jones and Clay Wyatt (men's tandem, 1:50:49). The top mixed tandem team was Ryan & Courtney Martinez (1:57:04), and the top women's tandem team was Shannon and Kaylee Issendorf (2:19:58). Virginia Parker (2:25:30) captured the top spots in women's solo and women's C1, and Luke Parker and Jackson Swilley (2:31:22) were the top men's aluminum. Kara Howard and Duane Kuchler took top mixed aluminum honors with a time of 2:54:00.

2024 MAC Races

Tim Clark

Brought to you by Kaitlin Mynar and the Martindale Athletic Club, the annual MAC races have been held along sections of the San Marcos River. This series has gotten folks into a racing mindset, to race how they train, to test equipment and begin their training season! It has been so much fun to race with friends! Consider adding these races to your 2025 schedule! One race remains, the Night Race on April 19th so consider coming out to prepare for night paddling!

Race 1: City Park to Spencer's Campground, March 16th: City Park to Staples, 16 miles

Race 2: Staples to Luling 90, March 29th: Staples to Luling 90 Gravel Bar, 24 miles

Race 3: Luling 90 to Palmetto State Park, April 6th: Luling 90 Gravel Bar to Palmetto Low Water Bridge, 21 miles

MAC Race 1

The Martindale Athletic Club (MAC) Race 1 took off from San Marcos City Park in two waves – a recreational wave at 9 a.m. and a competitive wave at 10 a.m. The San Marcos River was flowing at around 117 cubic feet per second (cfs). The race start temperature was 56 degrees with a high temperature during the race of 80 degrees. Winds were out of the west and northwest at 10 mph with gusts up to 20 mph. Paddlers negotiated the Rio Vista Dam shoots, Cummins Dam, Cottonseed rapids, Martindale Dam, Martindale Low Water Crossing, and other river obstacles. Fifty-four boats started the race, and 52 reached the finish line at Staples. Logan Mynar and Ian Rolls took first overall and first in tandem unlimited with a time of 1:56:53. Mynar and Rolls edged out Chris Issendorf, who was the top solo unlimited finisher and second overall in a time of 1:56:54. David Earnest (2:12:33), Andrew Condie (2:15:05), and Ryan Martinez (2:16:06) rounded out the top five. Earnest, Condie, and Martinez were in solo unlimited boats. Kyle Mynar was the top C1 paddler, posting a time of 2:25:32. Kaitlin Mynar and Shannon Issendorf (2:31:20) took the top women's tandem unlimited spot, and Matthew and William Orr finished first in C2 with a time of 2:33:00. Holly Orr, Courtney Martinez, and Virginia Parker (2:37:35) were the top women's unlimited team, and Jonathan Zeek and Katelyn Orr (2:42:55) were the top mixed tandem unlimited team. Other class winners for the race included: Gaston Jones and Mollie Binion (aluminum), Kristin Miller (women's solo), Jim Weber, Myla Weber, Cara Weber, and Morgan Kohut (unlimited), Megan Lowry and Kaari Gerber (women's aluminum), and Tina and Debbie Sackett (standard).



MAC Race 2

The 24-mile MAC Race 2 started with racers' backs to the Staples bridge and a quick .4-mile upstream paddle to a buoy. Racers navigated counterclockwise around the buoy and then back downriver for the Staples dam portage. Recreation paddlers started at 9 a.m., and the competitive division started at 10 a.m. Race temperature was 68 degrees at the 9 a.m. start with a wind from the south at 7-10 mph and gusts up to 20. The river was running around 140 cfs. Forty-six boats started the race, and 45 made it to Luling 90. David Earnest crossed the finish line first overall with a time of 3:10:01. Earnest was followed to the line by Tommy and Drew Yonley (3:15:48, 1st tandem unlimited), Chris Issendorf and Addie Rolls (3:16:09, 1st mixed tandem unlimited), Kyle and Logan Mynar (3:21:20, 1st C2), and Kaitlin Mynar and

Shannon Issendorf (3:32:25, 1st women's tandem unlimited). Other class winners included: Cecili Bugge, Lydia Huelskamp, and Courtney Martinez (women's unlimited), Garrett Jones (C1), Kim Kaiser and Mollie Binion (women's C2), Jim Weber, Morgan Kohut, Cara Weber, and Myla Weber (unlimited), Richard Zambrana and Stahl Urban (aluminum), Erin Magee (women's solo unlimited), and Debbie Sackett (women's C1).



