

NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE



May 2022

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Questions? Want to contribute to the newsletter?

Patty Geisinger at pattyjoeg@sbcglobal.net

Membership: New Membership Benefits!!!

Membership must be renewed unless you are a lifetime member! Please consider joining or renewing for 2022! 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 2022 TCKRA Magnet Fridge Calendar, a free parking pass for the new Fentress Amigos Beach and San Marcos River Retreat, the TCKRA Newsletter and the annual TCKRA banquet! Thank you for supporting Texas paddling sports!

[Join the TCKRA](#)

About the TCKRA

The Texas Canoe and Kayak Racing Association is a statewide club for persons interested in paddle sport racing. The primary focus of the club is USCA and ICF class marathon racing, but other disciplines of paddle sports are promoted through <https://www.tckra.org/calendar>

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

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

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

- 8 championship races, (Unlimited, Aluminum, USCA and ICF, Surfski)
- The Martindale Triathlon
- Spring and fall river cleanups
- Newsletter
- Annual banquet
- Paddling clinics – free to TCKRA members
- 2 TCKRA decals for every member
- A 2022 TCKRA wall or fridge magnet calendar
- A 2022 TCKRA parking pass at Fentress Amigos Beach and San Marcos River Retreat
- A TCKRA membership will give you a voice in the racing community and allow us to continue to promote canoe and kayak racing in Texas.

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

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
Clint Sutherland
Jay Daniel
Keifer Mauldin
Brian Jones

Alternates

Morgan Kohut

2022 Race Calendar

(Editor's Note: We will continue to update the 2022 Race Calendar as soon as information on the races becomes available.)

June 13th – 58th Annual Texas Water Safari, Spring Lake San Marcos to Seadrift, 9am
July 9th – TCKRA USCA State Championship and SUP Race, Zedler Mill Park South, 8:30 am
August 6th – Neches Wilderness Race, Palestine Tx, 8am
August 20th – Up and Back Race, Schreiner Park, Junction Tx, 9am
August 27th – TCKRA State Aluminum Championship, FM 969 to Bastrop, 9:30am
Sept. 17th – Junior Texas Water Safari, City Park, San Marcos to Staples, 9am
Sept. 25th – The Mission Reach Rally, Roosevelt Park, San Antonio, Noon-3pm
Oct. 1st & 2nd – USCA Aluminum National Championships, FM 969-Bastrop, 9am
Oct. 8th – Remember Goliad Paddling Race, Goliad Tx, 11am
Oct. 15th – TCKRA Open Water State Championships, Stewart Beach Galveston, 1pm
Oct. 16th – The 5th Annual Rotary Regatta, Friendswood Tx, 10am
Oct. 22nd – The Lost River 50, Wallisville, 8am
Oct. 29th – The TCKRA Martindale Triathlon, Martindale Tx, 9am
Nov. 5th – Kanu Rennen, 503 Peace Ave, New Braunfels Tx, 11am
Nov. 12th – Dickinson Bayou Brawl Kids & Adult Races, Paul Hopkins Park, Dickinson Tx, 9am
Dec 3rd – The December Solos, Rio Vista to Staples, 10am

****Many pictures in the TCKRA newsletter are provided by and thanks to Sandy Yonley, Jill Mulder, Patty Geisinger, Kate Tart & Ashley Landis. And also family and friends of the paddlers.**

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 pattyjoeq@sbcglobal.net

This newsletter Paddler Profile was submitted in a slightly different format, and with all due respect to his age and canoe racing experience, I have added it in the format it was given.

Roy Tyrone



Sept 1st, 2022, I will be 78 years old. I live in Pasadena, TX, and do most of my training on Armand Bayou. It is only a few minutes from the house. It is a magical, beautiful place to paddle with alligators, turtles, water birds, deer, wild pigs, coyotes, and all kinds of trees and plants. Motorboats are not allowed in the Armand Bayou Nature Sanctuary.

I was never an elite athlete. I was no good at hitting a baseball, dribbling a basketball, playing football etc. But, when I was in the boy scouts I discovered that when I paddled the stern of a canoe I could keep up with most of the stronger, bigger scouts.

Sometime around 1969, I was married with a family. I owned a red Ouachita aluminum canoe. I was driving around on the East side of Houston and I saw several canoes and a canoe shop. I went in to just look around. There was an interesting character that owned the canoe shop. He looked like the kind of guy that would own a canoe shop and he looked like the kind of guy that would race canoes. His name was Tom Goynes.

Tom was cool. He informed me that there would be an aluminum race on Dickinson Bayou in a few weeks and that my canoe would be legal to race. He didn't try to sell me anything. I had a friend that was a tremendous athlete and he agreed to race with me. Of course, we came in last place. Tom Goynes talked with me after the race. He said a new organization was being formed. It would be called the TCRA and I would want to join and be an active member. He told me that the TCRA would hold state championship races and promote the sport.

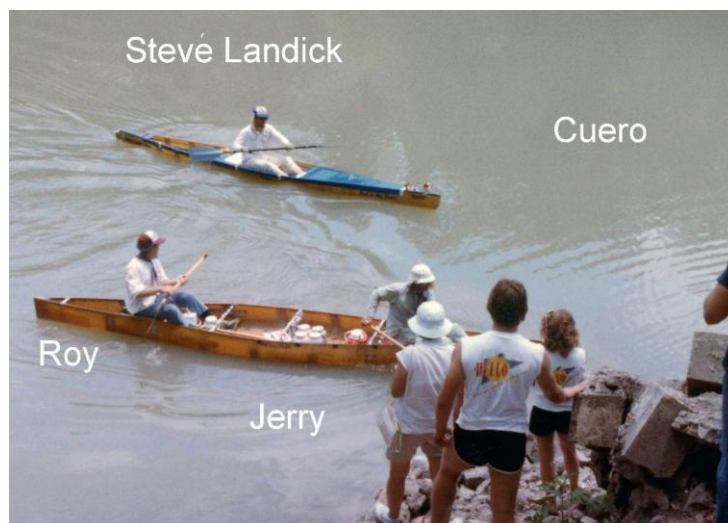
I bought an Alumacraft, bucket seats, racing paddles, a pop rivet gun, etc., and rigged my canoe for racing. My partner and I began doing some serious training. There was no YouTube, no email, no internet, and information spread slowly. A few months later I learned that the TCRA had voted to recognize a USCA C2 state champion but no aluminum state champion. Damn!! I bought a USCA C2 and more paddles. There would be a series of 6 races. The first-place team would get 6 points; the second-place team would get 5 points, etc. After the last race you would add the points from your 5 best races. The paddler with the most points would be the state champion. My partner and I won the first TCRA Texas State Championship.

TWS RACES

I have had several good TWS races and 3 spectacular races. Here are my 3 spectacular races:

In 1979 Scott McDonald and I raced in my first TWS. We probably trained harder than any team had ever trained. When we went to the check-in there was an out-of-state team from Oregon. When I looked at those guys I was scared. The stern paddler was built like Andrew Condie. The bow paddler reminded me of Chris Issendorf. My partner, Scott was 6' 1" and weighed about 150. Every time that we would get a small lead on these guys we would sprint to try and drop them. They were faster than us and they would easily run us down. They made a slow water stop at Hochheim and we had a 50-yard lead. We picked up the pace. In a few minutes I glanced back and they were 40 yards back. We picked up the pace even more. In a few minutes I glanced back and they were 30 yards back. I asked Scott to paddle 100% all out and to sprint as hard as he possibly could. We eventually dropped the team from Oregon. We won first place C2 in 38 hours 16 minutes. This was a new TWS C2 record. We were using heavy single-blade wooden paddles and a Kevlar USCA canoe. At the time I credited our brilliant race strategy for the win. But, looking back, there was probably no way the team from Oregon could ever beat us on a 265-mile racecourse. I would often check my resting pulse rate at home and it would consistently be around 37. Scott was in much better aerobic shape than I was. I am sure that we had many, many more long training runs than the Oregon team.

