

NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE



October 2025

In this Issue

About the TCKRA	2
2025 TCKRA Board and Officers	3
2025 Race Calendar.....	3
TCKRA Board Elections	4
Race Reports.....	4
Upcoming Races	10
End of Year Banquet.....	11
Paddler Profile.....	12

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!
It is almost time to renew your membership!

The link to the website is below. Fill out the form and submit at your chosen level. You will receive 2 vinyl TCKRA stickers, a 2026 TCKRA Fridge Magnet Calendar, a free parking pass for shuttle setting only at the new Fentress Amigos Beach, San Marcos River Retreat (the Goynes) and new this year— Calhoun’s in Tivoli, an invite to the annual banquet and the TCKRA Newsletter before everyone else!
Thank you for supporting Texas paddle sports!

[Become a Member of 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 <https://www.tckra.org/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 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 at Fentress Amigos Beach and San Marcos River Retreat
- 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.

****It is time to renew your TCKRA Membership** If you haven't signed up last year as an Unlimited Member, which auto charges you each year, then you will need to sign up by the end of the year! This helps so much with printing the yearly Race Calendar Magnet and ordering parking passes!**

[Join or Renew Today!](#)

2025 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
Jonathan Zeek
Clint Sutherland
Holly Orr
Kaitlin Mynar
Tommy Yonley

2025-2026 Race Calendar

(Editor's Note: We will continue to update the 2026 Race Calendar as soon as information on the races becomes available.)

Oct. 18th	Dickinson Bayou Brawl, Dickinson Tx, 9am	Dickinson Bayou Brawl
Oct. 25th	Martindale Triathlon, Martindale Tx, 9am	Martindale Triathlon
Nov. 8th	Kanu Rennen, New Braunfels Tx, Noon	Kanu Rennen
Nov. 8th	TCKRA Member Banquet, San Marcos River Retreat, 5:30pm	Invite emailed
Dec. 6th	December Solos, San Marcos Tx, 10am	December Solo

Please alert us if you are putting on a race or hear of other new races anywhere in Texas so we can put the info out there for everyone who might be interested in hearing about new racing opportunities!

You can find the full race calendar on the TCKRA website at <https://www.tckra.org/calendar>

Message from the TCKRA President

Nathan Tart

I can't believe it, we are winding down another year of canoe racing and it feels like we just sent out our first 2025 newsletter kicking off our first race back in March. Hundreds of members (and non-members) have joined us on the river this year and it was an absolute blast seeing all the competitive spirits, friendships, family members, youth racing, and laughter. We also experienced extreme sadness, shed some tears, and united with the Weber family. We will forever miss you Cara.

It's now that time of year to hand the club reins off to the next group of leaders to help sustain and maintain our mission of promoting paddles sports across Texas and being good stewards of our water ways! Everyone will receive their nominations email shortly, and we encourage you to raise your hand and nominate a friend, spouse, YOURSELF, to jump in and be part of our board. Our bylaws require 10 board members for us to continue into 2026, so don't be shy! Your service is needed.

SYOTR!

It is time for the 2026 TCKRA Board of Directors Election!

Have you considered serving on the Board? Our organization has a board of directors consisting of ten individuals and two alternates. We meet on a quarterly basis via zoom, and we are all wanting to give back to our beloved paddling community! As a board member, it is our responsibility to ensure the club continues to meet its mission statement of promoting paddlesport racing in Texas with continued stewardship and awareness for our local waterways. If this is something that interests you, please submit your name and a short write-up about yourself and the reasons you would like to serve on the board.

All nominations must be submitted no later than Friday, October 25th to Nathan Tart at natetart@gmail.com. Voting for the 20256 TCKRA Board of Directors will begin on Monday, October 27th, 2025, and end on Sunday, November 2nd, 2025, with election results announced on Wednesday, November 5th.

