

# NEWSLETTER

*THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE*



MARCH 2021

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

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

### **Membership:** New Membership Benefits!!!

Membership must be renewed unless you are a lifetime member! Please consider joining or renewing for 2021! Here is the link to the website. Fill out the form and submit at your chosen level and you will be redirected to PayPal. You will receive 2 vinyl TCKRA stickers, a 2021 TCKRA Magnet Fridge Calendar, a free parking pass for the new Fentress Amigos Beach and the TCKRA Newsletter before everyone else! Thank you for supporting Texas paddling sports!

[Join the TCKRA now!](#)



## **About the TCKRA**

The Texas Canoe and Kayak Racing Association is a statewide club for persons interested in paddle sport racing. The primary focus of the club is USCA and ICF class marathon racing, but other disciplines of paddle sports are promoted through [TCKRA 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 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 2021 TCKRA wall or fridge magnet calendar
- A 2021 TCKRA parking pass at Fentress Amigos Beach and Staples
- A TCKRA membership will give you a voice in the racing community and allow us to continue to promote canoe and kayak racing in Texas.

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

## **2021 TCKRA Officers and Board of Directors**

### **Officers**

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

### **Board Members**

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

### **Alternates**

Brian Jones  
Morgan Kohut

## **2021 Race Calendar**

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

**April 17<sup>th</sup>** – Mac #4, Michael P. Simmons Memorial Night Race, Palmetto to Gonzales, 7:30pm  
**April 24<sup>th</sup>** – TCKRA ICF State Championships, Brooks Lake, Sugarland, 10 am  
**May 1<sup>st</sup>** – Texas River Marathon (the Prelim), River Haven to Pumphouse in Victoria, 9 am  
**June 5<sup>th</sup>** – Village Creek Classic Canoe Race, Silsbee Tx  
**June 13<sup>th</sup>** – 58<sup>th</sup> Annual Texas Water Safari, Spring Lake San Marcos to Seadrift, 9am  
**July 10<sup>th</sup>** – TCKRA USCA State Championship and SUP Race, TBD  
**August 7<sup>th</sup>** – Neches Wilderness Race, Palestine Tx, 8am

### **Message from the TCKRA President**

*Nate Tart*

### ***WELCOME TO 2021!!***

It has been an exciting start as more and more racers are starting to return to the rivers! There is a full schedule of Canoe Racing events throughout Texas this year, so if you are looking for a race, you will not have to look far! One of TCKRA's main goals this year is to be present in the communities we all love to play in. We are providing race snacks to finishers at many events so if you see our booth setup this year, come say Hi! Encourage your friends to join! More exciting news to share in the next newsletter as we continue to work towards promoting canoe racing throughout Texas!

## Paddler Profile

*In each edition of the newsletter, we will feature an interesting and accomplished member of the Texas Paddling Community. If you would like to nominate someone to be featured in the Paddler Profile, please email their name and contact info to*

[pattyjoeg@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pattyjoeg@sbcglobal.net)

## Morgan Kohut

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

**Morgan-** Morgan Elizabeth Kohut. I grew up in the Tomball/Cypress area of Houston. I am currently living in Martindale.

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

**Morgan** - My dad had a near fatal car accident after completing his first safari in 2004 and we began paddling together to help him recuperate from all his injuries.



CR 100 2007



TWS 2010

***How did you get started racing?***

**Morgan** - After my dad recovered, he asked me to race the Colorado River 100 with him in 2006. We did that race together for four years before we signed up for my first Texas Water Safari in 2010.

***Where do you paddle most frequently?***

**Morgan** - San Marcos River. Most common section is either down and back from my house to Staples or my house to Fentress.

***What is your favorite race?***

**Morgan** - Texas Water Safari of course! Although I've competed several times, each race is unique.



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

**Morgan** - La Ruta Maya in Belize. Although I haven't competed in the Au Sable yet, I feel that the Ruta Maya is Belize's version. It's a spec race, so all boats have to meet the same criteria although there is a variation in materials the boats are made of. The race begins in San Ignacio near the Guatemalan border and ends in Belize City so you get to paddle across the country and experience a variety of flora and fauna.



