

# NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE



Special Edition June 2026

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

Patty Geisinger at [pattyjoeg55@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjoeg55@gmail.com)

### **Membership:**

Are you unsure of your membership status? Email [pattyjoeg55@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjoeg55@gmail.com) and Patty will check! Many races remain in the 2026 racing season, and we would love to send you the 2026 Fridge magnet and parking pass!

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

**[Join the TCKRA](#)**

## 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
- A 2026 TCKRA fridge magnet calendar
- A 2026 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/>

## 2026 TCKRA Officers and Board of Directors

### Officers

Sandy Yonley (President)  
Jonathan Zeek (Vice President)  
Grady Hicks (Treasurer)  
Patty Geisinger (Secretary)

### Board Members

Geoff Waters  
Mike Gordon  
Tommy Yonley  
David Dunnington  
Jill Mulder

## 2026 Race Calendar

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

**June 12<sup>th</sup>** – 63<sup>rd</sup> Annual Texas Water Safari, Meadows Center, San Marcos to Seadrift, 9am

**June 21<sup>st</sup>** – Hokulule #3 El Jardin Beach, 7am, follow them on FB [Hokulule](#)

**June 27<sup>th</sup>** – Lake Livingston Paddle Fest, 7am, Event info here: [Festival Information](#)

**July 18<sup>th</sup>** – Canoe Classica, Plum Park to LaGrange Tx, 9am [Register Here](#)

**August 5<sup>th</sup>** – USCA Nationals, Lock Haven, PA <https://uscanoe.org/usca-nationals/>

**August 22<sup>nd</sup>** – Junction Up and Back Race, Junction Tx, 8am [Info Here](#)

**August 29<sup>th</sup>** – TCKRA State Aluminum Championship, 969 to Bastrop, Tx 8am [Register Here](#)

**Sept. 5<sup>th</sup>** – Trinity River Challenge, Carrollton, 9am [Registration Information](#)

**Sept. 6<sup>th</sup>** – SASPAMCO, San Antonio, 10am

**Sept. 12<sup>th</sup>** – Colorado River 100, Fisherman's Park, Bastrop 7am [Colorado River 100 FB group](#)

**Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>** – Junior Texas Water Safari, City Park, San Marcos, 9am [TWS Junior info](#)

**Sept. 19<sup>th</sup>** – Hokulule #4, OC Sunset, 7am, TBD

**Sept. 26<sup>th</sup>** – Rotary Regatta, Friendswood, 8am

**Sept. 27<sup>th</sup>** – TCKRA/Hokulule Open Water State Championships, Galveston, 12 noon

### Letter from the TCKRA President

*Sandy Yonley*

We're down to the final days of preparation for the 2026 Texas Water Safari, Texas' premier endurance paddling race. Wishing everyone a safe, strong, and successful race. As the excitement builds, remember to enjoy the journey and the friendships along the way—this crazy adventure is something we choose to do because we love it.

And as we make our way down the river, let's also carry with us the memories of the cherished Safari family members we've lost over the past year. Their spirit, stories, and passion for the race will always remain close to our hearts.

Good luck to every racer, crew member, and volunteer. Paddle hard, stay tough through the difficult stretches, and remember that years from now, it's the challenges, determination, and moments shared on the river that you'll remember most.

And once the Safari dust settles, we'll do it all over again when the TCKRA race season fires back up in August

## 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(s) and contact info to [pattyjoeq55@gmail.com](mailto:pattyjoeq55@gmail.com)

# Martha Adame

**What is your full name?**

**Martha-** Martha Avila-Adame

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

**Martha** - I was born in Mexico, I was raised in Victoria Texas from age 4. I still have both of my Parents, they are two beautiful kind souls.

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

**Martha-** My Husband and I heard about TWS about 15 years ago, so we got an aluminum boat, paddles but shortly after year 2010, I was diagnosed with breast cancer and we put paddling on hold. I had 8 ugly rounds of chemo, 33 rounds of radiation and had major surgery, mastectomy and reconstruction; lost my Left latissimus muscle; leaving me with a chronic weakness on my L side. My paddling technique gets corrected often on the River, I don't mind, lol. When I recovered, I gave myself a year to get strong, when I felt strong the TWS urges resurfaced.



**How did you get started racing?**

**Martha-** Ken Startz was a gift to me, he is my Safari Mentor. I practiced martial arts, earning a 3rd degree blackbelt; one day I was in my Taekwondo class talking to another student about TWS, and my Taekwondo

master overheard and said, "I have a gift for you, come to class tomorrow". The next day he invited me and a friend into his office where Ken was waiting, he said, "he is your Christmas present, he knows the TWS, he will teach you". My first lesson was in a park lake here in Victoria.



**Where do you paddle most frequently?**

**Martha-** the San Marcos, the Colorado and Guadalupe. I live near Coletto lake/creek; it has a lot of boat traffic, that is where I learned to double blade and handle a Surfski.



**What is your favorite race?**

**Martha-** I have to say the TWS, it's beautiful and has a variety of challenges. The Alabama 650 was my longest race, the Up and Back last year was the most physically demanding, and the Suwanee 230 has the strangest and most dangerous fish, the sturgeon fish as massive, they shoot up from the water like torpedoes.



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

**Martha-** Ken Startz advised getting my 1<sup>st</sup> finish in aluminum, he said it came with bragging rights; so I did it; then I upgraded to Wenonah canoe but after a couple of DNFs and a couple of finishes, I wanted to attempt a solo. The surfskis worked well for me as a solo. Surfskis also worked well for the Alabama 650. My most current boat is a Spencer Eagle; will be attempting Solo TWS 2026 in this tippy boat.



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

**Martha-** Cross training: I try to paddle a minimum 2 hours on my days off; I will be 62 years old in a couple of weeks, I work as a full time Nurse Practitioner, I paddle every chance I get, I train CrossFit Monday-Friday, I ride a mountain bike when time allows. I believe a well-rounded aerobic and strength training is beneficial for any sport, as well as our activities of daily living.



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

**Martha-** I use the Maltodextrin and the optimized hydration electrolyte drink mix, lemon flavor. As you know the stomach often suffers due to redirected blood flow during extreme endurance sport, for this reason I do not do well with solid foods.

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

**Martha-** I am super proud of 6 TWS Finishes, going for 7<sup>th</sup> in 2026; one Alabama 650 finish, one Missouri 340 finish; one Suwannee 230 finish, and one Junction Up and Back finish.



Alabama 650



Suwannee 230



2024 MR 340

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

**Martha-** Nature, wildlife, the sky, the water; it's a priceless scenic value, free for the taking,



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

**Martha-** Determination physical strength and mental resilience is the perfect combination to get you to the finish.



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

**Martha-** TWS 2027 and a few other races

**Beginning TC's Guide to Safari**

**Baby's First Texas Water Safari**

***Team Captain Edition!***

*by Josie Harras*

**So My Friend Dragged Me Into This...**

Welcome to the wonderful world of TC'ing! TC = Team Captain! We're so happy you're here!