In 1984 I raced C2 with Jerry Nunnery. It was my 2nd safari and his first. It was incredibly hot. It felt like someone was blowing a hairdryer into your face. The water was unbelievably low. Jerry was paddling bow and he is really good at reading the water. At night he was constantly saying go left, go right, etc. In spite of that on both nights, we were constantly running aground. The favorite to win the safari was Steve Landick. In the prelim race, he dominated the rowboats and the unlimited double-blade paddlers, easily winning first place. Steve was in his custom-built Landick, solo unlimited boat. Steve's endurance was legendary. A few years earlier Steve and Verlen Kreuger had paddled 24,000 miles on an ultimate canoe challenge. Jerry and I had no plans on winning first overall. But, all of the lead boats had problems with the heat. Steve built a massive early lead but we passed all of the unlimited boats and caught Steve by Cuero. On top of the heat and low water, the bay was very rough. We had a lead of several hours and there was no attempt at a fast bay crossing. We took the safest route possible, paddling directly across the bay at the shortest distance we could find, and paddled in relatively shallow water along the shoreline to the finish. We won first place C2 and first place overall. We finished in 54 hours and it was not that hard. I was a few months under 40 and Jerry was a little over 40. We did not sleep or rest any and we could have easily paddled a few more hours if needed.



In 2016 I raced with Gabe Haarsma. We won 1st place in the aluminum class and 9th place overall in an aluminum barge. Our time was 42:23. Now, I certainly realize that Gabe supplied most of the power, but I am incredibly proud of that race. I was nearly 73 years old. The next year Matt Sandel and I won 1st aluminum. The water was low and this was a 50 hour race. This race was much, much harder on me than the 54-hour 1984 race because of my age. I no longer have resting pulse rate of 37. It took a lot of perseverance and I had to endure a lot of pain to paddle nonstop for 50 hours. I was extremely proud of the effort but I wasn't proud of the power that I was able to put on the paddle toward the end of the race.

ONE MEMORABLE RACE

I have had so many memorable races that I will not attempt to pick a favorite. But, when you race with your son then it is a very personal race. We went to watch the 1977 aluminum state championship races. I had not planned on racing but I did bring my aluminum canoe. At the last minute, my son asked me to race with him. Almost 1/2 the way through the race we were in 3rd place. There was a long right-hand turn with very shallow water. I made a better read than the 2 canoes in front of us and we came out of the turn right behind the lead boat.

John Bugge and Mike Shively had won something like the 5 previous aluminum state championship races. They could not shake us from riding their wake. We made a better buoy turn and were able to pass them and hold on to win for a few seconds.



OLDER CANOE RACERS

The TCKRA, the Texas Water Safari Board, and most race promoters are clueless when it comes to pleasing the older canoe racers. Many TCKRA races award 1st, 2nd, 3rd Under 40 and 1st, 2nd, 3rd Over 40. Most of the northern states hold their races with an under 50 open class and an over 50 senior class. The Northern states tend to have a larger number of older racers than the states that do over 40 and under 40. I like the way Florida posts their race results best. Consider the following 2 race results:

	TEXAS	FLORIDA
Paddler 1	1st Open	1st Open
Paddler 2	2nd Open	2nd Open
Paddler 3	1st Masters	1st Over 50
Paddler 4	3rd Open	3rd place Open
Paddler 5	2nd Masters	1st Over 60
Paddler 6	3rd Masters	1st Over 70
Paddler 7	4th Masters	2nd Over 50

Older racers don't care about trophies. They do care about recognition and respect. A few years ago I had a really fast over-50 canoe racer lined up for the over-50 class at the Buffalo Bayou race. When I tried to

register I was surprised to learn that they had changed the 50-year-old class to 60. I bailed on my young partner and raced with Alan Posnick. The next year I raced with John Dupont. Alan and John are over 60 and they don't enter many races. We had a great time at the Buffalo Bayou race because we had a level playing field to compete against racers similar to our age. If Texas has an over 40 under 40 state championship race I just skip the race. If they have an over 50 under 50 race I will try and find a fast 50+ racer. If the TCKRA posted race results like Florida then I would look for an older race partner.

The TWS might have 100 teams. They might give 1 masters trophy to a 6 man boat that has 6 guys over 40. How ridiculous. These guys are automatically getting a trophy because they are in a faster boat than 97 other teams and then they get a 2nd trophy because they are 40. Looking back I can tell you that 40 is very young. Please understand, I think the TWS is the greatest canoe race in the world but it does have an incredibly unfair trophy system. When Gabe and I won 1st aluminum and 9th overall, I threw my 9th place trophy in the trash and proudly displayed my 1st place trophy. Nearly everyone does this. And yet, they do not have the money to buy the 2nd place novice team a trophy. Just my 2 cents.



John Dupont & Roy Tyrone, 2022 BBR



Jerry Nunnery & Roy Tyrone, Prelim 2018

2021 USCA NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP CANOE RACE

Last year, 2021, I drove to Pennsylvania and entered the USCA National Championship race. The USCA recognizes 40, 50, 60, 70, 75, and 80 age groups. As you get older the aging process accelerates so they added a 75-year-old bracket. My partner and I won 1st place in the over 75 category.



GIVING SOMETHING BACK TO THE SPORT

If you love canoe racing as I do, then you need to give something back to the sport. One of the best things you can do is to introduce new people to the sport and help them get started. Often times when a person is new to racing in the Houston area, someone will give them my name and number. I have a lot of different length paddles. I have several canoes that are properly rigged. I paddle with these new people and help them with their paddling skills. If they are racing the Safari, I will help them with lights, spray cover, maps, food, etc. In my younger days, I would be a TCKRA board member or TCKRA officer. I often hold canoe clinics for racers trying to improve their speed. We are fortunate to race in Texas. We have so many races. We have so many race photographers, timers and helpers. The TWS needs so many volunteers. Volunteer! Mentor!



DIET AND HEALTH

I am a health fanatic. At an early age I developed a slow-growing prostate cancer. My urologist almost killed me. He waited way too long to do each biopsy. I had cancer but the first 2 times the biopsy needles missed the cancer so I didn't have proof that I had cancer. After the insurance company had proof that I had cancer, I went to MD Anderson and received radiation. I thought that I would live to be 100. I was not aware that the cancer had metastasized and gotten into my bloodstream. A few years later the cancer came back as a fast-growing aggressive cancer. One doctor told me that I would have a short life expectancy but he could do an emergency surgery that might add a few years to my life. I went to a self-directed, ultra-healthy diet and the cancer slowly disappeared. I take a lot of vitamins and supplements. I eat healthy. It is not hard to be healthy. Over the long haul you will also paddle faster and have fewer joint problems. I have no aches, no pains, no shoulder problems, no wrist problems, etc.