Ruta Maya

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

**Morgan** - I predominantly paddle my Spencer DSX or Spencer Patriot. I also have a Huki S2X, Wenonah C1, C2 and a K2 that I'm trying to get more seat time in. I use Zone and Zaveral single blades and Epic double blades.

***What is your training regimen?***

**Morgan** - I try to paddle or get on the river twice a week and cross train on the other days. Some days are short speed workouts and other days are longer to focus on endurance.

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

**Morgan** - Lots of swimming, cycling/spin classes, yoga, calisthenics and some running. Anybody that knows me, knows that running and I have a love/ hate relationship.



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

**Morgan** - I am on a predominately liquid diet during training and races. I make my own mix which is a vegan, gluten-free version of Spiz. I use Skratch Labs and Hammer Nutrition products for electrolyte replacement. Fresh fruit, cinnamon applesauce, pickle juice shots and chips are my favorite treats to get at checkpoints.

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

**Morgan**- TWS Women's Unlimited Record; MR340 Mixed Tandem Record; Chattajack Mixed Surfski Record; 2018 TWS 1st place Women's Solo; 2012,2013,2016, 2019 TWS 1st place Women's Unlimited; 2016 MR340 1st place overall; 2013 Tour Du Teche 1st place overall



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

**Morgan** - So many things: the tight-knit community, being able to disconnect and enjoy nature, the adventure of exploring a new river and the competition of races.

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

**Morgan** - Branch out and race different hulls and experience new races. I'll be doing the Au Sable for the first time this year and I'd love to get to Hawaii and race the Moloka'i Hoe one day.

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

**Morgan** - Don't be afraid to ask for advice. Experiment with different foods and equipment to find out what works best for you. Growth happens when you push yourself and step outside of your comfort zone.

***Any final words?***

**Morgan** - Respect the river and do your part to protect it - participate in organized clean-ups, do your own 5 minute clean-ups after training runs and urge others to join you.





## Race Reports

### **Texas Winter 100K (TWO)**

*West Hansen*



*Photo: Patty Geisinger*

Right off the bat, I'd like to thank my sister, Barbara Edington, for all the work she does making the TWO such a great race for everyone and Gabe "Batdog" Haarsma, for his web acumen and organizing all the stats for the race. I do feel a bit sorry for Gabe when he starts explaining to me all the tech stuff affiliated with the website, when I often just cut him off after the twelfth 10-syllable word I don't understand and just tell him he has my full permission and support to do whatever he pleases. I'm hauling him to my next house-purchase negotiation.

The 11<sup>th</sup> annual TWO breached yet another entry record, with 85 canoes, kayaks and SUPs entered, carrying 115 racers from Austin and Uteley to Bastrop on Saturday, January the 23<sup>rd</sup>. Cool, not cold, temperatures with a bit of moisture hanging in the air under comfortably overcast skies helped make up for the low water conditions, which could at times be compared to a damp sidewalk for those dealing with the squatty sections. All in all, it was not bad for a 62-mile workout.

New additions for 2021 included two port-a-cans at the starting line in addition to the port-a-can at the Uteley checkpoint, sponsored by the Lower Colorado River Authority (LCRA), which manages the section of the Colorado on which the TWO is held. A special request from racer Stahl Urban prompted officials to test a new Adult/Child division, which was held on the SUP course between Uteley and Bastrop. Stahl and his son, Welch, finished the course with positive reviews. This looks like a great idea to get younger racers on board, so we will formalize the category and include it starting in 2022.



*Photo: Barb Edginton*



*Photo: Kate Tart*

The TWO also opened up all other racing categories to minor-aged racers, just in time for Kyle Issendorf and Addie Rolls to pull in their fathers, Chris and Ian, for first place wins in Men's Tandem Unlimited and Mixed Unlimited, respectively. Not a bad start on a canoe racing resume for each of these kids. Check out the video online when Kyle throws in a hard brace just in time to save he and his dad from swimming while running Sheila's Devil Dam. The same video shows Addie whipping her dad to run faster around the portage. These new teenagers really have some fire in their bellies. I'm really looking forward to getting more young racers in the TWO.

COVID-19 guidelines were in place and I really appreciate all the racers and support crews who adhered to standard safety measures to lower the chances of virus transmission, so that we could all come out and have a great event together. We held the pre-race briefing via Zoom and had a contactless check-in at the starting line. Let's all hope things are back to normal for the 2022 TWO.