Your friend is attempting an incredible challenge that they've been (ideally) preparing multiple months for. While they push their body to its limit, they need someone to help them along the way, making sure they have proper hydration and nutrition – you!

**Now what?**

TCs meet the team at specific spots along the river, which are set with the team beforehand. There are two kinds of stops – **checkpoints and handoffs.**

**Checkpoints** are official race checkpoints, meaning that teams will be recorded (time marked) as they pass through these. If they don't make it through by a specific time, it means they're moving too slowly to finish within the 100 hour deadline, and they'll have to pull out and end their race early. These are marked in the driving guide as CHECKPOINT #\_\_.

From a TC standpoint, race officials will be marking teams' time on iPads, but the team's TC needs to go by and 'sign in' their team with the officials – basically saying, yes, our team just went through and they're continuing on to the next leg of the race. **TCs need to be at every checkpoint to sign in**, even if the stop is at 2 AM, even if the TC is tired. But if you have two TCs on a team, only one needs to sign in – so it's fine if only one goes.



**Handoffs** are a bigger deal, and where most of the TC'ing happens. Handoffs are wherever the TC gives the team something from the bank. Your team will tell you what they need and where, so it's your responsibility to have those things ready by the time they arrive. This means tracking their time on Garmin, using the time estimations in the back of the driving guide, and arriving earlier than that just-in-case.

**At handoffs, your team will need:**

- **Food**
- **Water**
- **Ice**

Which means those are the three things you need to have ready before they arrive. More details in the handoff section! Most stops are both checkpoints and handoffs, but some are only one or the other. Ask your team and go through the map (or driving guide) together to make sure you understand which are which. **It's your team's responsibility to set you up for success (information, supplies). It's your responsibility to set them up for success (nutrition, preparedness).**



**Major Rules** (always refer back to the TWS main website dropdown) [TWS Rules for the Racers and TC's](#)

- TCs are the only ones allowed to touch (or hand items to) the racers while the race is on.
  - You're welcome (and encouraged!) to have non-TC helpers for a bank crew to help with prep, but once the team shows up, you're the only one that can pass anything into the boat.
  - Non-TCs can help pick up trash or discarded jugs, etc., as long as the racers throw them out of the boat and don't pass them to anyone who isn't a TC.
- **TCs can only provide food, water, ice, or medication to their team.**

- Sunscreen is not considered medication.
- For everything else that may go wrong, it's the team's responsibility to prepare within the boat – spare paddles, repair materials, hats or neck gaiters for sun protection.
- Check the handbook (on the TWS website) for more specifics. [Click Here](#)
- **If you break any of the rules, your team will be penalized or disqualified** – and your racers will be super pissed at you for the next 12 months.

### Before the race

- TCs should be familiar with the route beforehand.
- Pay attention to where stores are (gas stations, grocery stores, fast food restaurants) where you can find ice, etc. The safari passes through super small towns, so the nearest gas station may be an hour away – build it into your plan, and either make time for the stop or make sure beforehand that your vehicle is filled up.
- As more boats pass through a stop, more TCs will have bought out all of the ice from said small-town gas stations. If your team isn't at the front of the pack, have a fallback plan for where to find ice when the first place is sold out.
- Make sure you have what you need to do your work – coolers for protecting food and ice from the sun, huge reserves of water for filling jugs, headlamps for overnight prep, socks for ice, etc.



### Handoffs

#### Ice -

Ice offers a full 45 seconds of relief to a team that's roasting in the sun. Some ice will be used in water jugs (next section), but this is usually in the form of ice socks. TCs will fill a giant (knee-high ish) tube sock with ice and racers can put it over the back of their neck to help cool down at stops. This uses a ton of ice, so will keep you constantly buying 10 or 20 lb. bags. Make sure to start the race with way more socks than you think you need, as they generally get lost (or mad dirty) after they've been through the boat once. At handoffs, prepare one for each racer on your team.



## Water –

Water is huge (huge) and the only thing standing between your team and the ER. Racers usually take water in jugs with a long vinyl tube that they can use as a straw (so they don't stop paddling). Make sure that you have enough water jugs to rotate out in the boat vs on the bank being prepared – so (# of racers) x (2 or more).

In general, you'll fill a jug about halfway with ice, the rest of the way with water, and then screw the lid back on. Make sure the lid is tight so it doesn't drain if it tips over. Make sure that the end of the tube is upright so it doesn't siphon out before it gets to the team.

Your racers may have other ways that they want jugs prepared – more ice, less ice, drink mixes, or 2x jugs on longer stretches of river. Your team will make this clear for you.

## Food –

Food is the biggest variable for TC'ing. Your team should have their own food prepared for each stop (bagged and labelled) before race day, and you need to store it and get it ready when it's needed. **It's your team's responsibility to give you the food they need. It's your responsibility to have it ready, and to adapt to changes.**

This much exertion in this much heat does violent things to racers' stomachs, so needs will change during the race. Be prepared to throw in more salt, less salt, impromptu Whataburger, or absolutely zero Whataburger depending on how they're doing. Make a plan, scrap the plan, make a new plan.



## Typical Routine

- Leave prior stop right away.
- Along the route, stop and refill gas, buy ice or water, pick up food if needed. These all take time so do the minimum stops that you can.
- Arrive at new stop.
- Scope out river and handoff spot (make sure you know where to meet your boat in the river, where's a safe space to stand or for them to pull aside into).
- **Prep** – gather food, fill jugs, assemble ice socks. This also takes a ton of time.
- Sort food and jugs by racer, so you know who will receive what.
- Carry everything down to the handoff spot (using milk crates to carry bags of food or 4x jugs and keeping ice socks in a cooler so they don't melt before they reach the team). Be completely ready to handoff 20 mins before the team is expected.

- **Team arrives! (Cheer!)**
- Team throws trash or spent jugs out of the boat
- Hand over food, water, ice socks
- **Team leaves! (Cheer!)**
- Pick up everything that the team threw out
- Stop by the race officials to sign for team
- Load up vehicle (leave no trace)
- Sit for 3 minutes of blissful silence, staring blankly ahead
- Leave stop



### Other tips

- **Pay attention to your team's health.** If they're foggy-eyed, slurring, or in more-than-the-expected-amount-of-pain, they may need extra help (salt, hydration, meds). If it's really bad you need to get the race officials involved. People can and do end up in the hospital from this. Make sure they're safe.
- Be prepared for mud, sun, mosquitoes, scrapes, and bruises – everywhere.
- Safari folk are a brilliant community, and we are all very excited to show off their little tricks or discoveries. If you have a question or need help, ask the person beside you in the parking lot!