MAC Race 3
Patty Geisinger

Just one word to describe the MAC #3 this year and that is COLD! Brrrr, we were bundled up in and out of the boat! But once everyone hit the water and started battling their way downstream in low water, they warmed right up! Sounds like a few folks did go for a bracing swim, but everyone finished in just over the 5 hour time window!



2025 Upcoming Races

MAC Race #4: Mike Simmons Memorial Night Race 6:30pm and 7:30pm

The final race of the 2025 MAC Race Series will take place on Saturday April 19th and will begin at Palmetto State Park to end at the Gonzales Gravel Bar, this race involves staggered starts, so please consult the calendar or the Martindale Athletic Club for details and the rules for finishing with the time parameters. Thank you to the amazing Kaitlin Mynar and family who put on this race which ends with a delicious fish fry! You will need to secure a Palmetto State Park Day Pass.



<https://www.tckra.org/event-details/the-night-race-mac-spring-race-series-race-4-4>

Texas River Marathon May 3rd, 2025, 9a.m.

The Texas River Marathon will take place on Saturday, May 3rd from River Haven RV Resort outside Cuero Texas and ending at the Pumphouse restaurant in Victoria, TX. Registration ends for this year's Texas River Marathon, aka The Prelim, on April 12th. There is NO late or day of registration. To secure your starting place of the Texas Water Safari, you must register for the Safari no later than May 4th to retain your finish time position from the Prelim. A Team Captain is required. For more information and to get registered: <https://www.texaswatersafari.org/register/>



Calhoun's Gator Chase May 4th, 2025, 9a.m.

The 2nd annual Calhoun's Gator Chase will take place on Sunday, May 4th following the Prelim. The course is the Swinging bridge checkpoint to Tivoli, The Calhoun's RV Resort. Registration closes on April 12th, and there are no late registrations or day-of registration. This is a unique change to see the course of the TWS and log jam section before the Safari. This is private property and cannot be accessed from this location at any other time during the year. Please respect all private property in Texas! Total length is 21 miles. All entries will get an alligator tooth key chain. We will also serve lunch for racers when they finish. There will be no official awards ceremony. We understand teams need to get home so awards will be handed out when you finish. <https://www.texaswatersafari.org/register/>



San Antonio River Basin: Race the River Goliad

May 10th, 2025

8 am Check in, Race start 10am

The San Antonio River Authority, together with the San Antonio River Foundation, welcomes you to the Race the River Paddle Series! Canoe and kayakers of all skill levels are invited to participate at each adventure race throughout the San Antonio River Basin

The Goliad Race is the second race of the series. This 17-mile pro race, or 5-mile amateur race, will test your endurance along the Goliad Paddling Trail through remote stretches of the San Antonio River.

An award ceremony and racer celebrations will follow each race. Commemorative patches will be given to all finishers, trophies and prizes will be given to top finishers of each category.

- **Pro Racer Check-in Location:** Goliad Paddling Trail- Riverdale Access Point - [N Riverdale Ln, Goliad, TX 77963](#)
- **Amateur Racer Check-in Location:** [HW 59 River Crossing](#)
- **Racer Check-in Time:** 8AM-9:30AM (Pro & Amateur)
- **Race Start Time:** 10AM (Pro & Amateur)
- **Pro Race Cutoff:** 1PM at HW 59 River Crossing
- **Race Finish Line:** [Goliad Paddling Trail- Ferry St Access Point](#) (Pro & Amateur)
- **After Party:** [Branch River Park - 445 S Commercial St, Goliad, TX 77963](#)
- **Awards Ceremony:** After all racers have arrived at the finish.