It was really a great weight off my shoulders when Rob Leef, Mike Gordon and Mark Foss stepped up to cover all the sweep boat responsibility. They did a great job right on down to Mike trailing the last boat into the finish line three minutes ahead of the cut-off time. Thanks, so much, guys!

As if she could do no less, Jeanette Burris shined while providing her hot chicken chili at the finish line to weary racers and their crews. Jeanette starts days ahead of time to get it all ready and shows up hours before the first finisher and stays well after the last boat in to make sure everyone has a hot meal, so please extend warm thanks to Jeanette. I can never resist a bowl or four of her magic myself.

My extremely tolerant and able family members were on hand again to help with administration, check-in, continental breakfast, Longhorn Dam portage, Little Webberville, Big Webberville, finish line and meal serving. These included: Barbara Edington (sister), Christine Battaglia (sister), Ann Hansen (mom), Ed Hansen (dad), Lizet Alaniz (wife), Isabella Hansen (daughter) and John and Sue Nielsen (uncle and his wife). Over the years my cousins, aunt and other family members have been on hand, as well.

This year, Colleen Belk, Joy Emshoff and Bob Spain covered the second checkpoint at the Utley FM 969 bridge, including check-in for SUP racers and adult/child. I appreciate them stepping up and doing a great job. Photo and videos were covered by Erich Schlegel, Kate Tart, Patty Geisinger, Libby Geisinger and Robert Youens with help from John Erskine for river access.



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Thanks also to Mark at East Side Boat Shop, just upriver of Sheila's Devil Dam, for allowing access to support crews to meet their teams on their property.

Continuing my aversion to trophies and award ceremonies, all finishers received the ever-popular TWO racing cap and the fastest three finishers in specific Competitor classes received a sock full of dollar coins as they stepped out of the river. I finally found a good use for my old socks. All racers got a tech-shirt and we're always open for swag ideas from racers, so feel free to contact the race with any new ideas.

This year's race started off with more of a challenge than expected for Heather Harrison who discovered two large containers with her racing gear were stolen from her vehicle in the Holiday Inn parking garage. Heather channeled her irritation well and won the Women's Tandem Unlimited category with partner, Courtney Martinez, looking strong and feeling particularly cocky in a final stretch push to beat Jason Cade and Chris Champion (1<sup>st</sup> Men's USCA C-2), who had more water in their boat than in the river after developing an involuntary mid-race porthole. Kyle Mynar didn't let the lack of a rudder or double-blade keep him from finishing well ahead of a handful of surf skis and solo unlimited boats, taking the USCA C-1 class win, while Geoff Waters came in a healthy 30 minutes before Kyle in one of the two Ruahine Firebolts entered in the race – taking the Men's Solo Unlimited purse. I recall Michelle Waterman, years ago, haul in her plastic sea kayak across the TWO finish line, laden with all kinds of gear well after dark. Now, she's in a light, sleek Epic 18x with a take-no-prisoners non-stop pace that earned her the Women's Solo Unlimited class in plenty of time to spare.



Based upon this year's successes, we'll be making some changes for next year. We had three boards entered for the entire 62-mile course, so we'll add a SUP category to start when the Adventure Class gun goes off. We'll also add the Adult/Child class for the Utley-to-Bastrop section, starting with the SUP class at noon. Our entry form will now include an option to join or renew the Texas Canoe and Kayak Racing Association (TCKRA). It was nice to have TCKRA officials on hand to promote the club. Given the TWO as the first race of the year, it'll be convenient to take care of race entry and club entry in one swoop. I really like the parking passes the TCKRA has worked to provide along the San Marcos.

We're also working out a plan for Holly Orr, owner of Paddle With Style, to organize a series of training/scouting trips along the length of the TWO course to help racers see the course and train newer racers. Holly's experience will be a welcome addition to the event. The growing popularity of the race has attracted new sponsors/donors, so we may add sponsor tables to the check-in and/or finish. At the very least, it appears we'll have more door prizes for the pre-race drawing, so please check out the website now and then for our growing list of sponsor links. Please show your appreciation for our sponsors by posting pictures of your door prizes on social media.