Race Reports

62nd Annual Texas Water Safari

Patty Geisinger



No rain, no rain, no rain and then way too much rain, too fast, so much rain! The 62nd Texas Water Safari will go down in the record books for so many reasons, and only one of which is the crazy amount of flooding rain we experienced during the race. Moving the race start to a Friday was a big adjustment but one that many folks were grateful for with the major decrease in recreational users on the San Marcos. And then the rain began and the rivers started to rise and rise and rise. Lightning storms and debris caused for many a harrowing tale to emerge following the amended finish once it was determined that the log jams were almost impassable safely. 124 boats finished (5 at Swan Point and the rest up at Swinging Bridge), 34 DNF's, but what a few wild days for record numbers of Youth paddlers, Legends and Novice alike! Sadly we, as a paddling community, suffered great loss this past year. We have mourned and honored both John DuPont and our sweet Cara Weber. It keeps in perspective how special our community is, how precious our time together on the river is. So we look forward to a restful winter and will again gather together to prepare for the 63rd TWS on Friday June 12th, 2026.



Photos from the 2025 Texas Water Safari can be found on the TWS Flickr page at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/texaswatersafari/albums/72177720327202496>



76th Annual Au Sable Canoe Marathon Grayling Michigan

What an intense race this year! If you were only able to follow online, Texas showed up in force and did incredibly well! Congrats to all our Texas Racers! Thank you to Crystal Brabant for these amazing pics of our folks!



TCKRA State Aluminum Championship Bastrop Texas



We had a Terrific turn out for the State Aluminum Race! On the Colorado River from 969 to Fisherman's Park in Bastrop, you can almost always guarantee some flow. 26 boats came to race and it was a close finish with the Orr boys beating out all the competition. It may be the first time a Junior Team has been 1st overall!! So proud of our youth paddlers!



Photos: Sandy Yonley

Junior Texas Water Safari
City Park to Staples



Tremendous turnout of 64 boats for the Junior this year! Still no water so we had a lot of Aluminum and smaller boats. But it was a great time with some yummy hot dogs at the finish, thanks to David Kaiser and crew!



Photos: Kate Tart & Patty Geisinger

Colorado River 100
Colorado River

Kudos to Michelle Waterman for taking over the CR100 and it was a good day for racing! It will return next year so definitely add this race to your calendar!



Junction Up and Back Race
Junction Tx



Hoyt and Linda Moss put on a great race out in Junction every year and this year was one of their biggest yet! This is a true test of your strength and determination as you paddle upstream (and run and drag and walk) and then head back as fast as you can! True Texas Racing Fun! Or Torture....whatever you want to call it!

TCKRA Open Water Championship Galveston Tx

Sandy & Tommy Yonley had a relatively calm bay for the race this year but everyone had the best time!



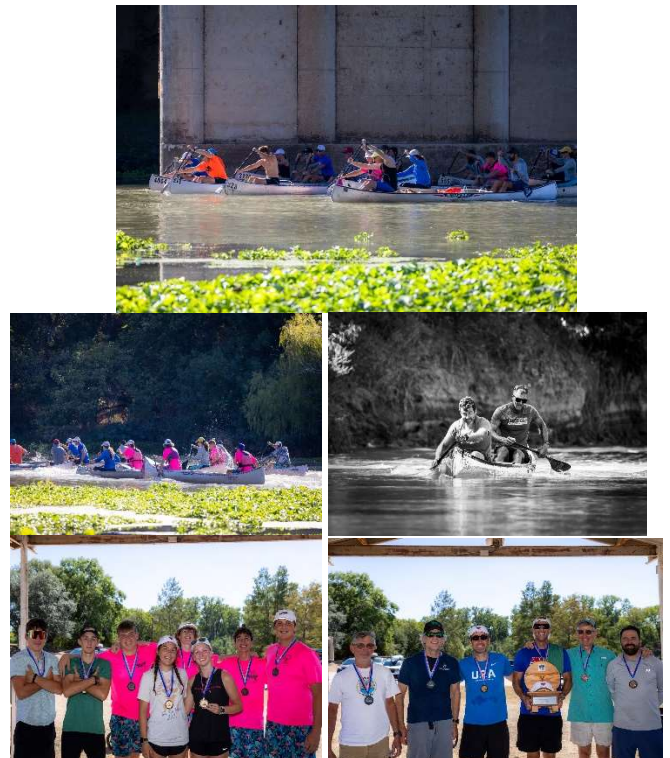
Come and Take It Canoe Race Gonzales Tx

Each year the Simmons-Robinson Family assemble to host the Come and Take It Race. This fun and family friendly race which takes place during the Come and Take It Festival in Gonzales always delivers on excitement, unexpected portages and fun!