Registration Information: <https://runsignup.com/Race/Info/TX/Goliad/RacetheRiverGoliad>



62nd Annual Texas Water Safari

Friday, June 13th-17th 9a.m.
San Marcos to Seadrift Texas

When: June 13th – June 17th, 2025, 9am

Where: Spring Lake, San Marcos to Seadrift, Tx

Registration: <https://www.texaswatersafari.org/register/>

More Information: Race information, course description, rules and procedures, boat types and all details regarding the TWS can be found at www.texaswatersafari.org



2025 USCA Stock Aluminum Nationals

Saturday-Sunday, October 11th-12th 10a.m.
FM 969 to Fisherman's Park, Bastrop



The TCKRA is so very proud to announce that we will be hosting the 2025 USCA Stock Aluminum Nationals this fall! Our State Championship will be August 23rd but you do not have to compete in the State race to compete in the Natl race! You just have to be a USCA Member.

<https://www.tckra.org/event-details/2025-usca-aluminum-national-championship-weekend>

To register by mail, postmark by Sept 20th, and send this form with payment to:
Patty Geisinger, 7009 Grove Crest Dr., Austin Tx 78736. Checks made payable to TCKRA.

Please fill out 1 form that includes all your races for the weekend. Must be a USCA Member.
For any questions, contact: Patty Geisinger, pattyjoeg55@gmail.com

Team Entry Form

NAME: _____ USCA Member # _____

ADDRESS: _____ DOB _____ AGE _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Saturday Partner

Name _____ DOB: _____ AGE: _____

USCA Member # _____

Partner's EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Sunday (if applicable) Partner's

Name _____ DOB: _____ AGE: _____

USCA Member # _____

Partners EMAIL: _____ PHONE: _____

Saturday USCA Championship Events

_____ Stock Aluminum Men's Open (18-39) _____ Stock Aluminum Men's Masters (40-59)

_____ Stock Aluminum Men's Veteran (60+) _____ Stock Aluminum Women's Open (18-39)

_____ Stock Aluminum Women's Masters (40-59) _____ Stock Aluminum Women's
Veteran(60+)

_____ Stock Aluminum Men's Juniors (15-18*) _____ Stock Aluminum Women's Juniors (15-18*)

Sunday USCA Championship Event

_____ Stock Aluminum Mixed Open (18-39) _____ Stock Aluminum Mixed Masters (40-59)

_____ Stock Aluminum Mixed Veteran (60+)

*Juniors-male and female: all paddlers that have not turned 18 prior to January 1st on the year the race is held.