My Experience with overdoing Salt Intake during the 2021 TWS

By Geoff Waters

Dehydration and related symptoms are one of the major reasons for DNFs during the Safari. Participants are rightly warned to make sure they are getting plenty of supplemental electrolytes, in order to avoid dehydration, and more importantly, to avoid hyponatremia. Hyponatremia may have been the cause of the only fatality in the history of the TWS, and it comes from drinking large quantities of water and/or not getting enough electrolytes. As the sodium levels in the body drop, overly fresh water diffuses into the cells, causing them to swell, and unchecked, this can lead to nausea, confusion (water intoxication), followed by coma and death.

I've had my share of dehydration DNFs back in the 'water & ice only' days. I didn't know how much supplemental electrolytes I needed, and fortunately, the cramping and nausea always convinced me to drop out before I progressed to Hyponatremia. Last year, I DNF'd due to **HYPERNATREMIA**, and I think it is important to share some information about that as it can be equally serious.

Feeling like I had a legit shot to win the Solo Unlimited class, and due to the temperature spiking in the last days before the Safari, I decided I didn't want to mess with taking salt tablets. I premixed packets of HEED with extra salt, so all my TC needed to do was put water and a packet in my jug. Apparently I overdid it on the salt. A couple jugs were extra strong, but it didn't seem to be causing any problems. I didn't have any cramps, and I was even peeing more than I normally do at that point in the race.

About 18 hours into the race, deep into the Hochheim section, I noticed I was wheezing. I didn't know what to make of it, but I thought I might have wind burned my throat paddling hard the last several hours. I kept sipping from my jugs to try to keep my throat moist, but it didn't help. Then I felt really out of breath. I couldn't paddle non-stop. I'd paddle for a minute, drift for 30sec, repeat. I knew things were starting to go sideways, but I didn't know why. I actually suspected dehydration, so when I limped into Hochheim, I chugged a Sprite and a sports bottle of Spiz before heading out. There wasn't any recovery after getting that extra fluid, so I pulled over at a gravel bar a couple miles down from Hochheim and laid down. I was completely whipped, and I could hear crackling in my airway when I exhaled. When I tried to sit up and get some Aleve out of my boat, the exertion made me cough up a ball of very pink foam. Keifer Mauldin was the unfortunate soul I flagged down to assist with my evacuation when I couldn't get a cell signal. He got to see me cough up another 4-5 bright pink foam balls on the hike to the nearest road.

I'm not a doctor. I'm not going to tell anyone how much salt is too much or too little. The point of this article is 3 fold;

1. Inform you of possible symptoms of hypernatremia
2. Suggest things to do in case you develop it, because very few doctors understand this
3. Clear up rumors that I DNF'd from a heart attack.

I've already shared a couple symptoms, dryness of the mouth and lungs full of fluid. I had all the same assumptions any doctor you encounter along the TWS route will have – I must be dehydrated. When Jeff and Chuck got me to Cuero's ER, the docs heard I was a Safari paddler and put an IV in right away. The 2L of saline was the last thing I needed. While they were admitting me, they did height, weight, and other vitals, and I remember commenting that I seemed to have gained weight since the start of the race. They also did all the normal skin pinch tests to check for dehydration, but despite indications I wasn't dehydrated, they continued the IV. They ran basic labs pretty quickly and said my sodium levels were 'out of whack', but didn't say in which direction. Bottom line, there were plenty of clues I was suffering from **hypernatremia**, but it is so rare compared to normal TWS dehydration, the doctors didn't consider it. I strongly suggest weighing yourself before the race. If you find yourself at a hospital and you're significantly off your starting weight in either direction-that is important info for the doctors. Salli O'Donnell says some ultras require weigh-ins before and during the race specifically to monitor for dehydration and **hypernatremia**.

Because I had fluid in my lungs that couldn't be explained (no covid, no double pneumonia, no aspirating water during a flip), the doctors in Cuero concluded the only remaining explanation was my heart was failing and pumping excess fluid into my lungs. People with weak hearts are told to cut back on salt because water retention fills the lungs and makes the heart work extra hard. If I hadn't dropped out when I did, I could have eventually had a heart attack or passed out in the boat due to low oxygen levels. Cuero's ER put me in an ambulance to Victoria. The first thing they did in Victoria was give me another IV (and another). My condition deteriorated Monday and Tuesday until they figured it out and put me on a diuretic. I was released on the Wednesday, after a pulmonologist reckoned my O2 levels and pink foam was exercise induced pulmonary edema due to the **hypernatremia**. I've had subsequent follow-ups with a pulmonologist, and they say I shouldn't expect any recurrence provided I don't overdo my salt intake again.



As Geoff said early on in his article, he's not a doctor, but after this experience, he did do his research. Here is a link to more information, but please, if we have a super hot Safari, practice with your nutrition/drinks and prepare your Team Captains on how to spot signs of hypo or hypernatremia.

<https://www.webmd.com/a-to-z-guides/difference-between-hypernatremia-hyponatremia>

Race Reports

MAC Races #2-4

Kaitlin Mynar



Thank you to everyone who participated in the MAC races this year! I hope that you found the races beneficial to your preparations for the Safari (or whatever else you're doing this year). One notable change to next year's Night Race is that we will offer camping! The group camp site has been reserved for Friday, April 21 and Saturday, April 22. So you can stay the night before the race and then return to your campsite once you've finished! More details to come once this nears.

Next year's MAC race dates will be:

MAC 1- March 19th, 2023

MAC 2- March 26th, 2023

MAC 3- April 2nd, 2023

MAC 4- The Night Race- April 22nd, 2023



I'm always interested to hear constructive opinions on how to make the races more in line with the needs and wants of the community. Feel free to reach out to me via Facebook or email, kaitlin.jiral@gmail.com

TCKRA 2nd Annual Spring Break Open

Nate Tart & Jay Daniel

It was a crisp yet sunny morning for the 2nd Annual TCKRA Spring Break Open! A good number of boats came out for the staggered start at Fentress. This race ended at Luling 90 gravel bar and everyone had a fun time on the river. Come join us next year!



2nd Annual Elm Fork Regatta

Clint Sutherland & Keifer Mauldin

This year the Elm Fork Regatta had an even field of 7 boats in the competitor's class and 7 boats in the adventure class. Had a good representation of the SUP class there. With a SUP James Nickerson taking the overall win for the adventure class of one hour and 52 minutes. On the competitor side Brady Lotz was back to defend his overall win from last year. The race started off with John DuPont and Daren Dodd in a tandem unlimited out in front all the way and it left a good carrot hanging out in front for Brady to chase. It was a great race between them but the Dodd/DuPont team came in first with a 2:28.02 and Lotz with a 2:29.58.

The weather was great this year with rain earlier in the week and cool temperatures in the morning with nice warm noon time temperatures. It was nice to see familiar faces from last year and nice to see new faces from this year and hope to see everyone again next year!



Greens Bayou Canoe and Kayak Classic

Grady Hicks

This race varies from year to year with one class dominating the rest having the most paddlers. This is not by design but by the racers. The 2022 version of the Greens Bayou race was focused on the Aluminum class. There were four boats competing head-to-head in a two-lap 8-mile event. To our surprise as the boats went by the start line after the first half-lap, Don Walls and Roy Tyrone were behind everyone. They did not look wet and were charging along.

As the race progressed, they worked their way up to second among the Aluminum boats with 2 miles to go. Frank Gray and Pedro de Luca were still holding an eight-length lead. Frank and Pedro flogged it toward the final turn but were unable to hold off Don and Roy from racing to a 1-minute 45-second lead at the finish. The story came out that they were leading the pack at the first turn at the second downstream bridge and confused by the low water kept going to the next bridge. The remainder of the racers had made the correct turn. In all, it added some compelling drama for the day.