## **Town Lake Race Series**

*John Baltzell, Patty Geisinger*

John hosted his Town Lake series this year, even with covid and crazy weather. He had a good turn-out despite fog and and sun but the winter snowpocalypse caused the cancellation of the 4<sup>th</sup> race and TCKRA Race Clinic. Still, it was so good to be together, masked and ready for some river time! Thank you to everyone who came out! See you next year!!





# Martindale Athletic Club (MAC) Race 1

*Kaitlin Mynar*



*Photo: Sandy Yonley*

We kicked off the first race of the Martindale Athletic Club Spring Race Series on March 21st. The first race was from City Park in San Marcos to Staples Bridge. This year the series features races that cover the entire first 90 miles of the TWS course. That was the intention for the 2020 races but we all know what happened there.



*Photo: Patty Geisinger*

The point of the MAC races at their inception was to get people out on the river racing. We felt like there weren't enough spring races and then by the time the safari came up, people had maybe only raced the prelim! The idea seems to be working, at MAC 1 we had 32 teams and 61 racers.



*Photo: Jill Mulder*



*Photo: Sandy Yonley*

A few years ago, we were getting less than a dozen teams for races 1-3. We are extremely glad to see everyone getting out there and racing.



*Photo: Jill Mulder*

It was so great to see everyone this weekend. Some of these folks, we hadn't seen in over a year. People who race the safari are already the greatest people in the world but their showing of gratitude and appreciation at being together and doing our collective favorite thing was very heart warming. See you on the water!





## Martindale Athletic Club (MAC)

### Race 2 & 3

*Kaitlin Mynar & Patty Geisinger*

Seems like Spring had just begun and now it is past Easter and Kaitlin Mynar along with her parents, Daryl & Kathi Jiral have brought us 2 more larger MAC races each weekend!

MAC #2 Report: Thank you for another great turnout! 35 teams showed up for a start that included lightening and winds at 24 mph. Thankfully we didn't have any more weather issues the rest of the day and it ended up being quite beautiful.

MAC #3 Report: Total of 49 teams today!! That's the most of any race we've ever held. And probably the lowest water level at Luling.....105 cfs! Hope everyone enjoyed the running start! Thank you to all the photographers and video taking folks!

MAC #3



*Photo: Sandy Yonley*

MAC #2



*Photo: Sandy Yonley*



*Photos: Sandy Yonley, Jill Mulder, Patty Geisinger*

## Spring River Clean-Up

Holly Orr

The 50th annual San Marcos River Clean up was a great success. I'm always amazed at the amount of trash that is collect out of the river each year. It is wonderful to be part of a great group of people who are doing their part keeping the river clean. It would not be possible without all of you and your hard work.



The TCKRA had about 40 volunteers of the 200 volunteers that came out on Saturday, February 27th 2021. Being a competitive club that likes a good challenge, you can be proud of the fact with less than 1/4th of the volunteers, our club (*with help of a few other paddling friends*) was responsible for cleaning roughly 36 of the 54 river miles. I want to give a big shout of to Tom & Paula Goynes for starting this clean up so many years ago and seeing it through another year. Organizing paddling groups from all over the state and opening up their place to host camping and dinner.

Also a shout out to our section leaders: John, Veronica, Morgan, Tina & Debbie. George and Anne Grant from Maxwell provided a fantastic BBQ dinner.



As you can see by the photo we pulled A LOT of trash out of the river, leaving it a better place!

Green Guy Recycling provided a trailer for the recyclables, and Guadalupe County who picked up the tires and trash later that week.

Troy Swift and Bodie Langford let us use their property as drop off points for trash. Spencers Canoes, who let us use their property as a temporary dump for all the trash, tires and recyclables. The City of San Marcos provided mesh bags and trash bags. City of Luling for providing a dumpster at HWY 90. Zanafel for donating their product to help ward off the poison Ivy.



We have another Clean up scheduled for early November! Please consider coming out to lend a hand in the fall!!



Great job guys! Remember that you can always do a 5 minute clean up whenever you are on the river!

Holly Orr



## **Kanu Rennen**

*David Kaiser*



Last November found the Kanu Rennen race directors in a strange place. Safety concerns, permitting hurdles and a general pandemic funk dragged on until just weeks before the race, so the decision was made to postpone. The outpouring of support after postponing was incredible and put the wind back in their sails.