Race Fees: First Race- \$40 per person Second Race \$20 per person

Juniors- \$20 per person

Saturday

_____ Stock Aluminum Men's Open (18-39) Paddler 1: \$40 + Paddler 2: \$40 = _____

_____ Stock Aluminum Men's Masters (40-59) Paddler 1: \$40 + Paddler 2: \$40 = _____

_____ Stock Aluminum Men's Veteran (60+) Paddler 1: \$40 + Paddler 2: \$40 = _____

_____ Stock Aluminum Women's Open (18-39) Paddler 1: \$40 + Paddler 2: \$40 = _____

_____ Stock Aluminum Women's Masters (40-59) Paddler 1: \$40 + Paddler 2: \$40 = _____

_____ Stock Aluminum Women's Veteran (60+) Paddler 1: \$40 + Paddler 2: \$40 = _____

_____ Stock Aluminum Men's Juniors (15-18) Paddler 1: \$20 + Paddler 2: \$20 = _____

_____ Stock Aluminum Women's Juniors (15-18) Paddler 1: \$20 + Paddler 2: \$20 = _____

Sunday

_____ Stock Aluminum Mixed Open (18-39) Paddler 1: \$40 + Paddler 2: \$40 = _____

(If this is your second race) Paddler 1: \$20 + Paddler 2: \$20 = _____

_____ Stock Aluminum Mixed Masters (40-59) Paddler 1: \$40 + Paddler 2: \$40 = _____

(If this is your second race) Paddler 1: \$20 + Paddler 2: \$20 = _____

_____ Stock Aluminum Mixed Veteran (60+) Paddler 1: \$40 + Paddler 2: \$40 = _____

(If this is your second race) Paddler 1: \$20 + Paddler 2: \$20 = _____

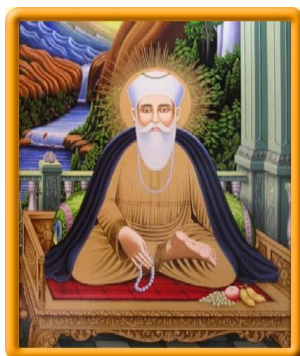
Total = \$ _____

Safety Rules:

1. Attendance at pre-race meeting both Saturday and Sunday morning at 9:30 a.m. is mandatory.
2. A US Coast Guard approved PFD must be in the craft with each contestant and properly worn if wearing is required in accordance with the PFD's Owner's Manual or label attached for all Type I, II, III or V. If there is no U.S.C.G. label, it is not Coast Guard approved. A USCA Coast Guard approved PFD must be worn by all non-swimmers and all children under 13 yrs. old.
3. A sounding device such as a pea-less whistle must be in each boat, easily accessible.
4. Boat Specs: Maximum length 17'4", minimum width 34.5" @gunwales. Any recreational canoe (Aluminum, plastic, wooden, royalex, etc.), no beaver boats allowed.

Palmetto Hotline

River Guru



Palmetto Hotline

The History of the River Guru, The Palmetto Hotline, Uncle Russ.....is as long as the history of the paddling community in Texas. Thank you to Lee Deviney, former TCRA board member, newsletter editor and paddler, for saving so many years of documents from those years past. He recently allowed me to begin scanning them digitally for the documentation of all those who have come before us, of races long since gone, of records made and broken. I am slowly working my way through, but I have gotten sidetracked by the stories, the humor, the legacy in them. I hope we can make all the records searchable for folks to enjoy.

I have been quite amused by the change in the newsletter over these years. Uncle Russ must have been quite a River Guru. But as referenced below, the Guru has been anonymous, submitted via a 3rd party to the newsletter and we have had no new volunteers who have stepped up to continue. So, I am hoping that someone will look back at Guru's of the past and contribute a Safari Prediction entry for our 2025 June Special Edition. Although, I am sure Mr. TWS will have some on Facebook for us all.

Below is an excerpt from the 1998 TCRA Newsletter (Letters to the Editor) and the 2001 River Guru. Perhaps it is time to resurrect the Palmetto Hotline email....feedback welcomed.

Patty

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.



TCRA

TEXAS CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION

PROMOTERS & ORGANIZERS OF THE
SPORT SINCE 1971

<http://www.geocities.com/Yosemite/Trails/3418>

April 1998



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

No, the graphic above is not Team Bugge or Mynar/Dunn Posse. What you see is a depiction of a six man outrigger racing canoe which is timely because Texas' first outrigger races will be held in Beaumont at the April 24-26 **Neches River Festival/USCA Southwest & Central Championship Races** and TCRA members are invited to paddle in outrigger races as well as the USCA and amateur classes.

Here is how it will work: After the USCA C-1 and C-2 races Saturday there will be a short outrigger race and a long course outrigger race Sunday morning. Look for the outrigger sign-up sheet at registration. The outrigger canoes will be provided by John Gage and the Las Olas Outrigger canoe Club from Ft. Lauderdale Florida and the Texas Outrigger Canoe Club from Webster, Texas. Please consider coming to this event. The races and Pro prize money are geared towards the USCA classes but non-USCA paddlers may participate as "amateurs" and may race outrigger. Other attractions will be a paddling clinic by Calvin Hassel Friday evening and a paddlers banquet Saturday night. Be sure and ask for the \$45 paddlers rate at the Ramada Inn. If you did not receive and entry kit for the Neches River Festival call Bob Spain at 512-480-8058.