In other non-race excitement, the Greens Bayou Park was in the midst of an Eagle Scout project. The park was being planted with trees to create a wooded park that would facilitate flood control on Greens Bayou. I was informed that this park was not a City of Houston designated canoe launch site. The park will no longer be mowed. It will be interesting to see how things change. There is park upstream that can be used for the race. Overall we had a nice race. Thanks to all the racers. See you next year.



2022 TCKRA ICF Marathon State Championships

Tommy Yonley



The 2022 TCKRA ICF Marathon State Championships was held on Saturday, April 2nd. This year we added a solo unlimited race in addition to the 2nd annual youth ICF race. The course was the same as previous years, with laps on Brooks Lake in Sugar Land, TX. (The portage was slightly adjusted due to another event sharing the lake), The race was a good warm-up to the ACA ICF Marathon National Championship that was held on the same course a few weeks later. A great day was had by all. The weather cooperated with mild temperatures and low wind. Kyle Issendorf won Men's Jrs, Tommy Yonley won Men's Open, Tim Rask won Men's Masters 40+, and Johan Dahl won Men's Masters 50+. In our inaugural solo unlimited race, Michael Zheng won the Solo U division and Mark Devall won SUP. We continued our tradition of having a short youth race following the adult race. Timur Egorkin all the way from Louisiana won for the 2nd year in a row.

TCKRA ICF Marathon State Championships - 04/02/2022, Brooks Lake - Sugar Land, TX										Splits Recorded at Finish Line (1st Lap is 0.3 Miles Longer)								
Division	Name	Award	Laps	Portage	Distance	Time			Decimal	[Hr]	Speed [MPH]	Lap1	Lap2	Lap3	Lap4	Lap5	Lap6	Lap7
ICF K1	Tommy Yonley	1st Open K1	7	6	11.01	1	27	8.24	1.452		7.58	13:53.31	26:11.47	38:25.78	50:26.16	62:38.18	74:58.46	87:08.24
ICF K1	Tim Rask	1st Masters K1 (>40)	7	6	11.01	1	31	35.43	1.527		7.21	13:53.97	26:13.28	38:25.86	51:46.97	65:13.67	78:26.14	91:35.43
ICF K1	Johan Dahl	1st Seniors K1 (>50)	7	6	11.01	1	31	42.38	1.528		7.20	13:53.97	26:12.19	38:25.97	51:46.84	65:13.59	78:24.26	91:42.38
ICF K1	Brian Jones		7	6	11.01	1	45	19.85	1.756		6.27	15:32.15	30:00.78	44:06.27	58:22.99	72:40.18	87:35.11	105:19.85
ICF K1	Alex Leonard		7	6	11.01	1	50	47.34	1.846		5.96	15:36.69	30:27.51	45:47.45	61:32.25	77:31.22	93:46.74	110:47.34
ICF K1	Stephen Rask		7	6	11.01	1	54	24.03	1.907		5.77	16:49.06	32:54.24	48:42.07	64:27.60	80:31.86	97:30.55	114:24.03
ICF K1	Kyle Issendorf	1st Jr. K1 (<18)	6	5	9.473	1	28	4.38	1.468		6.45	15:34.68	30:01.38	44:27.96	58:52.74	73:21.32	88:04.38	
Solo Unlimited Race										Splits Recorded at Finish Line (1st Lap is 0.3 Miles Longer)								
SoloU	Michael Zheng	1st Solo U	5	0	7.736	1	21	13.56	1.354		5.71	18:29.42	34:13.76	49:34.71	65:29.34	81:13.56		
SoloU	Robin Lashway		6	0	9.223	1	41	54.33	1.698		5.43	18:13.13	34:13.48	50:18.61	67:11.47	84:21.37	101:54.33	
SoloU	David Jacobs		5	0	7.736	1	26	48.26	1.447		5.35	19:26.52	35:18.28	51:18.58	68:44.39	86:48.26		
SUP	Mark Devall	1st Sup	5	0	7.736	1	30	4.64	1.501		5.15	19:25.33	36:43.86	54:23.28	72:12.61	90:04.64		
SUP	Morris Paillet		5	0	7.736	1	34	13.28	1.570		4.93	20:33.97	38:10.45	56:15.25	74:32.44	94:13.28		
SUP	Raynald Mercado		5	0	7.736	1	36	33.42	1.609		4.81	20:56.64	38:56.71	57:13.04	76:48.63	96:33.42		
SUP	Jim Mooney		5	0	7.736	1	47	11.82	1.787		4.33	21:54.79	42:07.00	62:50.42	84:50.52	107:11.82		
TCKRA Kids ICF Race																		
1st	Timur Egorkin	2 laps, 10 min 12 sec																
2nd	Welch Urban	2 laps, 12 min 25 sec																
3rd	Drew Yonley	2 laps, 13 min 30 sec																
4th	Schaeffer Kittle	1 lap, 10 min 15 sec																
5th	Kaylee Issendorf	Honorary Racer																

2022 ACA ICF Marathon National Championship and Team Trials

Tommy Yonley

The 2022 ACA ICF Marathon National Championship and Team Trials event was held on Brooks Lake in Sugar Land, TX, Saturday, April 30th. The course was the same as the TCKRA state championship. The weather was in the mid-80s with 8-10 mph wind. There were several out-of-town competitors, including the race winners, Jesse Lischuk from Florida, and Kate McElroy from Oklahoma. Both Jesse and Kate are to be selected by the ACA marathon committee to represent the United States in July at the World Games in Birmingham, Alabama (July); they will also be selected (with Tommy) to represent the USA in October at the ICF Marathon World Championships in Portugal. Texas' own Kyle Issendorf won the Men's Jrs division and Mike Herbert from Arkansas won Men's Masters, narrowly beating Tim Rask in the final sprint.



2022 ACA ICF K1 Marathon National Championships										
Brooks Lake, Sugarland, Texas										
Saturday, April 30, 2022										
Weather 77-81 deg with 8-11mph winds										
	Finish Time	Lap 1	Lap 2	Lap 3	Lap 4	Lap 5	Lap 6	Lap 7	Lap 8	Average MPH
Women Senior - 7 laps 20.5 Km										
Kait McElroy	1:50:05	16:09.52	31:40.61	46:33.16	1:01:47.96	1:17:03.38	1:33:25.21	1:50:04.67		6.94
Savanna Wright	2:02:28	18:10:35	35:38.17	53:03.18	1:10:14.49	1:27:39.39	1:44:54.25	2:02:27.96		6.24
Rachelle Brown	2:14:58	18:35.52	37:30.72	56:22.72	1:15:10.23	1:34:18.85	1:54:14.22	2:14:58.18		5.66
Loukia Lili	2:18:29	19:32.78	39:35.41	59:00.88	1:18:56.40	1:38:36.69	1:59:03.07	2:18:29.43		5.52
Men Junior-6 laps 17.7 Km										
Kyle Issendorf	1:40:02	16:37.28	33:57.70	49:14.44	1:06:04.61	1:27:39.39	1:40:02.30			6.6
Men Senior - 8 laps 23.3 Km										
Jesse Lischuk	1:53:32	14:25.64	28:46.04	42:51.00	57:06.14	1:11:28.44	1:25:50.99	1:39:51.00	1:53:31.70	7.65
Tommy Yonley	1:53:38	14:26.30	28:46.04	42:51.67	57:05.27	1:11:30.60	1:25:51.47	1:39:51.45	1:53:37.68	7.64
Nathan Humbertson	1:58:26	14:26.30	28:46.04	43:13.55	58:06.60	1:13:23.45	1:28:36.17	1:43:45.00	1:58:26.39	7.33
Mike Herbert	2:01:15	15:10.68	30:18.19	45:04.17	1:00:21.70	1:15:23.03	1:30:22.85	1:45:55.06	2:01:14.98	7.16
Tim Rask	2:01:16	15:11:23	30:18.56	45:04.87	1:00:20.89	1:15:32.16	1:30:23.38	1:45:56.71	2:01:16.17	7.16
Jonathan Yonley	2:04:00	15:11:23	30:28.35	45:09.06	1:00:22.53	1:18:59.51	1:31:30.24	1:43:54.99	2:03:59.86	7.01
Alex Leonard	2:19:14	15:37.94	34:19.72	51:38.16	1:08:48.75	1:28:36.19	1:43:44.08	2:01:14.93	2:19:13.66	6.24
Men Master - 7 laps 20.5 Km										
Mike Herbert	1:45:55	15:10.68	30:18.19	45:04.17	1:00:21.70	1:15:23.03	1:30:22.85	1:45:55.06		7.22
Tim Rask	1:45:57	15:11:23	30:18.56	45:04.87	1:00:20.89	1:15:32.16	1:30:23.38	1:45:56.71		7.21
Steve Rask	2:05:20	17:53.39	34:29.10	52:20.52	1:09:50.01	1:27:14.41	1:43:29.38	2:05:19.75		6.1