USCA National Stock Aluminum Championship Bastrop Tx

The TCKRA hosted this year's USCA Stock Aluminum Race and welcomed some out of Texas Paddlers. It was low water but the smiles came out in the midst of the competition! Oct. 11th was the Men's, Women's and Juniors and Oct. 12th was the Mixed Race.



Upcoming Races

Dickinson Bayou Brawl

Saturday, October 18th, 2025, 8am
Paul Hopkins Park, 1000 FM517, Dickinson, TX



Kids Race Schedule (\$10/kid with a \$20/family maximum...in other words, if you have 4 kids racing, you still pay \$20)

9:30 am Kids Registration opens.

10:00 Boys C-2 Beginners

10:20 Girls C-2 Beginners

10:40 Jr. C2 Beginners

11:10 Fun Races

11:40 War Canoe

12:30 Kids Awards and Potluck

Adult Race Schedule (\$20/adult)—6 miles long

8:30 am Adult Race Registration Opens

12:30 pm Awards and Potluck

[Dickinson Bayou Brawl Information](#)

47th Annual Martindale Triathlon

October 25th, 2025

Spencer's Canoes, Martindale, TX

The Martindale Tri is reputed to be the oldest triathlon in Texas. 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 town of Martindale, TX. Next up is the bike course, 22 miles of paved roads just outside of Martindale and Staples. Finally, a 5.5-mile paddle from Shady Grove Campground/Spencer's 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).

Solo (Men's, Men's Masters 50+, Women's, Women's Masters 50+)

2-Person Tandem (Men's, Men's Masters 50+, Mixed, Mixed Masters 50+)

3-Person Relay (Men's, Women's, Mixed)

2-Person Adult/Youth Tandem (One per leg/paddle together)

3-Person Adult/Youth Relay (One person per leg)

[Martindale Tri Information and Registration](#)

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

No Race Day Registration. A Shuttle may be provided. Need to rent a canoe or kayak? Call Paddle with Style 512-749-2350 and Camping is also available at Shady Grove Campground. Please call them at (512) 357-6113 to make a reservation.

Volunteers are needed!! Link to sign up genius can be found here: [Help at the Tri](#)



Kanu Rennen

Saturday, November 8th, 2025, 11am
503 Peace Ave, New Braunfels, TX



Although slightly delayed due to Wurstfest this year, Kanu Rennen is happening! Kanu Rennen is German for "Canoe Race." The race is held in New Braunfels, which was heavily settled by Germans, so we thought it an appropriate name! Come enjoy a series of short, fun canoe races held in the afternoon at Cypress Bend Park on the Guadalupe River! Bring the entire family - all ages and paddling skills welcome! On-site registration & check-in opens at 11 am. Racing begins at Noon!

[Kanu Rennen Information](#)



TCKRA End of Year Banquet

November 8th, 2025

The Chapel at the San Marcos River Retreat
5:30 pm, Free for Members

Invite has been sent to current member's email.
Please RSVP!

December Solo

Saturday, December 6th 10am
San Marcos City Park



December Solo Race Information

Goynes' Birthday Bash aka the San Marcos Solo. This race commemorates the birthday of TCKRA founder, Tom Goynes.

The 2024 December Solo will start at Rio Vista. Start times are staggered and based off of previous finish times. The course will be downstream to Staples FM 1977. Race distance will be approx 16 miles. Race registration begins at 8am, Race briefing is at 9am. Race begins in waves at 10am. This race is open to everyone – novice to experienced, as long you're in a solo boat. Pre-running the course is recommended but not required.

Paddler Profile

To continue our year of the Paddler Youth, we have our Paddler Profile from a very special young woman on the cusp of adulthood, Addie Rolls. With an impressive number of Safari Finishes, Au Sable and many other shorter races, our community cannot be prouder of Addie and all her accomplishments.

Addie Rolls

What is your full name?

Addie- Adelaide Christine Rolls

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

Addie- I live in Wimberley Texas!



1st -Safari in 2021 and 3rd-Safari in 2025

How and why and how old were you when you got started in paddling?

Addie- I started paddling with my dad in the Come and Take It when I was six years old. I grew up watching him race—his first Safari was in 2011—and I've been surrounded by the paddling community ever since.



1st Town Lake Race, 2015



TX River Marathon, 2014

Where do you paddle most frequently?

Addie- Most often I paddle on the San Marcos and Guadalupe Rivers.



What are your favorite races?