I'm pretty excited about having outrigger racing demonstrated in Texas. As much as I love marathon,

the Texas Water Safari, and would like to see sprint clubs and sprint racing develop in Texas, outrigger is the biggest of all the racing disciplines and is experiencing explosive growth. More paddlers participate in the Molokai race each year than all the paddlers who have ever entered the TWS. Several TCRA members have paddled outrigger and folks with outrigger backgrounds are moving into the state. I think that within a few years an outrigger club or two will be established here and the TCRA should be in a position to welcome the outrigger discipline into our association particularly since sit down marathon paddling and outrigger are so similar. An outrigger paddler can be taught how to get down a river and we can learn to surf down waves.

Part of the attraction of outrigger and sprint paddling is that they work best in a "club" environment where there is shared equipment, coaching, a boat house, a coach and social activities. In a club environment one can be a member of a team and it's more cost effective for a novice paddler to pay club dues than to go out and buy a \$2,000 Wenonah. This is a proven formula with rowing clubs. In marathon one simply straps a boat on the car, maybe call a partner or friends and it's off to the river. That's fine for working around busy schedules but it's often hard to find people to train and improve with. I've noticed that those races where there is a meal or other social outlet we tend to stick around and socialize and learn from each other. Food for thought.

See you at the Races.

Lee Deviney

from the TCRA mailbox

Kiwi and Lobster Boy take on the Safari

(Note: Robert Nagel is from HAV-ARD and plans to race the TWS with "Ado" from New Zealand. These guys also claim to have won the Ego-Challenge and ESPN X-Games and so forth).

From: "Robert J. Nagle" <nagle@tammy.harvard.edu>

I've been racing for many years. Several years ago, Ian "ADO" Adamson and I decided to get into team racing and we put together a group of people (Team Eco-Internet) that Triathlon Magazine calls "The most feared squad in adventure racing".

•In 1996, we won all the major team races in the world, including the Eco-Challenge, the ESPN X Games (1st and 2nd) and the Southern Traverse. •In 1997, we repeated our win in the Eco-Challenge, 3 of the squad again won the ESPN X Games and we finished 2nd in the inaugural Mild Seven Outdoor Quest in China.

I'll be coming to this year's TWS with paddling partner Ian Adamson. (Ian has won Murray River and the Hawkesbury in Aus and last year set a World Record for 24 hour paddle; together we've won a few multisport races, EcoChallenge and ESPN X Games etc).

Ado & I will probably stick with our existing plan. We actually have two friends, Duncan Smith and Robyn Benincasa, who will also be paddling. If we were going to do a foursome, our obligation would be to do it with them.

Looking forward to meeting all the cowboys.

Cheers

Robert J. Nagle

<http://yuri.harvard.edu/~nagle>

From: Lee Deviney

To: Robert Nagel

The "Cowboys" consist of John Mark Harras, Polecat Stafford, John Dupont and an occasional guest paddler such as "Three Dots Carlilse. In point of fact all are capable safari paddlers but none are cowboys rather an improbable combination of an offshore oil worker, an MBA and an environmental laboratory manager. A few genuine article cowboys do paddle the Safari but remember that you can't always tell a real cowboy by his hat.

From: "Harras, John Mark">

To: "Lee.Deviney@mail.capnet.state.tx.us" <

Subject: Vile slander

It should be pointed out that Polecat owns a 100 acre ranch in Thomaston. (He is also PO Box 1) He's got cows & everything! Plus--Darla drives an F-350, if that ain't a cowboy then I'm a Yale man!

Which brings up point # 2. If it is at all possible TWS judges should be issued Yale Crew T-shirts, I'm already preparing a banner with a dead cartoon cow (little X's on the eyes, Etc.) that reads "Aussie beer ain't fit fer steers!" This is a high priority for the PR committee.

JM

Dearest Lee,

It's so good to hear from you. The photo you sent may actually look like us (Team Bugge C-15) pulling up to Ottine Dam.