*Photos by Ashley Landis & Patty Geisinger*

## Race Reports

### Texas River Marathon (the Prelim)

*Patty Geisinger*

Wow. How to describe the insanity of the start of the Prelim this year? ¼ boats not in the water, boats being swept downstream just trying to get in, boats dumping trying to position themselves and hold for the start. So much more water made for race conditions that everyone hadn't experienced in a few years. Glad we got some of Sandy's good drone video to experience it over and over again! With everyone making the cut off at Nursery by almost an hour, it was a unique River Marathon for sure! It was a bummer to not have the Gator Chase this year, but some folks did hit the cuts for exploration the following day.



### The General Clinton Canoe Regatta

Several of our TCKRA members paddled the General Clinton Canoe Regatta this year. The 70 mile race begins in Cooperstown NY on the Susquehanna River, onto the Unadilla River and ends in Bainbridge, NY. So much rain fell right before and during the race, which caused some challenges for the paddlers. You may have seen the extensive coverage this year. At the end of the day, it was a Texan for the win! Logan Mynar and partner Travis Mecklenburg came in 1<sup>st</sup> overall!! Congratulations also to Dodd Yeager & David Earnest, 7<sup>th</sup> overall and 1<sup>st</sup> Rookie, and 8th place went to adopted Texan by marriage Danny Medina & Peter Mead, 14<sup>th</sup> was Gaston Jones & Jake Crotser, 21st and 3rd Mixed, the amazing Lydia Huelskamp & Austin Weiler, 23rd overall and 1st Women's was Cecili Bugge & her partner, Rebecca Davis, and in 33<sup>rd</sup> Wade Binion & Travis Kent!!



## Upcoming Races

**Canoe Classica**  
 Saturday, July 18<sup>th</sup>, 9 am

Tina Sackett and friends will be reviving an old favorite of a race on the Colorado River this summer. With the low water these past few year, there has been renewed vigor on the Colorado as it does almost always have some water! This fun race begins in Plum Park on the CO and ends at the boat ramp in LaGrange for a total of 19 miles! Register here and watch FB for more information!! [Canoe Classica Registration](#)

## **Junction Up and Back Race** Saturday, August 22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>, 9 am



This event offers a unique paddling experience up the South Llano River then back down again. Inspired by kayaking enthusiasts and participants of Texas Water Safari boat racing events, the inaugural Up and Back Boat Race was held in 2017 and marked the first kayak/canoe open boat race hosted on the South Llano River.

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. Competitors boat up the South Llano River to the "First Crossing", turn around and boat back to the South Llano Bridge. Divisions include tandem, men's solo, women's solo, SUP and relay. Any man-powered craft is permitted. All racers who complete the race within the 12-hour time frame will be entered into the finisher's drawing for cash and other prizes. for a total race route of approximately 35-ish miles. The most challenging portion of the route is said to be paddling upstream through rapids and rocks.

Those who complete the event within the required 12-hour time frame are entered into a winner's raffle drawing for cash and other great prizes. You do not have to finish first, just finish the race within twelve hours in order to be eligible for this raffle.

Pre-registration is strongly encouraged. Same day registration is \$25 more and t-shirt sizes may be limited.

For more information: <https://www.tckra.org/event-details/junction-up-back>

## **TCKRA State Aluminum Championship** Saturday, August 29<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am

You are not going to want to miss this year's Aluminum Race! Jill Mulder, race director, is coming in hot with swag, fun and high water(oh wait, she can't totally guarantee water level). But she does say you will want to save the date and grab that favorite Aluminum and race with us on August 29<sup>th</sup> from the 969 Bridge to Fisherman's Park in Bastrop. An Awesome Tshirt and awards, food and fun! For more information or to Register, visit: [TCKRA Aluminum Race](#)



# Howdy Novices!!

Patty Geisinger

Record breaking numbers in our 2026 Novice class this year. After the chaos of last year, it is stunning that a total of 192 overall boats have registered for Safari, but that we have 40 Novices? A Safari to remember!

We again have 2 Novice Women's boats and a few mixed Novice as well! We've enjoyed meeting some of you over the past year at the Town Lake races, the MAC races and the TWO or Spring Break Open! I sent our questionnaire to as many teams as I could locate (added a photo if I had one) so the rest of us can be ready to cheer for them and encourage them. Good luck to you all this year racing to Seadrift!

## 260 Smiles

**Boat # 1 – Justin Wagner – Spicewood, Tx & Ryan Moody – Fredericksburg, Tx**

**Goal:**

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** Did Not Race

**Type of Boat:** Grumman aluminum

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:**

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?**

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?**

**Interesting Training Stories:**

## Texas Tornados

**Boat # 26 – Thomas Dunn—New Braunfels, TX & Oscar de los Santos- New Braunfels, TX**

**Goal:** I'm not a big Facebook kinda guy, However, a childhood friend of mine has asked me to raise \$ for his Wounded warrior program and museum. The ranch is on the Guadalupe river.

**Type of Boat:** Alumacraft

**How much have you trained?** Most of the Mac races. Thank you, thank you!

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** Did not Race

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** The Up and Back in Junction!

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** Water, Gatorade, cliff bars, nuts

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** Glass of wine and a cigar!

**Interesting Training Stories:** Snake story: About 6 inches above my head, afraid I was going to knock him off the tree branch onto myself in the Canoe.

### **Canoe believe it?**

**Boat # 51 – William Ortiz – Uvalde, Tx & Doel Gonzalez – San Antonio, Tx**

**Goal:** The goal is 70 hours

**Type of Boat:** We are racing a very old all beat up aluminum. I call it Frankistaine because of all the patches and repairs I made on it.

**How much have you trained?** We participated in 3 of the MAC races, Winter 100k, the Prelim and when the Gator chase was cancelled, we trained in the bay.

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** 5:17:26, 8<sup>th</sup> Novice

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** TWO, Winter 100k

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** Snack a lot and shredded chicken at checkpoints and drink homemade chicken stock.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** My daughter

**Interesting Training Stories:** I have been trying to do the Safari for about 15 years. During that time I started training with 5 different partners. 3 of them quit after a couple of training runs. One had heart issues discovered after we started training more seriously and one time sent him to the hospital with pneumonia after a run on the Devils river in January of 2025. The only one that has been strong to continue is Doel, my current partner. The funny story with him is that he had never been on a canoe before I asked him if he wanted to get into canoe racing. One day we were at the range and my partner just got out, so I desperately needed someone to race the junction up and down race. So when I asked Doel he said he would like to try. So right after work we loaded the canoe and headed out to the Nueces River. We were not even 5 minutes on the water when a thunderstorm broke out and lightning was hitting close to us. He asked what are we going to do? I said, "Dale" it is too late to turn back. He said ok and we did about 7 miles that day.