Recover. Catch. Power.

Spring came, pandemic cases rose and fell (several times) but we pressed ahead knowing the race was “on” and any issue could be mitigated. Everything fell into place, including an ideal race date and all there was left to worry about was if anybody would show up.



The 7<sup>th</sup> annual Kanu Rennen saw one of the largest turnouts in its long history. Word of mouth spread quickly and we saw so many new faces.

### **Adult Child**

Call it magic, karma, divine intervention or dumb luck, but there always seem to be exactly the right number of boats for all the teams to race. It might also have something to do with Holly Orr at Texas Canoe and Kayak Rentals providing a trailer full of canoes for anybody willing to race. Either way we had so many racers that the Adult Child race had to be broken into two heats.



In Heat #1, William and Holly Orr made it clear that they had every intention to keep the traveling trophy for another year. Brock and Ryan Martinez came in second and Rhett and Porter Robinson in a close third place. Ian Gold did an incredible job pulling Mike Dey across the line for fourth and Emily and Peter Churchman came in on their tail for fifth.



In Heat #2, Amelia and David Kaiser came in first place, immediately followed by Eli and James Lowe in second, chased by Welch, Magdalene and Stahl Urban. It was tight! Jess Bailey and Chris Bailey ended up fighting off Mark, Myron and Iris Hellinger, Mayne and Kelly Stone, Brady and Andrew Gibson, and finally Austin Shires and Jackson Kloss.

Heat #3 was winner take all and William and Holly Orr defended their title for another year! Brock and Ryan Martinez gave them a run for their money coming in second and Welch Urban was pulling so hard that Stahl almost fell out of the back.

### **Skills Races**

Next up was a series of races designed to test every paddler's skills.

The first event was the Backwards race! Emily Churchman and Holly Orr were quick off the line and never looked back...I mean forward. Kanu Rennen veterans Mayne Stone and William Orr came in second followed by up and comer Welch with his dad Stahl Urban.



The Standup race has really improved since the invention of the SUP, however it's a LOT harder than it looks. David reminded Amelia that first place got a candy bar and they launched off the line and avoided a huge pile-up. William Orr and Mayne Stone channeled their canoe camp skills to come in second and Ben Bailey, Chris Bailey and Will Leads came in third.

The Hand Paddle race turned out to be the event of the day, with Iris, Myron and Mark Hellinger reaching an impossible speed and winning the race by multiple boat lengths. In a frantic flotilla, Eli, Rhett and Brady took second place and Mayne and William took third. There were a number of other boats tangled in that mess and the results are still being contested.



### **Kids Race**

This event gets better every year with many of the racers have been coming to Kanu Rennen since they were in diapers so watching their skills grow year on year has been a privilege.

William Orr, Welch Urban and Magdalene Urban had been dreaming about this day for months and their focus paid off with a first-place finish. Amelia Kaiser and Mayne Stone pulled off the smoothest buoy turn which got them second place and Brock Martinez, Rhett Robinson and Michaela Urban coordinate their multi-kid boat and pulled off a third-place finish.

### **Multi-man**

The Multi-man race is a Le Mans style start and probably the most irresponsible thing we do all day. Racers stage their boats ahead of time and hurl themselves down the hill at Cypress Bend Park and in a cacophony of aluminum on rock, jump in their boats and race to the buoy turn. Brock/Ryan Martinez and John/Andrew Condie weren't the first in the boat to leave the beach, but they were certainly the first to the

finish line. Vivian Bailey smartly recruited Chris Bailey and Will Leeds, paying off with a second-place finish. Third place was the team to watch this year, comprised of rebel kids who were too cool to have an adult join them. Welch Urban, Amelia Kaiser, Mayne Stone and William Orr showed us all that it comes down to your strength to weight ratio...and these kids can pull a canoe!



### **Relay**

Kanu Rennen always ends with a relay, and instead of passing a baton, we pass a canoe. This year it came down to two relay teams: The Flying Dragons and The Hotshots (I swear no adults influenced this team name...). After several transitions that would make you think we are all parkour experts, the Hotshots had a solid lead and eventually won the race.



Kanu Rennen has a certain magic about it and this year was no exception. We made so many new friends, caught up with old friends, built new teams and tried new things. For adults and kids alike, if you've always wanted to come join, we have our regular scheduled race this November 6<sup>th</sup>.