Addie- So far, my favorite race has been the Texas Water Safari. I love that it's not just about speed, but also about strategy and endurance.



1st Adult/Child, 1st Mixed, 2021 Texas Water Safari

What is the most interesting race you have done?

Addie- - The Ausable River Canoe Marathon was the most interesting race I've done. It was also the one I felt least prepared for, which made it such a learning experience. I didn't really know what to expect, and while not everything went smoothly, it was an amazing introduction into a totally new kind of racing.



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

Addie-- I've raced in a lot of different boats, but I'm most experienced in a tandem Spirit. I also really enjoy paddling in my solo Extreme. For paddles, I've always loved the Zone, but more recently I switched to a shorter ZRE Revolution Light, which I also really like.



What is your training regimen?

Addie- My training depends on what I'm focusing on at the time. Usually, I run in the fall and winter, then paddle more during spring and summer. When I'm in heavier paddling seasons, I try to get on the water 2-3 times a week.



What type of cross training do you do?

Addie-- For cross-training I run and lift weights.



Addie Rolls, 2021 Martindale Tri

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

Addie-- During training and races I usually keep about 400 calories of Tailwind or Skratch in my jug. Later in long races like the Safari, I'll switch to sweet tea to keep up my calories but give my mouth a break from the electrolytes. For extra calories I use Spiz, and I like having fresh fruit to help with nausea. I also use electrolyte pills like SaltStick.



What are your significant accomplishments in paddling?

Addie-- Some of my biggest accomplishments are three top-15 finishes in the Safari, as well as three wins in the mixed tandem and adult-youth categories.



What do you enjoy most about paddling?

Addie--Honestly, what I love most is the community. Growing up paddling has given me so many friendships and has taught me a lot about teamwork. I also enjoy the training side—every time I get in the boat I feel like I learn something new or improve in some way



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

Addie-- I'll be racing the Tour Du Teche with an all-youth six-man team, and we're aiming for the win. Beyond that, I want to race the Bandera 100k again, do my first solo Texas Water Safari, compete in the Ausable River Canoe Marathon again, and finish my first 100-mile run.



***How difficult has it been to start paddling so young?**

Addie— For me, the positives outweigh the negatives by far. I've been lucky to have great mentors who've shared advice with me that I might not have gotten if I'd started later in life. I also feel grateful to have found something I love so much at such a young age.

***How do you deal with difficult race conditions?**

Addie—I've learned that most problems can be fixed by eating something and resetting my mindset. The biggest growth happens when conditions are the toughest.

Instead of thinking, "Why is this happening to me?" I try to see obstacles as opportunities and just remind myself that this is what I enjoy and what I signed up for.



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

Addie-- Listen to experienced paddlers, their advice can save you from a lot of mistakes. Don't be too hard on yourself either. Everyone makes mistakes, whether it's nutrition, pacing, or pushing too early. All those experiences help you figure out what works for you and what doesn't.



Addie Rolls, 1st Martindale Tri, 2018 surrounded by all women entrants

****Questions for Addie's Dad Ian Rolls:**

Did you make any special training adjustments when Addie first started training with you?

Ian: When we first started paddling together it was always just for fun. Usually Devils or Pecos river camping trips. Those trips really helped to build a joy for paddling before racing came around. When we did start

racing, the races were short and didn't require a ton of training. We started to do the Safari together when Addie was 13 and by that point could handle longer training runs. We wouldn't paddle too often, 3 or 4 times a month, but on the weekends go 30 or 40 miles.



How well were you able to balance training with school and other extra curriculars for Addie:

Ian: Safari training has always been a tough balance with school commitments. For the past 5 years Addie has run cross country and track which helps her stay pretty fit, but it's important to put miles on your shoulders and hands too. We would try and get paddles in where we could without overdoing it. She is a senior this year and has decided not to do the school sports in order to focus on long distance running over fall/winter and paddling next spring.



What advice do you have for other parents who are interested in getting their young teens into marathon canoe racing:

Ian: My advice would be to put a life jacket on them, bring food, take lots of swim breaks, and start with shorter runs than you think. Addie started doing the Come and Take it when she was 6 or so. It was the perfect distance (12 miles) and fun to camp out the night before. Now she's 17, very competent and my favorite person to paddle with.



River Children grow into Amazing Paddlers, but even better, Amazing People!