The next week we headed to Junction and I had no idea how difficult that race was going to be. But we finished it with six minutes to spare. After that I thought this is the end of this partner but he never quit. He got hooked! Our next race was the winter 100k. What a brutal race! But he never quit, so now we are a solid team. We may not be winning races but we are getting better every day.



### **Just Here to Finish: Novice Women**

**Boat # 723 – Amanda Thompson- Stephenville, Tx & Isabella Siemsen- Roseville, CA**

**Goal:**

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** Did not Race

**Type of Boat:** Alumacraft

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:**

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?**

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?**

**Interesting Training Stories:**

### **Put Your Shirt Back On**

**Boat # 888 – Andrea Mercury & Matty Young – Austin, Tx**

**Goals** Keep a good pace and have some fun.

**How much have you trained? Mohawk-17**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 5:08:34 6<sup>th</sup> Novice**



**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** 4-8 runs a month since November. We've been enjoying the smaller races, the Winter-100 was wild/cold!

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** Barrel Racing and Backcountry Snowboarding

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** Bone broth, fruit, sweat, mayflies and laughter.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** A Nap.

**Interesting Training Stories:** We started with the Junction Up and Back, got hooked on the crazy and the Crazies then!

### **River Monster**

**Boat # 1099 – Arden Moczygemba – Austin, Tx & Nicholas Moczygemba – San Antonio, Tx**

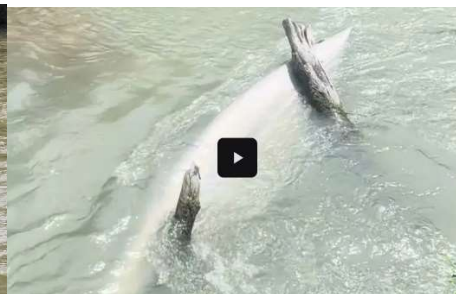
**Goal:** We really just want to finish!!

**How much have you trained** My brother and I started practicing every other weekend beginning in March, and we've been putting in anywhere from 20–40 miles per training session.

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 5:57:04, 11<sup>th</sup> Tandem Unlimited** (used double blades)

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** I've run a few half marathons and marathons in the past, but other than that, I don't have much endurance racing experience.



**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** We plan to snack throughout the day on things like peanut butter tortillas and jerky, and we'll get meals from our captains at checkpoints.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** Honestly, I'm most looking forward to eating a big bowl of ice cream after the race!

**Interesting Training Stories:** One of our craziest training experiences happened during a 40-mile paddle from San Marcos to Luling. We got a late start, and by mile 37 it was completely dark. We ended up capsizing the canoe on a log. My phone was dead, and my brother's phone was down to 4%. We tried pushing the canoe off the log, but the current kept forcing it back against it. Eventually, we grabbed our dry bag and started walking down the river toward the car. After my brother took a fall, we decided to walk on a property next to the river instead. That turned out to be a mistake we got completely lost and had to find our way back to the main road. We tried hitchhiking for a while, but I started uncontrollably shaking and showing signs of mild hypothermia, so we decided it was time to call 911. A police officer came and picked us up, and we got our first ride in the back of a police car! It definitely wasn't how we planned to end the day, but after that experience, we never forgot to bring flashlights on our training runs again.

## **260 Before 40**

**Boat # 1387– Brantley Gillespie – Three Rivers, Tx & Frank Griego- Leming, TX**

**Goal:** Our main goal is a clean, healthy finish.

**How much have you trained?** Not as much on-water time as I would've loved to have had, but we raced MAC 1, 3 & 4 along with the Prelim. I've also spent quite a few days training at my local lake, plus a lot of cardio and home gym time trying to get into better overall shape.

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** **5:06:38, 5<sup>th</sup> Novice.** The fast water definitely helped us tremendously.

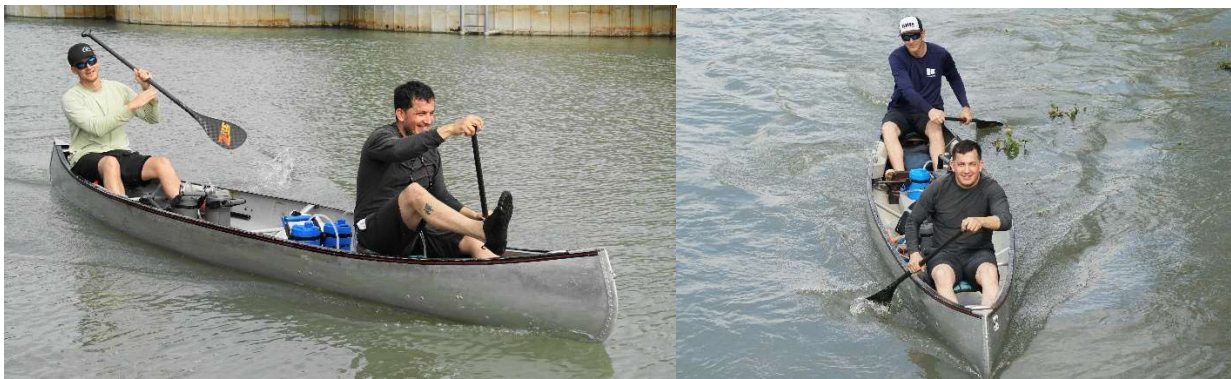
**Type of Boat:** A beautiful Alumacraft Voyager.

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** Besides some recreational paddling, this year is my first time doing any form of canoe racing. The MAC races really helped us get some experience under our belt.

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** Focusing on eating clean, staying hydrated, and keeping calories in has honestly been one of the bigger struggles for me. I'll be utilizing a combination of drinks, shakes, and solid foods throughout the race.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** The family.

**Interesting Training Stories:** The closest body of water for me to train on is Choke Canyon... paddling past 12-foot gators is pretty common out there.



## **Helloo Nurse**

**Boat # 1348 – Jessie Hazelwood -Austin, Tx & Diana Bracey– San Marcos, Tx**

**Goal:** Jessie: Not die. Diana: Yeah, let's not die.

**How much have you trained?** Jessie: We are supposed to train!?! Diana: We've floated the lazy river at Schlitterbahn

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** **5:18:22, 1<sup>st</sup> Women's Novice**

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum



**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** Jessie: Triathlon, train running, road running, 16-hour hospital shifts

Diana: I don't really have much, canoe camping trips and shorter races like the Up and Back in Junction last year.

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** Jessie: Roller hot dogs and Four Loco. Diana: I have a ham sandwich problem

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** Jessie: Enough Facebook likes to fix my broken personality.

Diana: A strawberry slush from Sonic and the best TCs we could ever ask for (oh, that's 3 things)

**Interesting Training Stories:** Jessie: I was once lost in the Swamps of Sadness and Diana had to pull me out by my hair and her sunny optimism. Diana: Pulling the boat up the mud cliff during the Night Race and touching an arm in the dark expecting it to be a tree branch.