## TCKRA Spring Break Open

*Nate Tart & Jay Daniel*



*Photo: Kate Tart*

For our Inagural TCKRA Spring Break Open, we had a cloudy and cool day for a large field of paddlers who came out to paddle from Fentress Amigo Beach to Luling 90! What a great way to kick off the 2021 Paddling Season! Although low water made for some sections to have tight quarters, for the most part, everyone reported enjoying the race!



*Photos: Kate Tart*

A big thank you to Richard and his family with Amigos Beach for hosting us! Everyone enjoyed some snacks at the end of the race and the awards were much appreciated by the winners. Overall it was a great day of racing on the San Marcos!!







## **2021 Greens Bayou Canoe and Kayak Classic**

*Grady Hicks*

The 29th Greens Bayou Canoe and Kayak Classic was held Saturday March 27th. It was a nice cool day and the bayou was high and, unusually, had a noticeable downstream current. Miroslav Lipovac had a great run (beating his previous time by three minutes) with a time of 1:04:04. He showed off his technique and discipline over the two four-mile loops with no competition. There were five SUP paddlers led by Zane Asselin who finished one loop in 46:46 leading a field of five. Roy Tyrone and Jeffrey Davis won the Aluminum race with a time of 1:25:02. Chris Jackson won the Surf Ski and DJ Intalek and Peter Tupker won the Tandem Unlimited. Thanks to all who raced, apologies for confusion about the race site.



*Photos: Ann Best*

## **USCA Semi Annual Meeting Report 1/9/2021**

*Joy Emshoff, TCKRA Delegate to USCA*

This year's USCA Semi Annual Meeting was held virtually instead of us enjoying the beaches of sunny St Pete Beach, Florida! Normally we have 2 long days of meetings but also have time to enjoy the beaches, see the manatees and enjoy a wonderful seafood meal or two. But the business of the club was accomplished online and went very well.

The highlights of the meeting were as follows-

1. The 2021 Semi Annual meeting will be held January 7-9 in Saratoga, New York.
2. The 2020 Nationals will not be held in Newaygo, Michigan due to the pandemic restrictions. (Since the meeting was held, Lockhaven, Pa has expressed interest in holding the Nationals. Negotiations are underway.) The race will be held August 12-17, 2021.
3. The 2021 Aluminum Nationals will be held September 11-12 (Date may change) in Popular Bluff, MO.
4. Dues increases will be delayed until April 2021.
5. Officer elections were held. Weston Willoughby was elected the new President. The remaining officers who will continue to serve are Teresa Stout, Vice President, Barbara Bradley, Secretary and John Edwards, Treasurer.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Emshoff

TCKRA Delegate to USCA

To Join the USCA: <http://uscanoe.com/join-usca/>



## Upcoming Races

### Martindale Athletic Club (MAC) Race 2-4

**April 17<sup>th</sup>** – Mac #4, Michael P. Simmons Memorial Night Race, Palmetto to Gonzales, 7:30pm, there will be a catfish fry at the end of the Night race at the finish in Gonzales.

**\*\*Plan to get a day pass from Palmetto for both of the final Mac races\*\***

### TCKRA ICF K-1 State Championship

Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 10 am



The 2021 TCKRA ICF K1 State Championship race will be Saturday, April 24<sup>th</sup>, 10am on Brooks Lake in Sugar Land, TX. The entry fee is \$20 (\$5 for Juniors).

A 2021 race t-shirt is available for \$5 if **you register online by 11:59pm on Thursday, April 8<sup>th</sup>**.

The race course will be the same as previous championships:

Each lap is approx. 1.6 miles long. The laps are as follows per class:

7 laps (6 portages) Men's and Men's Masters 40+

6 laps (5 portages) Women's and Men's Masters 50+

5 laps (4 portages) Women's Masters (40+ and 50+)

Online Registration is open: <https://tckra.org/event/tckra-icf-k1-state-championship-race/>

Be sure to scroll down, enter all registration information and click through to PayPal to pay. We will email you the liability waiver (please print, fill out and bring to drop off at the registration table).

Race day registration will begin at 9:30am at the portage and the race briefing will be at 9:45am. The exact portage will be along the bank in approximately the same location as previous years. Parking is wherever you can find it—you can park behind Whole Foods or anywhere it is public parking.