Texas River Marathon (The Prelim)

Patty Geisinger



Very low water and heat and 110+ boats made for quite a Texas River Marathon this year! With only a few boats missing the cut-off, it was a good test for most everyone who was preparing for a hot, low water Safari!

To see the results, visit <https://www.texaswatersafari.org/history/2022-trm/>

The U.S.C.A. Stock Aluminum Nationals Returns to Texas in 2022



On October 1st & 2nd the USCA Stock Aluminum Nationals will again be held in Texas. After a two year hiatus, due to the covid virus, the race will be held on the 2019 Aluminum Nationals course that begins at the FM 969 Bridge crossing of the Colorado River and ends at Fisherman's Park in downtown Bastrop, Texas. The Saturday, October 1st race schedule includes: the Men's Open (18-49), Men's Masters (50 +), Women's Open (18-49) and Women's Masters (50+). There will also be Junior men and women classes which may be a shorten version of the adult course. Junior men and women must not have reached age 18 before January 1, 2022. A youth race is also planned on a shortened version of the national's course.

Sunday race schedule includes a Mixed Open (18-49) and Mixed Masters (50+). A non-championship Solo Race is also planned for both men and women. All solo hull types are legal, there are no age brackets and either single and/or double bladed paddles are allowed. Awards will be 5 deep. All races will start promptly at 9:00 a.m., except the Junior and Youth races which will be announced later. Adult races will be \$35 for the racers first race, \$15 for any second race and Juniors will pay \$15. Youth will paddle for free.

Mail in registration must be postmarked by September 16th. You may download the registration form and also **register online** at www.tckra.org. **Day of race registration** will be available Saturday and Sunday, 7:30 – 8:00 a.m., at the race start, cash or checks only on race day. All racers must check in the morning of their race and sign the waiver. Mandatory race meeting will be held at 8:45 a.m., both days. The races will start promptly at 9:00 on Saturday and Sunday.

Current USCA membership is required to race in the USCA Aluminum Nationals Races (not the Solo Race). To join electronically, go to www.uscanoe.com, click the JOIN USCA button and chose the type of membership. You may also join USCA on day of race. (Cash or check only). Governing membership is \$20 for individual, \$25 for family. If a junior's family is not a family member, the junior can join for \$7.50.

National Aluminum Canoe Criteria: While the class was created for stock manufactured aluminum canoes, other stock recreational manufactured canoes are legal (wood, Rolex [ABS], plastic, etc.), but no Kevlar, carbon fiber or racing hulls are allowed. No modifications to the external hull are permissible, although seats, foot braces, bulkheads and decks may be modified or removed. However, any flotation removed from bulkheads, etc. must be replaced to provide at 25 lbs. of buoyancy. No beaver canoes are legal.

Because many Alumacraft aluminum canoes have been modified to race the Texas Water Safari and other southern races, contestants must insure that the external hull of their canoe **has not** been modified or pulled-in. The Race Chairman and the Technical Director of Inspection will be observing canoes and make the final determination as to the legality of any “stock” canoes. Any question concerning the legality of any canoe can be directed to Bob Spain at rws0987@yahoo.com.

Rental Canoes

Paddle with Style- Arrangements for rental canoes can be made by contacting Holly Orr at 512-749-2350 or paddlewithstyle@yahoo.com. Holly has recreational canoes and a few alumacraft aluminum canoes for rent.

Rising Phoenix canoe rental – Rental canoes are also available in Bastrop, Texas. The canoe livery has recreational canoes and several Epic solo surfskis for those that choose to race the solo class. Contact Jamie at 512-677-2305, risingphoenixadventures.com.

Awards and meals: Following each day’s races, the awards will be presented at a small pavilion adjacent to the takeout at the finish line in Fisherman’s Park. Food is also planned for participants.

Hotels and Camping: Bastrop is located 23 miles from Austin - Bergstrom International Airport and there are many hotels in Austin. However, hotels in Bastrop are only 6-11 miles from the start and 2-3 from the finish. A list of Bastrop hotels is shown below:

Hampton Inn and Suites 512-321-0900	Best Western 512-321-0900
Days Inn 512-321-1157	Holiday Inn Express 512-321-1900
Super 8 512-321-6000	

Campgrounds in the area are:

Bastrop State Park, 512-321-2101, 35 sites	Buescher State Park, 512-237-2241
KOA Campground, 1-800-562-1620, 64 sites	

We look forward to seeing you at the race, but If you need additional information, please contact Bob Spain, 512-296-5544, rws0987@yahoo.com or Joy Emshoff, 512-626-3741, jle4321@yahoo.com



Upcoming Races

59th Annual Texas Water Safari

June 11th, 2022 9am

When: June 11th – June 15th 2022, 9am

Where: Spring Lake, San Marcos to Seadrift, Tx

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

TCKRA USCA State Championship

Saturday, July 9th, 9:30 am

Shannon Issendorf & Kaitlin Mynar



The TCKRA USCA state championship race will be held Saturday, July 9th at Zedler Mill Park. Entry fee is \$35 per person (under 18 years old race free)--price includes unlimited races (you'll sign up for the particular race(s) you want to do at the race).

Men's C2 will be about 9 miles long (2 laps). All other races will be about 4.5 miles long. Race course: Zedler Mill boat ramp 1 to buoy turn 2.25 miles upstream and back.

Race schedule:

7:30 registration

8:15 pre race meeting

8:30 Men's C1 / Women's C2

10:00 Mixed C2

11:30 Men's C2 two laps / Women's C1 Adult/child (under 18 free)

12:30 Kids C2 race (free race)

1:00 Lunch / awards

Awards: C1/C2- 1st/2nd Men's and Women's 1st place Masters

To Register: [TCKRA USCA State Championships](#)

Neches Wilderness Race
Saturday, August 6th, 8 am/9am
Patty Geisinger



Most fun you will ever have jumping logs, dodging trees and winding your way down the toughest little river race in Texas! Hosted by the Neches River Runners, a non-profit organization dedicated to conservation and education which has as its primary activity the organization and staging of the Neches River Wilderness Canoe Race, an annual fund raiser and community event for the special needs scholarship fund at the Trinity Valley Community College. Classes will launch at timed intervals: 8:00 a.m. Leisure Class canoes and 9:00 a.m. Pro Class canoes will begin.