Training is going well for me. Spent yesterday afternoon drinking beer and fishing. I'm trying to lay a good tan base so don't burn in the Safari. After my tan training run I went and ate a cheeseburger and drank more beer. After dinner while driving on the highway shoulder I did some visualization on paddling technique. I bet the minners don't do half of what I did on Sunday.

Yours Truly

Allen

(Note: the final paragraph of the letter could not be printed in a family oriented newsletter. Suffice it to say that Allen may soon become a hood ornament on Uncle Russ' truck)

PALMETTO HOTLINE

The kinder, gentler version of the Hotline in the last newsletter generated an incredible amount of e-mail to the river guru. Seems the TWS community is evenly split between Pollyanna-types who like everything sugar coated and Attila the Hun wannabes who want all the dirty details in print. Keep your comments coming! –Hotline Writer (email palmettohotline@yahoo.com)

STOP THE INSANITY!! I had intended to start this Hotline edition praising the Mynar team for its relatively sane outlook in this the year of the ninety-foot canoes, because it goes without saying that those six could beat any 8-man boat rumored to exist. But alas, they too have fallen into the trap of keeping up with the Jones'. TG has cut their winning boat in half and they'll be adding several extra seats. Unfortunately Dwayne misunderstood their request for chopping the boat at the midpoint and he split the boat length-wise and widened it by a foot. Making the best of being dealt a bad hand, Freddy and the rest of the team will be paddling side by side sort of like the Indian war canoes. Now if they can just replace all the graphite with birch bark, they'll really impress me. Phil's team looks like it will be solid if they ever get the boat on the water with all the teammates together. Current trouble is that no one can be found to team captain that monstrosity because all of the teams' family and friends are too busy that weekend. Maybe they can talk to that guy who captained a team of novices a couple of years ago, and he motivated the guys by withholding water if their time on the splits wasn't as good as he expected. Finally the Bugge stealth missile has stirred up some of the strangest rumors ever heard. Of course there's the stories of teammates from California or Canada or College Station or some combination of those locations. Have also heard wild speculation on teammates being from Houston, that John is walking the straight and narrow, with (can you believe it?) Tommy Y. and the oldest child of the Rask clan making up the backbone of his team!! Personally I don't think it will ever happen, not that it wouldn't be a fast team. John could never convince their parents that the kids wouldn't be chewing tobacco and cussing like sailors by Seadrift.

The River Guru has proposed "The fast river giveth and the high water taketh away" or "The weekend of the Kevlar carnage" as mottos for recent outings on the San Marcos. I heard lots of complaining last year about how difficult low water is, and how the boats get banged up from the exposed rocks. I'll take the sound of a zipper over rebar to the snap of a keelson and a gunwale any day. It seems like most paddlers have forgotten how to drive a boat in the pushy river conditions now existing on the San M. The weekend described above saw an alumnacraft and a 4-man graphite boat destroyed at cottonseed, and at least 3 other boats of various sizes pinned in logjams and sweepers. Fortunately nothing but a few wallets being damaged in all the river carnage. Heard that one of the wrecked boats was brand new and only saw a few miles of river before meeting its untimely death. To prevent further damage, Brian Mynar, Jerry Cochran and Tom Goynes, three of the best sternmen in the business will be holding classes on driving longboats, tandems and solos next Saturday. Dwayne has threatened a lawsuit citing Restraint of Free Trade laws.

Looks like the aluminum division is really heating up. The Zoltan Mraz - Frankenstern Youens team will be going up against some stiff competition. John Qualls is feeling pretty cocky, fresh off his victory in the Jerry Garcia look-alike contest, and he's teaming up with John Rush, in a repeat of the novice champion boat from last year. John Hoffart has been training with them all this winter and I foresee a possible photo finish in this class. Speaking of Hoffart, the river guru heard that he was real chummy with the Cowboys recently after one of the races, so he might be looking to fill an open seat in their boat; have also heard that one of the Washington paddlers from last year is going to be in their boat. That means that either Don Baumbach has jumped out of the Mynar boat (fat chance) or Liam Price (is right) will find out that there is one boat worse than a C-1 to get to Seadrift in. As you readers know, I'm not one to give unsolicited advice, but... Liam, I know you recently suffered through the big quake in Seattle, but getting in the boat with those guys will be worse than a 9.2 Richter, disaster-wise.