### Los Rojos Locos

**Boat # 1419 – Ace Mariano – Austin, Tx & Derrick Shields – Austin, Tx**

**Goal:** 1) Not die 2) Finish the race 3) Make it to the award ceremony

**How much have you trained?** Hopefully enough

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** **Did not Race**

**Type of Boat:** Alumacraft Voyageur 17

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** Between the two of us, we've got enough experience to know we're in for it and just enough sense not to ask too many questions.

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** We're going to be drinking spiz and eating whatever we can get our hands on.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** Cold Beer

**Interesting Training Stories:** First time in the boat we both ended up with PFD tickets on Lake Austin.

### Oar We There Yet?

**Boat # 1548 – Mark & Katelyn Lange– Temple, Tx**

**Goal:**

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** **5:50:10, 13<sup>th</sup> Novice**

**Type of Boat:** Alumacraft Quetico 17'

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:**

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?**

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?**

**Interesting Training Stories:**



### California Love

**Boat #1640 – Tim Krause- Dripping Springs, Tx & Glen Peters – Austin, Tx**

**Goal:** We just want to finish!

**How much have you trained:** We have been out on the water several times but are nervous it wasn't enough!

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** **Did not Race**

**Type of Boat:** We are in an aluminum rental from Holly at Paddle with Style.

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** I have been skydiving, running with the bulls in Spain, and a ten day canoe trip in Canadian wilderness. we are both firefighters and Glen has completed multiple spartan races.

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** Lots of water, electrolytes and hoping to keep our carbs high to counteract the high calorie output .

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish:** I want an ice cold beer!

**Interesting Training Stories:**

### Rags to Rivers

**Boat # 1738 – Felix Castillo – Bee Cave, Tx & Jason Crawford – Bee Cave, Tx**

**Goal:** Goal time is 55 hours. Hoping to win the Novice Class.

**How much have you trained?** 70-80 hours

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** 4:50:37, 2<sup>nd</sup> Novice.

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** None for both of us

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** Lots of gels and lots of salty snacks and some homemade lemonade.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish:** Some real food

**Interesting Training Stories:** During our first 20+ mile paddle on the Brazos River near Houston, we had fallen into the water after going through a rapid. This was during the winter so the estimated water temperature is ~50 degrees. We had a yard sale and while Jason was trying to swim around in a current to grab our stuff I worked trying to untangle my rope for what felt like 5 minutes, I eventually got untangled and swam it to a small ledge on the side of the river. After we fully recovered everything we heard the fire department and ambulance show up because they got a call that two guys had capsized in the freezing water. We paddled the last 4 miles in the dark, shivering until we finally made it back to the car to warm up



### The Overstimulated Otters

**Boat # 1748 – Jason Borgetti - Austin, Tx & Alex Martinez – Austin, Tx**

**Goal:**

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** Did not Race

**Type of Boat:** Fiber Glass

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:**

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?**

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?**

**Interesting Training Stories:**

### American Odyssey

**Boat # 1836– Carter Brown - Houston, Tx & Jon Michael Brooks- Austin, Tx**

**Goal:**

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** 5:31:01, 12<sup>th</sup> Novice

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:**

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race**

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?**



### **Outta Rhythm**

**Boat # 1985 –Bryan Suter – Hillsboro, Tx & Ty McFarland, Cleburne, Tx**

**Goal:** **Ty:** We are shooting for 70-80 hrs., **Bryan:** Hoping to finish with a recent shoulder injury, wanting to learn river, and show my kids that hard things make people stronger and also see God’s country in ways most don’t.

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** 5:27:07, 10<sup>th</sup> Novice

**Type of Boat:** 17ft Quetico

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** **Ty:** Ironman Texas 2024, Ultrarunner.

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race:** **Bryan:** drinking spizz, pb&j , plenty of snacks and whatever team capt gets us **Ty:** Skratch labs, BPN supplements and snacks! Nerds gummy clusters, Pedialyte

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** **Bryan:** would love my family at finish line and maybe a cold Dr Pepper.

**Interesting Training Stories:** Getting lost on the night race and going nearly 4 miles in the wrong direction!



### **Bier Pressure**

**Boat #1924 – Clayton Carnes, Buda, Tx & Wesley Goetsch, New Braunfels, Tx**

**Goal:** Finish strong, but it would be nice to finish sub 70 hours.

**How much have you trained?** We have been training every week for the past 4-5 months.

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** 4:59:06, 3<sup>rd</sup> Novice

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum Grumman



**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** Growing up in New Braunfels, we have spent a lot of time on the Guad/Comal and Canyon Lake doing kayak/camping trips where we can. We are excited to see more of the Guad!

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race:** Lots of calories, carbs, and electrolytes.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** A cold beer (bier).

**Interesting Training Stories:** Just lots of snakes so far and meeting other Safarians on the water.

### Probably Lost

**Boat #2010– Jeremy & Chris Harrell – Angleton, Tx**

**Goal:**

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time: Did Not Race**

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:**

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?**

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?**

**Interesting Training Stories:**

### Pork Chops

**Boat #2108– Cory Hansen- Cedar Park, Tx & Colten Dandridge, Round Rock, Tx**

**Goal:** We prefer to avoid snake bites but wouldn't mind some hallucinations. Most of all, we want to arrive in the beautiful metropolis of Seadrift alive and in one piece. If all goes well, maybe, just maybe, we can pull out the novice victory.

**How much have you trained?** It has been 4 months of excessive rowing to get the VO2 max high, the heart rate low, and the digestion dialed. It feels like we have rowed to the moon and back, but it has only been 450 miles...

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** Did not Race.

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** This is our first canoe race but we are experienced ultramarathoners. We are devout members of the Church of Suffering and disciples of David Goggins.

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race:** We believe this will be as much of an eating challenge as a rowing challenge. We plan on eating anything and everything that sounds good. The theme of our nutrition is "8th grade sleepover."

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** A Michelob Ultra and a cigarette -- that counts as one thing.

**Interesting Training Stories:** Luke learned about the dangers of stepping on an oyster bed the hard way. We now have an album of feet pics but no modeling agencies have called.

### RMS Racing

**Boat #2112 –Ruston Skinner – Seguin, Tx & Reid Skinner –Galveston, Tx**

**Goal:** The main goal for this year is to finish, plain and simple. There have been delusions of grandeur regarding finishing below the 60-hour mark, and we still might with how much rain we've been getting, but I have a feeling 70hrs is what we're looking at right now. Place your bets.

**How much have you trained?** Not nearly enough. I've had quite a few early mornings doing ten miles at a time or so, but not enough pain conditioning. In all, we've probably done about 150 miles. Mentally, we're strong. I'm just nervous about my body. My brother, the sternman, is not the weakest link.