<https://www.necheswildernessrace.com/registration>

Junction Up and Back Race



Paddlers wanted! Join us Saturday, August 20 at 9:00 am at Junction's city park for a truly unique paddling challenge. Racers have 12 hours to finish the 35-ish mile course that both starts and ends at Lake Junction in the city's municipal park. Divisions include tandem, men's solo, women's solo and SUP. Any man-powered craft is permitted. All racers who complete the race within the 12-hour time frame will be entered into the finisher's drawing for cash and other prizes. \$5 of every registration benefits the Junction Lions Club charities fund. Come enjoy our beautiful river and support a great cause!

Date: August 20 @ 8:00 am - 5:00 pm CDT

Save the Date.

Register online here: <https://www.junctiontexas.com/up-back-boat-race>

Pre-registration on this site is strongly encouraged. Same day registration is \$25 more and t-shirt sizes may be limited. Online registration deadline is Friday, August 13. Mandatory check-in is Friday, August 20 from 5:30 - 7:30 pm at the Junction (Schreiner Park) city park pavilion. If you absolutely cannot attend check-in, please let us know so we can plan accordingly. Boats can put in at 8:30 am Saturday morning. Race begins at 9:00 am Saturday and must be completed by 9:00 pm Saturday in order to qualify for the finisher's drawing. Complimentary meal will be served Saturday evening starting at 6:30 pm and there will be live entertainment from 7:30 - 10:30 pm.

2022 TKCRA State Aluminum Championships

Date: August 27, 2022

Where: Colorado River starting at the bridge at FM 969, 14 miles to Fisherman's Park in Bastrop, TX
Online registration closes Thursday, August 25th.

Race Day Registration: 8:30 AM

Race start: 9:30 AM

Adult/Child and Youth Aluminum Races will be held at 1pm. The course for those races will be starting at the finish line of the adult aluminum race, downstream around the bridge that's within sight of the Fisherman's Park boat ramp, then back to the finish line buoy (~less than 1 mile total). If there are older youth racing, they will possibly do 2 laps.

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

Awards given to the Champions in the following classes:

- Men's 18-49
- Men's Masters 50+
- Women's 18-49
- Women's Masters 50+
- Mixed 18-49
- Mixed Masters 50+
- Adult/Child

Online registration is open:

<https://www.tckra.org/event-details/tckra-aluminum-state-championship-race-2>

(note that the entry fees for the Adult/Child and Youth race differ from the other classes).



Meet the 2022 TWS Novices!

Patty Geisinger

So much excitement is building for the Texas Water Safari! After such a dry year with low water...even the anticipation of rain has everyone giddy! We have little doubt that it's going to be an epic adventure for most of our paddlers, but especially for this year's class of Novices. There are 25+ teams registered Novice for the race. We've enjoyed having some of you at our TCKRA and MAC races over the past year, so I sent our questionnaire to as many teams as I could locate (and added a photo if I had one) so we could get to know them, be ready to cheer for them, and encourage them. Good luck to all the teams racing to Seadrift this year!

Boat Crew 2 (in honor of David Goggins) who has inspired & motivated our trainings

Boat # 4 – Cody Hardin-Lago Vista, TX & Chris Withers – Fort Worth aka Cowtown, Panther city, the Fort, Funky Town

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 14th Novice(100th overall) in a time of 7:22:12

Type of Boat: Alumacraft Quetico

Goal: **Cody** - I really want to try and make it between 70-75 hours, but in all honesty I would be happy with any time as long as I receive a patch. Biggest goal is to finish. **Chris**- Def not to die, like Cody said 70-75 hrs would be great. Finishing well will be our ultimate goal here.

How much have you trained? **Cody** - I started rowing Lake Travis daily last year in my kayak. Earlier in the year we switched over to the canoe. We have run almost all of the Safari course down to Victoria recently. We are rowing open lake waters to practice for the bay and rowing whenever we can get together with Shirley (our vessel). I have a lot of experience herding cattle, so that skill may be handy. Mentally I have been training since I could breathe. **Chris** - Riding bicycle and incorporating push up/pull up/ squat/ & core exercises along with nothing but cold showers and regular chiropractor adjustments. Quality whole food nutrition is the foundation in my opinion for any training. As they say "you can never outwork a bad diet."

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: **Cody** - The Prelim was our first race ever, but will not be our last. I do not have any official endurance experiences; however I have been wrestling with nature since I was a child. I spend a lot of time on the water fishing and sailing. When it comes to nature I'm a glutton for punishment and embrace the challenges. **Chris** - not much really on the competition level outside of always having a love for nature and the outdoors. Have had a handful of skydiving jumps, many long distance cycling rides in the Texas heat, & living in Louisiana for 5 years should help when we come up on the gator holes & mosquito factor. A strong swimmer since the age of two & like Cody a glutton for punishment when it comes to life.



What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? **Cody**- Can't mess with success, so naturally SPIZ. Gummies, SIS Gel packs, salted watermelon, salted avocados, salmon, berries, almonds, banana chips, and hopefully other fresh fish our TC catches while waiting on us. **Chris** - drinking high quality H2O by itself or mixed with either beet powder, liquid IV, or the notorious spiz. Will have some Yerba mate and Runa beverages on hand for those pick me ups as well. Maybe even some death wish coffee packets for the night time. Eating salmon, walnuts, pecans, watermelon, bananas, and avocados.

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? **Cody**- My wife (Adrianna) and boys (Hank & Cash) + (as Mel McDaniel would say) a Big Ole Brew **Chris**- I want to be content with only the joy from

completing the challenges to get there themselves but a really really cold beer and a high five from my friend and team mate will be a nice compliment to that being said.

Interesting Training Stories: Cody- There we were portaging, I want to say Martindale Dam, I was standing on the bank holding Shirley (canoe) when I noticed a cottonmouth was slithering under my crocs. Naturally, I jumped and screamed. I was a few inches from landing on a second snake after the jump. The first time we rowed at night. It wasn't 5 minutes after turning on the bow light that we had multiple fish jumping out of water at our canoe. My partner, Chris, locked eyes with one of the watery beast mid flight. Some choice words were yelled by the bow man and he almost flipped the boat. I haven't laughed so hard in a few years. Gut laughing. I also lost a shoe at the beginning of a practice run, thankfully we found a trusty log jam and I found a replacement sandal for rest of the run. p.s. I got my croc back at the end of the day.

Chris - it's all been interesting as I'm very new to canoeing and had only been in one a few times up until deciding to do this. The last row Cody and I did was close to 8 1/2 half miles on cedar creek reservoir lake to train for the bay a bit. We went to this island and back. Approaching the island he commented on how it reminded him of "Lord of the Flies." Upon our return to his truck we were astounded about how many flies were covering his Excursion aka "the Sturgeon" I mean there were flies on every inch of it. The most wild amount you can imagine. Even the antenna had them where there wasn't room for another. Very interesting how we came back to that after his comment. Like he said though too those jumping fish at nighttime threw me off there in the beginning of night which took some major getting use to. This whole training experience has led to meeting some cool people and created new found habits that have led to very positive life changes. I wish everyone well on their journeys and look forward to meeting all who compete. Found this interesting tidbit about flies! <https://hinterlandgazette.com/fly-spiritual-meaning-biblical-and-spiritual-meaning-of-flies/>

River Ramblers

Boat # 11 – Eric Fish – Cypress Tx & Preston Campbell- Friendswood Tx

Goal: 72 Hours Target with a 64 Hour Stretch Goal (also not burning out on day 1)

How much have you trained? Mixed cardio training, resistance bands for shoulders, weights for back, and core work outs. 65 mile row on the Colorado (Texas Colorado).