Ginger is playing her cards real close to the vest right now. I recently saw her scrambling for her life, abandoning Bob Thielmann in a pinned long boat. Later she was reportedly seen in an aluminum boat with either a good-looking hippie or a strong female paddler, depending on who's telling the story. Little Timmy Rask is convinced he can place in the top 5 all by his lonesome. Word has it he's been practicing

daily and working out and being annoyingly healthy in general. His primary motivation is the look on the faces of the eight-man canoes as he passes them on the lower Guadalupe. This could be the first Safari in history where the complaints at the start come from long boats getting run over by a soloist! Erin's recent disaster training run that turned into a two day mapping expedition on the San Marcos can now be told with all its sordid details. Someone told her and Richard about the secret high water portage near the confluence of the San M. and Guad Rivers, so they decided to mark the trail on a recent weekend, just in case the rules are changed before the race to make the portage legal. They missed the short cut and wandered for hours dragging their boat across pastures and fields before finally finding a phone and calling everyone they knew. Linda C. to the rescue! The story reminds me of several safari racers over the years who have performed similar mapping expeditions in their 10-hour plus crossings of San Antonio Bay (guilty parties, you know who you are). Erin and Richard - this is way too early in the season to be THAT lost.

Looks like Ted and Smitty are split up again, with Smitty in a solo rig and Ted searching all the bars in Porter for someone to paddle with. All his relatives, his friends and his friends' relatives won't return his calls. Heard the argument was over "Johnny Walker Black" vs. "Wild Turkey" and they haven't spoken since. The Rask-Yonley tandem team plans on practicing "sometime" before June, but who knows when it will be. Seems that there's a little filly in Dallas that's been a distraction to one of them. Take this advice boys from the river guru: If she don't think that real fun is sitting for hours in a muddy river bank to watch you go past for a few seconds, then it won't ever change. Grady, trying desperately to stay out of the C-1 division, is in the process of begging OLD time partner Mark Finstead into a C-2 reunion tour. If it works we could see a classic Age versus Youth match up. I would have said Wisdom versus Strength, but let's just leave it as originally written. Little word of caution to Grady-last time you won C-2, your competition wasn't interested in girls yet. A lot has changed over the years...now the girls aren't interested in them.

Novice News: The recent Safari seminar brought the newbie crowd to City Park, and let me tell you, the turnout was phenomenal and some of these competitors are faster than the Martindale crowd to the "seconds" line at the banquet. The two top novice teams are Simmons and Coe (being team captained by none other than Mark Simmons!!!) and the San Antonio boys Will Webb and Walter Whitley who are being tutored by Chuck Stewart. Talk about contrast!! Who do you put your money on in this race, team brute strength and skill or team stamina and river savvy?? I heard Tom Goynes say that this was Mark and Chuck re-dueling their C-1 race of 1997 vicariously through these unwitting novice pawns, but I have to disagree with the old man of the safari. Both teams are good; they both listen and follow advice better than most novice teams. Prediction #1: The novice record will be shattered this year, possibly the only record to fall. Only other team I met was Jamie Buzan from San Antonio who got rained out last year. I expect he'll team up with cousin Dave Buzan who last finished the race in '87. Finally Travis Patterson (novice champ from '99) is teaming up with a young and strong adventure racer in the aluminum class.

SPECIAL SECTION OF PALMETTO HOTLINE *Ask the Hotline Expert*

Contact the Hotline at palmettohotline@yahoo.com

Dear Palmetto Hotline:

What is the best way to remove a boat wrapped on Wrap Rock in the middle of Cottonseed Rapid?

Signed: Needing Help

Dear NH:

I suggest calling up West Hansen and inviting him to bring along three of his buddies and their 32-foot crowbar to pry it free. Works every time.