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 4:54:50, 5<sup>th</sup> Aluminum**

**Type of Boat:** We've got an Alumicraft Quetico from 1976 that's done the safari before, now with a few more stickers and scratches. The Voyager is lighter, sure, but we can nose directly into the water with me already seated at the front, post-portage.



**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** We've been stuck out in the middle of the West Texas desert and each of us have had our own solo, hair-raising experiences. Reid has done the race, as opposed to myself. Neither of us has seen the finish line.

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race:** The ol' tried-and-true Spiz will be getting us through a lot of it. That being said, we have a favorite electrolyte drink that we mix into half of our water jugs. I also imagine there will be some PB&J's and fried chicken at some checkpoint stops.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** Pillows and blankets.

**Interesting Training Stories:** Doing Hochheim to Cuero, my brother stashed the keys to his truck parked in Cuero, in the glovebox of my car parked in Hochheim. I watched him do it. I had a feeling that something wasn't right but we were burning daylight, so we got a move on. 25 miles later, we arrived at Reid's truck and I asked for the keys to unlock it. The keys which, of course, were 25 miles upstream in my car's glove box.

About five minutes later, a man with two dogs pulled up in a beat-up Toyota Tacoma to let his dogs run around. He was the only option. As nicely as possible, I asked the man if he could give me a ride the 10-15-or-so minutes to go run and grab the other vehicle. The whole way back to the start, this guy (who called himself "Doc") gave me the low down on how to beat Ticketmaster for tickets to upcoming rock concerts, the latest goings-on regarding Austin's party scene, and the owners of each property we passed on the way back up to Hochheim. I had a dog on either side of me: one drooling on my left knee and another drooling on the air vent pointed at my face. It wasn't my first time hitchhiking, but it was my first time hitchhiking in Texas. It's about how you think it would be.

### Micro Precision Hammers

**Boat #2230 – Christopher Savala -Round Rock, Tx & Aaron Pennell -Georgetown, Tx**

**Goal:**

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** Did not Race.

**Type of Boat:** Composite Hull

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:**

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race:**

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?**

**Interesting Training Stories:**

### Angry Cupcakes (withdrawing due to injury)

**Boat # 2285- James Eichenholz – Seguin, Tx & Caleb Warren, Seguin, Tx**

**Goal:** Have a good time, and make it to Seadrift in under 99 hours.

**How much have you trained?** We started last June, and have been getting as much training in as possible (we each have 3 young kids)

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** 5:17:26, 9<sup>th</sup> Novice

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum Voyager

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** We did the 2025 JR Safari and came in 2nd in our division.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** Our wives and kids

**Interesting Training Stories:**



### Canoe Force One

**Boat # 2339 – Steve Woody - Heath, Tx & Brandon Strong - Heath, Tx**

**Goal:** Get it done! (secretly we are hoping to do it in 75 hours or less but don't want to tell anyone)

**How much have you trained?** MAC 1 & 2, a couple other days on the river, a couple lessons with Holly Orr, and one strange day in my pool that we really can't explain why we were there or what we were doing.

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** 5:03:18, 4<sup>th</sup> Novice

**Type of Boat:** Alumacraft Quetico CL-17

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** 100 mile cycling event, marathon and a few 5K's

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** Spiz, Guu, PB and honey sandwiches, LMNT, pickle juice and anything our TC chooses to bring us.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** Someone to give us a hug, load our canoe and drive us back to DFW.

**Interesting Training Stories:** Our very first paddle together, we met Holly for a lesson and then paddled from Luling to Palmetto. We instantly forgot everything Holly taught us and ran into the first tree we saw. We severely underestimated how long it was going to take to paddle that distance and expected to see the Palmetto Bridge around every corner. On the trip back to DFW I was secretly hoping the canoe would fall out of the truck on I-35 so we wouldn't have to do the TWS.



### Old Texas

**Boat # 2468 – Chase Harrison- New Braunfels, Tx & Luke Darling -Wimberley, Tx**

**Goal:**

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** Did not Race

**Type of Boat:** Alumacraft 17

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:**

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?**

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?**

**Interesting Training Stories:**

### The Seahores

**Boat # 2469 – Michael Touchy – Belton, Tx & Aaron Gist – Salado, Tx**

**Goal:** Not die and finish to get our first patch.

**How much have you trained?** We have been paddling together a couple of times a week since August

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** Did not Race



**Type of Boat:** Aluminum Grumman

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** This is our first race, but we have experience canoeing and camping in the north woods such as the Boundary Waters and Quetico Provincial Park. We are also avid kayak fishermen.

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** Pickles, bananas, beef sticks, sandwiches from Aaron's food truck, Spiz, and hopefully a Whataburger at a certain checkpoint!

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** A cold beer and a nap!

**Interesting Training Stories:** We enjoy counting the snakes we see during each training session. Our record is 8 in one day.

### Xanadu

**Boat # 2603 – Nicholas Wzientek - Littleton, CO & John Frederick – Terre Haute, IN**

**Goal:** Get it done and not die! We have no egos and will walk the bay if need be!

**How much have you trained?** Over 700km on the rower between us! Nick logged many a mile at Chatfield Reservoir in Denver and I've logged many a mile at my local golf course one mile pond in Indiana and on Sugar Creek and the Wabash River. We paddled together on the mighty Wabash River in IN and did San Marcos to Palmetto in April after we learned from Holly.

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** Did not Race

**Type of Boat:** Alumacraft 17' canoe rented from Paddle with Style

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** Nick has completed the Leadville 100 multiple times and two years ago we both ran/hiked the Grand Canyon Rim to Rim to Rim.

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** Whatever our crew brings us, whatever we can hold down! Lots of protein for our old bodies and we'll celebrate with a pair of "Chuckwagon" sandwiches purchased from the local gas station.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** A pair of "Chuckwagon" sandwiches and a beer of any kind.



### Lizzy-Mae (This name is a combination of our two significant others)

**Boat # 2841 –Justin Maletic – Austin, Tx & John Uhl- Austin, Tx**

**Goal:** This is our first time attempting the TWS. I think our goals are to respect the race, be good partners to each other and to finish safely.

**How much have you trained?** As of 5/26/26 we have trained a total of 74:53 hours and covered 274.42 Miles.

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** We weren't able to attend this race (I was out of town)

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** Justin: Triathlons & Thru-Hiking (Colorado Trail and John Muir Trail)  
John: Running & Hiking (Mt. Kilimanjaro)

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race:** A combination of calorie-dense food/drinks, more substantial meals at the check-points, electrolytes, variety of snacks (texture, flavor, sweet/savory)

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** I think we will both be excited to see our team captain and significant others at the finish. They have been very supportive and patient with us as we have been gone during all the training.



**Interesting Training Stories:** Exposure to the TWS community of racers and people. We rented a canoe from Holly (Paddle with Style) and she was very helpful with tips and guidance on paddle form. We also met several racers during our training and two people in particular have been extremely helpful. Mike Stinson, who we met at the seminar, has been helpful in answering so many of our early questions and connecting us with other people and resources. Recently, we had a chance to train with Chris Stephenson and his son Sage - We not only were able to train with them, but he also helped us with a place to stay, shuttling vehicles and provided so much wisdom from his multiple finishes.