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: did not race

Type of Boat: Polyethylene

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: Backpacking trips - Ultralight backpacking, typically 15+ miles per day, night hiking, trail runs. **Preston** - Ironman, Solo backpacking in South America. **Eric** - generally just like to make each backcountry trip we do more miserable than the one we just finished.

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Mostly jugs and jugs of water with electrolyte drinks on the side. Going for premade meals for carbs and protein; definitely beef jerky. And toss in some caffeine packets/gu's and some Ibuprofen to get across the finish line feeling good.

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? Whataburger Double Cheeseburger with jalapenos and a ride home.

Interesting Training Stories:

The Turtle Club

Boat # 22 – Marco Lozano - & Alex Szczepaniak- Grew up in Germany & met in MS, now Marco lives in New Braunfels and Alex lives in San Marcos

Goal: 72 Hours!

How much have you trained? Almost every Saturday/Sunday we'll either do one section or double up.

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 8th Novice (86th overall) in a time 6:42:13

Type of Boat: Aluminum

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: Alex is more of the athlete, but I like to think I'm a great swimmer and excellent paddle boarder. SUP!?

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Lots of electrolytes, protein bars, and liquid nutrition.

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? Our wonderful team captains and perhaps a bottle of champagne! As the Turtle Club, we jokingly like to think that we will be fashionably late to the

finish line.

Interesting Training Stories: Once we doubled up on sections from Staples to Palmetto without a flashlight and had a bit of panic paddle when it started getting dark. Learned our lesson real fast! Another funny story is when we started feeling too confident just before flipping the boat to reset our pride!



Where On the River

Boat # 40 – Gena McKinley & Ellen Gass- South Austin

Goal: Arrive at Seadrift in less than 100 hours. Also, not stepping on an alligator during a night portage. Ellen's goal is to show up at the start line. Anything after that is a bonus! (But for real, I really want to finish!)

How much have you trained? We started training at the top of the year and have put in 380 miles and 90 hours as of the river marathon. Training included lessons from Holly (so, so good!), race segments, and weekday runs at Town Lake.

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 11th Novice (91st overall) in a time 6:46:53

Type of Boat: Alumacraft

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: Ellen hiked most of the Appalachian Trail from Maine to Georgia in 2014 (Gena joined her for a section in the White Mountains). We've both done a number of other races - marathons, triathlons, duathlons, and last-minute adventure races like [Howl at the Moon](#) (where we signed up two days before the race and showed up with crappy bikes, 2 granola bars, and a 6 pack). During the pandemic, we missed racing so much, we ran a home-brewed 24 hour marathon, where we ran 1 mile every hour for 24 hours (2 miles the first 2 runs), so that we had run 26.2 miles in 24 hours. We are always excited about a new adventure!



What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Breakfast tacos, backpacking meals, spiz, snacks, snacks, and more snacks! Ellen's favorite backpacking snacks are gummy candy, Fritos, cheese sticks, and Oreos, so I imagine those will be there. Gena likes candy orange slices, fruit, and cliff bars. We played with alternating spiz or a snack every hour on the river marathon, and it worked really well. Way better than the 45 miles practice run, where Ellen was almost crying in the Whataburger drive through she was so hungry and tired afterwards!

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? Ellen would like ice cold beer and Gena would

like solid ground to lay flat upon.

Interesting Training Stories: When we practiced the Bay, we went with another novice team. They were a bit ahead of us and went to the old race finish. When they got there, they basically saw (what looked like to them) us paddling out to sea as we went to the new race finish! They tried to call, but we were having some issues with too much water getting in our boat, so we were bailing and trying not to flip (it got close!) and couldn't answer. Right at that moment, a pod of dolphins starts jumping and playing 10 feet from our boat. So, now we're in the middle of a hairy boat situation but also in a really cool nature moment, while unbeknownst to us, our friends are kind of freaking out on shore! P.S. We finished the bay just fine.

Fainting Goats

Boat # 482 – Craig Ahlhorn & Luis Briones- Friendswood Tx (Wedgewood Village, to be exact!)

Goal: 1) Finish 2) Have Fun 3) Be Competitive, in that order.

How much have you trained? Four Years. Four years ago we were signed up for the Texas Water Safari and 2 Weeks before the race a fainting spell, car crash and surgery curtailed us. In retrospect, it was a blessing as it gave us our team name and the time we needed to better appreciate the true nature of this race. Over the years we have trained hard, improved our technique, outfitted our boat and listened to anyone experienced that would talk to us.

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 1st Novice (48th overall) in a time 5:54:13

Type of Boat: Alumacraft Voyager

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: Lots of MACs, Prelims, couple of TWO's, etc. but nothing like the TWS. Closest thing I've done to this level of intensity and commitment has been getting my Black Belt and Marriage.

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Spiz, Breakfast Tacos, Peanut Butter Crackers, Grapes and anything our amazing TC's offer us.

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? My wife hugging and kissing me while she hands me a Texas Beer Company Bill Pickett Porter.

Interesting Training Stories: Paddling through an active body search on the Buffalo Bayou, twice!



Witches of the 666

Boat # 666– Kaari Gerber & Kristin Gonzalez - San Marcos, TX 78666 (note the 666 zipcode)

Goal: Finish AND not die!

How much have you trained? Almost We started training for the 2020 safari, so had a couple of good paddles in the "before times." Then we've done some recreational paddles since then. Officially started training January 2022 and going strong!

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 13th Novice (99th overall) in a time 7:15:48

Type of Boat: Aluminum

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: Uhhhhh, we've done a few MAC races.

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? ONLY POTATO CHIPS... just kidding. But we both have been on a potato chip kick on the river.

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? Lots of champagne! (Thanks, Davenport SMTX)

Interesting Training Stories: We have a lot of fun laughing at ourselves. One of the ongoing jokes is how we comment on the sets of stairs leading up to houses (or not) that we pass. "Ohhh, that's a nice set of stairs! Check out *THOSE* stairs!" The first time we portaged Martindale Dam, Kristin felt she needed her hands to get out of the boat and threw her paddle up on shore... only to realize we weren't quite done paddling. So now we always make fun of Kristin and how she throws the one tool she has to get down the river out of the boat. Another favorite is when Kaari (from the stern) yelled "Draw Left!" and Kristin had to make an L with her hands to figure out which way was Left. I think our sense of humor and laughing maniacally at the little things will really keep us going. We also like to Mooooo at all the cows along the way. They're all named "Daisy" btw. And all the baby turtles are named "Franklin."



Oar We There Yet

Boat # 777 – Trent Lowry & Bren Rose- Bren - Moved from KCMO to The Woodlands, TX in August 2021;
Trent – Liberty, MO

Goal: Respectable Novice Finish

How much have you trained? Due to one of us being out of state, our first time in the boat together was the weekend of the River Marathon

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 4th Novice (68th overall) in a time 6:18:46

Type of Boat: Alumacraft Voyager Canoe

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: 2020 MR340 Finish in 49hr 37min

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Water, electrolyte mixes, cold cuts, ramen

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

Interesting Training Stories: We paddled 40 miles through the cuts the day before the Marathon. Ended up running out of water and breaking a paddle during one of the portages. That was a great indicator of what this experience will be like.