Awards will be given for the champion in the following categories: Men's Open, Women's Open, Men's Masters (40+), Women's Masters (40+), Men's Masters (50+), Women's Masters (50+) and Juniors (<18 yrs).

If you aren't able to social distance, please plan wearing a mask. Thank you.

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

Saturday May 1<sup>st</sup>, 9am



River Haven RV Park to The Pumpphouse Restaurant, Victoria City Park  
May 1st, 2021

Starting at the River Haven RV Resort and ending at the Pump House Restaurant, this great race is run over 35 miles of the fastest water on the Texas Water Safari course. Finishing positions in the Texas River Marathon, also fondly known as "The Prelim", are used to determine starting positions in the Safari itself, (with one position on each row being set aside for out-of-state teams whose members cannot all make it to Texas in early May.) In addition to qualifying teams for superior starting positions, this event provides racers with the opportunity to see a couple of the only real rapids on the racecourse. Many Texas Water Safari racers will traverse the "Nursery rapids" during the night and it can be very helpful to have seen them during the daylight first during the Texas River Marathon.

For more information: [www.texaswatersafari.org](http://www.texaswatersafari.org)

As with all TWS sponsored races, Safari rules and classes apply. To register:

<https://racehubhq.com/races/TexasRiverMarathon2021>



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

June 12<sup>th</sup>, 2021 9am

**When:** June 12<sup>th</sup> – June 16th 2021, 9am

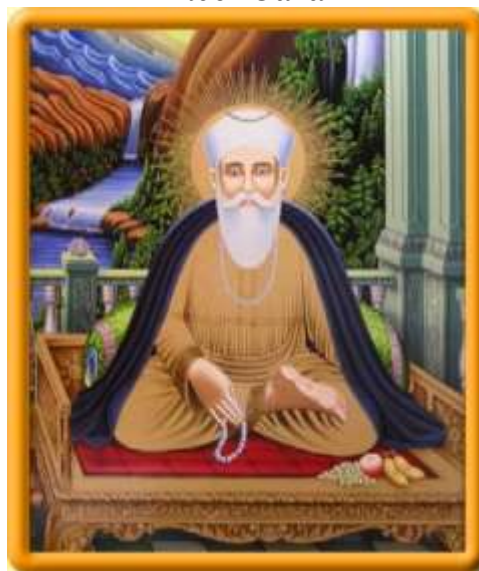
**Where:** Spring Lake, San Marcos to Seadrift, Tx

**Registration:** <https://racehubhq.com/races/TexasWaterSafari2021>

**More Information:** Race information, course description, rules and procedures, boat types and all details regarding the TWS can be found at [www.texaswatersafari.org](http://www.texaswatersafari.org)

# Palmetto Hotline

*River Guru*



Greetings Inferior Racers,

It's Mr. TWS with the greatest editorial you probably aren't relevant enough to read, but lucky enough to have a friend forward this to you because they will feel better if you become as addicted to paddling as they are. I know 2020 was a tough year for most of you since a life without the Safari is not a life worth living. But I can say with confidence that the 2021 Safari is happening and to make up for not having a race last year, the officials have added an extra mile of bay paddling to go with the lowest water level in the history of the race. I can already predict that I'm going to make a lot of money in my Safari Prop Bets pool this year. Just how many boats are going to finish in under 50 hours? I'll say under 4. Finisher rate: Under 55%. How many boats will Will Leed's 5 man stern hook before Staples? Zero if Henk drives, over 3 if anyone else in that boat is driving. Who will have a member of their team from the top 3 boats puke 1<sup>st</sup>? I'll say Phil's team since I heard Ice Cream is on their menu of things to get from their bank crew this year. I could do this all day but I guess I'll get to the important part of this article where I talk about everyone who's "racing" this year.

I'm talking to the **Novices**, with a paltry 11 teams this year so far. I once met a Novice...my partner during my novice year back when the Safari was hard. We didn't talk more than the occasional "hut" and "draw you @#%\* ^@# \$%\$%#\$!!!!." What's worse is we didn't even have anybody to talk to at the finish because I've always been faster than you.