#### **Billable Miles**

**Boat # 3030 – Jake Steen- Austin, Tx & Caleb Snow- Austin, Tx**

**Goal:** Make it to Seadrift in time for happy hour on Monday

**How much have you trained?** We have trained somewhat frequently since February, paddling either on the San Marcos or around Townlake in Austin

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** Did not Race

**Type of Boat:** Alumacraft

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** Neither of us have ever participated in an endurance event or race, so naturally our first choice was the World's Toughest Canoe Race

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** Lots of carbs and lots of Celsius

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** The coldest beer on planet earth

**Interesting Training Stories:** We encountered a dead cow blocking the river during our last run down the San Marcos near Luling 90

#### **Electric Eel**

**Boat # 3681 –David Cleavinger & Daniel Nuckols- Baytown, Tx**

**Goal:** Our goal is to be one of the top 3 novice finishers. However, we MUST FINISH the race. All the guys at work would never let us live it down if we didn't finish after talking about it for a year!

**How much have you trained?** We have spent minimal time training on the water. Daniel is confident that our lineman muscles are already as strong as we need them to be for the Safari (working on power lines does involve lifting, pushing and pulling various weights from a dynamic range of motions all day long in the Summer heat).



**Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 1st Novice, 4:47:02**

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** We did the Colorado 100K last year.

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** I'm mostly drinking Spiz and eating watermelon, with crushed Fritos and snack bars on standby. I also want some oatmeal for breakfast and soup for supper.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** I want to celebrate with friends and family and enjoy them for a moment! ( dry clothes will be amazing also)

**Interesting Training Stories:**

### D & D

**Boat # 4020– Dalton Fierst – Georgetown, Tx & Daniel Mohnke– Houston, Tx**

**Goal:**

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time: Did not Race**

**Type of Boat:** Composite Hull

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:**

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?**

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?**

**Interesting Training Stories:**

### Rio Banditos

**Boat #4460 – Pete Garcia – Shoreacres, Tx & Seth Fry – Buda, Tx**

**Goal:** The plan is to keep the canoe moving, nap along the way and stay hydrated.

**How much have you trained:** Of course not as much as needed, but we felt really good paddling the Prelim.

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 5:42:17, 12<sup>th</sup> Novice**

**Type of Boat:** Alumacraft Voyager

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** 4th Time is the charm; we have both attempted the race 3 other times.

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race:** Real food at major stops (QUICKLY), water and electrolytes. Ice cold Coke in between.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** Of course, my lovely wife and any family that make it down.



### Louie's Rocket

**Boat # 4626– Skylor Womble – Dripping Springs, Tx & Isaiah Mendiola – Austin, Tx**

**Goal:**

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time: Did not Race.**

**Type of Boat:** Alumacraft Voyager

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience**

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?**

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?**

**Interesting Training Stories:**

### Dump 'Em Out

Boat # 6660 –Connor Griggs- *Red Oak, Tx* & Noah Lindsey – *New Braunfels, Tx*

Goal:

How much have you trained?

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: **Did not Race.**

Type of Boat: Aluminum

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?

Interesting Training Stories:

### Los Tiradores

Boat # 6813 –Brandon Schmidt- *Bryan, Tx* & Jacob Counts – *Brenham, Tx*

Goal: get it done, and learn a thing or two

How much have you trained? 3 20 milers including the Junior Water Safari plus some lake runs.

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: **Did not Race.**

Type of Boat: Alumacraft Voyageur I got in Minnesota.

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: Nothing relevant

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Lots of water, Gatorade, Cliff bloks, beef jerky, trail mix and whey protein shakes

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? Cold beer

Interesting Training Stories: No cool training stories unfortunately



### Stroke Me Gently

Boat # 6996 –Kason Klump - *Bryan, Tx* & Tyler Lefeiste- *College Station, Tx*

Goal:

How much have you trained?

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: **Did not Race**

Type of Boat: Aluminum

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race:

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?

Interesting Training Stories:

## **Canoe Believe this Shit**

**Boat # 7777 – Keith Newsome – San Antonio, Tx & Shane Retzloff – Seguin, Tx**

**Goal:** Honestly we wanna get it done! We won't be fast but we will be consistent. Hoping to get done in 80hrs but I can see 90!

**How much have you trained?** Well, being novices like we are we have undertrained! We have about 300 miles under our belts.

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** 5:12:18, 7<sup>th</sup> Novice

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** I've done some endurance runs/races. I did get 1st in an all-night trail race that was 30 miles. I've also got 1st with a 4 member ultra marathon trail running relay team this past November.

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race?** My plan is to use liquid energy and energy bars for the 1st 80ish miles and working in regular everyday day foods after that. Planning on ramen, potatoes, peanut butter, honey and banana sandwiches, pickles, fruit sauces, meat sticks, and some candy of course

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** My Wife and kids and an ice cold Modelo Especial!

**Interesting Training Stories:** Our very first training run taught us two important lessons:

1. Denim is not technical water gear.
2. Rapids are excellent at identifying beginners.

It was November, cold enough that we confidently decided jeans were the obvious choice for canoe training. In our novice minds, denim meant "warm." The river, however, had other opinions.

About five minutes into the run, the first set of rapids introduced themselves by completely swamping our canoe. One second we were "outdoor adventurers," and the next we were two soggy denim burritos paddling in what felt like liquid ice water.

For the rest of the run, our jeans weighed approximately the same as a small pickup truck. Every movement sounded like wet sandpaper, and we discovered that cold, soaked denim has the unique ability to remove all joy from your legs

And because the river believes in teaching lessons thoroughly, I also learned that day my phone was definitely not waterproof — and that "I should probably back up my phone" is not something you want to realize while watching it slowly die in your pocket.

By the end of the day, we may not have looked like expert paddlers, but we had gained valuable experience, deep respect for proper gear, and a strong appreciation for dry clothes and cloud storage



### Wet Bandits

**Boat # 8009** –Tyler Narramore- *Fairview, Tx* & Jairo Cano- *San Antonio, Tx*

**Goal:**

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** Did not Race

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:**

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race:**

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?**

**Interesting Training Stories:**

### Whose Idea was This?

**Boat # 9364** –Justin Stanford – *Alma, AR* & Thomas Yale- *Lakeland, TN*

**Goal:** Complete the race in under 80 hours and....not die.

**How much have you trained?** Monthly over the past four months (day and night trips; average of 15-20 miles each trip)

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** Did not Race

**Type of Boat:** Alumacraft Voyager

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** Tough Mudder, 12 hour Mountain Bike Race

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race:** Beverages: Water and Stay Salty (LMNT)

Food: Spiz Meal Replacement, Stinger Waffles and Gels, Protein- cooked meats and boiled eggs, and anything our wives decide to throw at us along the way!