Speaking of how horrible it is to paddle **Aluminum**, the class is looking robust this season. As spiritual father of all Texas paddlers, I could see myself falling into a similar trap of underplaying the rigors of the Safari, to look tough, and leave no way out when a daughter excitedly comes up with the idea of paddling aluminum...much like the situation Gaston Jones has found himself in. Thankfully for those two, they are fast, and thankfully for you, they'll slow down in a flat-bottomed battleship. The aluminum competition is tight though. The Binion boys are out for blood with Hoyt Moss and Jay Jackson at their heels (or vice versa). The rest of the crews in the back will likely be slowed down in a flotilla sharing politics with team names like, "Covid Grassy Kno1l 2020", "Smokey and the Wabbit", and "Space Force". "H Town Swang N Bang" will be doing just that as they try to pass the masses.

But let's get down to it and talk about the actual race I/we all care about. Times change and the 4-man seems to be en vogue this year. The contenders include "Poseidon Pest Control" and the Condie/Wyatt 4-man. The older we get, the more we should rely on supplements and the less time we should be spending participating in "high risk" activities like jumping on trampolines. So the question here is how many "Michigan paddlers" do you need to "win the race"? I just thank God they aren't from California.

Over a third of the **Unlimited** teams dropped their number from six and it's got to make you wonder what you missed. "Morgan and the Miller Creek Boys" look forward to kickin' tail in low water while the "Single Bladies" look for yet another record-breaking run. "Water Tight" and a potential Brazil Bros boat are full of serious contenders. This has got the 6-man teams wondering if this is their moment. Experience matters in this game and few have more combined experience than the "Cowboys", even if 1/3rd of their team has barely begun shaving. The Rask clan saw an opening and got almost the whole family to join. If you run a Rask light it's programmed to malfunction on a Saturday night in June...or so I've heard.

As always, simple math can calculate the **Solo Unlimited** class. Take the total contender teams from prior year, divide by two, then multiply by 60% since everybody loves a 4-man this year and add 8 for the Surfski cult. With such a big class it's hard to choose a favorite. We're all hoping Erin Magee finds the new finish line and that Wendell Smith focuses more on the "Festina" and less on the "Lente". Tim Rask and Kiefer Mauldin aren't paddling in their family boats and the only time anybody has seen Ray Arquette on the river was at a kids' race. Let's not forget the entry by Joe Mann from Missouri who was savagely kicked off of Phil's 6 man after Phil learned Joe used a pedal boat in the MR340 last year. There's a lot of talent and drive in this group but I can't help but think they need some solid advice from author Dale Carnegie.

As we progress into more traditional means of canoeing, the **Mixed Tandem Unlimited** class will be the class everybody talks about because like an onion, this class has many layers. "Fountain Darters" and "Drag-in Boat" need to dig deep to ensure they don't get beat by young Addie Rolls and her dad Ian Rolls in "Tough Love". Then there's the couples therapy teams like the Gumbert's, Weber's and the Jones' who are looking to rekindle that fire, or find a good place to hide a body.

**Tandem Unlimited** and **Standard** are looking strong in paddling prowess and accurate team names. The classes are comprised of a numerous veterans like John Bugge/Joe Geisinger (The Odd Couple), Adam Sims/Paul Glisson (Tall Boys...literally) and Clint Simmons/Kennedy Howitt (Redneck Scum).

And that leaves us with the USCA classes.

First, I would like to congratulate Drew Denman on his first-place finish seeing that nobody else is feeling up for a **USCAC1** run in such low water. Good luck.

**USCA C2** is shaping up to be dominated by Shannon Issendorf and Nate Tart and it feels like they should have been racing an ICF this year...big fish in a little pond and all that. This leaves a few male teams comprised of Brandon/Bill Stafford, Trab/Rob and Wessels/Deal, and a couple mixed C2 teams the Kaisers and Hell Yeah. USCA C2 racers live in a world of their own and all of these racers will battle to the bitter end, cross the line, then spend their shore time in a clique swapping stories.

In this great race there are many sub-races and after the first ever pandemic related cancellation, these paddlers are hungry. Low water means high attrition, longer waits on the bank and the best of stories. Everything written is based on reputation, so watch close for what happens at the Prelim. I'll be there, and when you think of your Guru, dig deep because I'm always ahead of your lazy bum.

*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.*