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** My wife and a cocktail

**Interesting Training Stories:**



### The B.I.L's

**Boat # 9959**– Cory Dean – *Ft. Worth, Tx* & Sean Marable- *Weatherford, Tx*

**Goal:** Our boat is dubbed 9959.... because we are 100% ok with a time of 99 hours and 59 min

**How much have you trained?** As much as we could with small children.

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time:** 5:41:25, 11<sup>th</sup> Aluminum

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum



**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:** We did a 5k once and the Gator Chase

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race:** Bacon and iced coffee.

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?** To be able to facetime our wives and kids.

**Interesting Training Stories:** B.I.L.s stands for Brother In-Laws. Originally, Seth was going to be the team captain, but Dallas Rayes is now on a 2 year mission trip to Ecuador. Seth agreed to get in the canoe. Also, we refer to our Team Captains as our TEAM MOMs. Could not ask for better support and a positive outlook for this adventure from Matt and John.

### **Lost Since Mile 12**

**Boat # 9999 -Justin Mhoon – Acworth, GA & Ryan Roth- Acworth GA**

**Goal:**

**How much have you trained?**

**Prelim Novice Placement/Time: Did Not Race**

**Type of Boat:** Aluminum

**Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:**

**What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race:**

**What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish?**

**Interesting Training Stories:**

**\*\*Editor's Note:**

I want to thank all the teams who responded to me for this article! There were SO many of you and I thank you for patience as I cyber stalked you! If anyone realizes they missed my emails, and still want to contribute, please email me your answers and I will add them afterwards and this newsletter will be archived on the TCKRA website. We hope to educate future Novice paddlers by sharing all your stories of training and preparation to better help them plan in the future.

Good luck in your Novice Safari! I will see you ALL in Seadrift!

Patty Geisinger, TCKRA Secretary and Newsletter Editor, TWS Social Media volunteer

## Top 15 Ten Safari Gentle Reminders from Patty.

As I watched Libby gather all her items (for her solo race and her Dad as well), I thought it might be helpful to share!

1. Check all your batteries. Test your Garmin, how long does the charge last? If it won't last 100 hours, maybe consider packing a charger!! Change the batteries in your head lamp.
2. Spray Skirt. Have you gotten it wet and tried to put it on your boat? Are there any tears, holes or are you missing a snap?
3. PFD. Is it Coast Guard approved? Whistle attached?
4. Got Ice Socks? Long white ones will work if you don't already have some from Holly Orr.
5. Does your bow light work? What is your back up plan?
6. What is in your first aid kit? Prepared for stinging caterpillars, spider bites, wasps, antibacterial needs? Snake bite?
7. Flares.....'nuff said.....please have the (un-recalled) aerial kind!
8. Did you thank your TC today? Practice and repeat. They are giving you food and water and are gonna lose sleep for you!
9. Signed your Waiver, Fill out the Hotel Survey, Got a Check in Slot?
10. Seat pad ready? Got your roll of tape ready? Did you do your Seal-a-Meal prepping of extras?
11. Skin protection: sunscreen, aquafor, desitin, vitamin E. Choose one and Apply liberally before and during race!
- 12. WRITE YOUR NAME AND NUMBER ON ALL ITEMS! Paddles, jugs, chairs, absolutely Everything!!**
13. 4 Inch Numbers (reflective/contrasting color) for your Boat! Have back ups for your TC!
14. Read the Rules, download the Inventory Checklist and fill it out!
15. Always refer back to the TWS Website and Check your Email: <https://texaswatersafari.org/rules-and-procedures/>

CHECKPOINT	water/ice				app/Distance				Total Miles	Time	Total Average Speed	Average speed BTW pts	
	Jug - 1/2 gal Each	Soda	Coffee	G2	Bottled water	Ice Pack	Other	Est Time of Day					Time Split Est.
Westfield Rd./ Tom Goynes Hwy. 1979	1							9:50 AM	1:10	5.4	5.40	1.47	4.63
STAPLES (gravel bar below dam)		1						11:04 AM	1:14	5.9	10.90	1.25	4.71
Pentress	1	1			1	Ice socks		12:10 PM	1:06	5.8	16.70	1.12	4.80
Pharis Lees 1								2:10 PM	2:00	10.1	26.80	1.14	4.59
Pharis Lees 2								2:48 PM	0:36	3.2	30.00	0.71	5.05
Sharkey								3:18 PM	0:28	2.5	32.50	0.64	5.36
LELIND 90						Ice socks		3:34 PM	0:18	1.5	34.10	0.41	5.20
Zedler Mill (river right bottom)	1	1			1	Ice socks		4:50 PM	1:16	6.6	40.70	1.46	5.2
PALMETTO (in river above bridge)	1	1						6:06 PM	1:15	6.2	46.90	1.25	4.98
Slayden Hwy 90A								8:45 PM	2:40	14.6	61.50	2.67	5.19
GONZALES Dam (Portage Left)	2		1					10:15 PM	1:30	8.0	69.50	1.91	5.12
GONZALES 163								11:55 PM	1:40	9.0	78.50	1.67	5.15
HOCHHEIM 163	1	1	1	1	1		2 PBJ	1:25 AM	1:30	7.5	86.00	1.06	5.13
CHEAPSIDE 766	1	1			1	Ice socks		1:40 AM	0:15	1.2	87.20	0.25	5.13
Old San Antonio Rd								8:40 AM	7:00	36.9	124.10	7.00	5.17
CUERO 236	1	1		1	1	Ice socks	Burger	1:30 PM	4:50	26.2	150.30	4.83	5.21
River Haven								2:45 PM	1:15	6.8	156.90	1.25	5.22
Thomaston (at Emitt's)	1	1			1			4:10 PM	1:25	7.2	164.10	1.42	5.21
Nursery								5:00 PM	1:50	9.5	173.60	1.83	5.21
VICTORIA CITY PARK	1		1		1		Burger	7:36 PM	1:36	8.2	181.80	1.80	5.20
Loop 175/ HWY 59 BYPASS	1	1			1			9:15 PM	1:39	8	189.80	1.65	5.19
DUPONT/INVISTA	1	1		1	1			11:45 PM	2:30	13.1	202.90	2.50	5.19
TWOLI/SALT WATER BARRIER	1	1			1			2:10 AM	2:25	12.2	215.10	2.42	5.18
Calhoun RV Park								5:50 AM	3:40	19.1	234.20	3.67	5.19
SEADRIFT!!!!								9:25 AM	3:35	18.1	252.30	3.58	5.18
								10:00 AM	0:35	2.8	255.10	0.58	5.17
								2:30 PM	4:30	13.55	268.65	4.50	4.99
													3.01