Beau Terre

Boat # 832 – Andrew Hurst & Garrett Hurst- Friendswood Tx (in between Houston and Galveston)

Goal: Finish and create memories while pushing our abilities.

How much have you trained? Twice a week for 5 months

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 7th Novice (75th overall) in a time 6:28:01

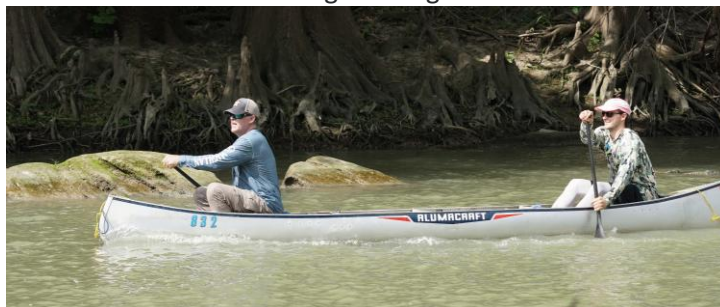
Type of Boat: Alumacraft Voyager

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: No other long distance race experience

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Spiz, Nuts, uncrustables, fruit, and smoked meat

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

Interesting Training Stories: Came across a bald eagle sitting on the bank and boosted our spirits.



Tin N In

Boat # 1099 – Seth Fry & Bryan Moczygemba- Seth-Buda, Bryan-Austin

Goal: Our goal is to finish. Shooting for the 80 hour range

How much have you trained? Off and on this year

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: did not race

Type of Boat: Alumacraft Voyager

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: We were planning to race 2020, but was canceled. Then weren't able to in 2021 due to schedule.

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? As much as possible

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

Interesting Training Stories: Crashed our boat during training and had to have it welded.

Sandy's Sailors

Boat # 1173 – Mason Kleineke & Wyatt Andrews- Cuero, TX

1. **Goal:** Finish the race by 8:00AM on Tuesday so Wyatt can make his 8:00AM class on time.
2. Make sure Holly's boat gets returned in one piece.
3. Showcase our incredible sponsors: Holland & Zimmerman PLLC, O&G Rocks, Pavlicek Farms, Little Corner Ranch, and Duderstadt Leather Company

How much have you trained? We will have paddled ~130 miles of the San Marcos/Guadalupe River in preparation. This has happened throughout the course of 4 weekend training runs between April and June. We are not prepared. But thankfully a fellow Aggie and Texas Water Safarian is helping us have a fighting chance of completing our goal of finishing the race.



Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 10th Novice (89th overall) in a time 6:44:38

Type of Boat: 17' Alumacraft Voyager

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: We had a few camping adventures in Cuero growing up, but these adventures were always on the banks. Our longest endurance involved hiking the Chisos Mountains in Big Bend, which was a battle we barely won

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Wyatt will likely eat about 25 rice krispie treats and Mason will spend most of his time trying to get the contents out of a Gu packet. Outside of those, we plan to rotate in Clif bars, Rx bars, electrolyte packs, beef jerky, and maybe a Whataburger or two.

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

Interesting Training Stories: We have been informed that our paddles were backwards on two separate occasions. We also thought packing 50 pounds worth of camping stuff was a good idea for survival, but it led to the heaviest boat to float the Guadalupe. Finally, we went through the concrete chute on the left of Son of Ottine... the course description says "far left" but evidently it didn't mean that far left. All lessons learned for race day.

Slow Swift

Boat # 1337 – Keith Campros & Cameron Fanning- San Antonio, Tx

Goal: We want to finish in time for the awards banquet.

How much have you trained? We started race training at the end of February when we got our race boat. We had canoed most of the San Marcos river together before we ever entered the race.

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: Did not race

Type of Boat: Alumacraft

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: We did the night race. Cameron and I have been paddling and camping together for a few years.

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Spiz, nuun, real food, junk food and everything in between.

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

Interesting Training Stories: Our boat got hit by a truck. We were on our way to a training session, with the boat on a trailer and got rear ended. It took many hours of hard work to get the boat race ready again.



Undaunted Courage: Expedition to Seadrift

Boat # 1804 (Year Lewis and Clark set out on their Expedition)– **John Sangree & John Herrmann**

Where are you from? John S.- Houston & John H.- Austin

Goal: To voyage and discover the wilderness like Lewis and Clark.... and not die!

How much have you trained? Zero, We haven't. Did Lewis and Clark train to cross the continent... I don't think so?

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: Did not Race.

Type of Boat: Alumacraft 14'

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: Buffalo Bayou Regatta (2x), MS 150 (2x), Enduring our formative years in Boy Scout Troop 40 in Houston, TX

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Whatever we harvest along the way.... hoping for possum, raccoon, or nutria.

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? Texas cold beer and fried food

Interesting Training Stories: Getting drunk and wiring up a boat



Ship of Fools

Boat # 1927 – Ryan Stewart & Marsh Alkire- Austin

Goal: Finish in 75 hours

How much have you trained? We've been training almost every weekend since mid-February

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 5th Novice (71st overall) in a time 6:20:41

Type of Boat: Alumacraft Explorer

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: Ryan did the Colorado 100 in 2019 preparing for the Safari before the pandemic hit, the Martindale Tri in 2021, and ran the Austin Half Marathon in Feb. 2022. Marsh is new to adventure and endurance racing but loves the exceptional difficulty and challenge of the safari.

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Peanut Butter and Jelly, dried Mangoes, Spiz, beef jerky, protein bars, and maybe a hot meal at one of the checkpoints

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? A margarita - Ryan. A soft place to sleep -Marsh

Interesting Training Stories: Just amazed how you can be absolutely physically broken after a 20+ mile paddle session and within an hour be plotting how you can do better/push harder.



Ride the Lightning

Boat # 1984– Jared O'Brien & Chris Davis

Where are you from: **Jared:** grew up in Louisiana, but lived in a variety of different places, to include Nevada, Florida, Virginia, and Texas, **Chris:** the Boerne, Texas area

Goal: The fish fry on Tuesday!!

How much have you trained? Literally a decade. We've seen the entire course top to bottom and done just about every race in the Central Texas area at some point or other, but for various life reasons have never been able to tackle the Safari.

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 3rd Novice (63rd overall) in a time 6:13:41

Type of Boat: Alumacraft Quetico (the lightweight version)

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: We've spent lots of time together on long distance hikes in the Western US – portions of the Pacific Crest Trail and the John Muir Trail, and in Utah's canyon country. Chris has done a half marathon and the MS150 ride. Jared has done a few half marathons, a full marathon, a 100k run, and the Pike's Peak Ascent half marathon. Given all this, we have a pretty good idea of how we'll feel after 12-15 hours. We have absolutely no clue how we'll feel after 75!

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? We'll keep it simple. Hourly meals of about 200 calories consisting of such delicacies as peanut butter crackers, Fig Newtons, fruit cups, and Clif Bloks. Water and Gatorade to keep hydrated and the electrolyte balance correct. We've got a couple planned meals of pancakes and ramen at strategic checkpoints that our amazing TCs have volunteered to cook for us.

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? A nice cold IPA!

Interesting Training Stories: We definitely learned most of what we know the hard way, and have come a long way since we started in a rented canoe from UTSA. Some of our favorites have been pinning the canoe on various rocks and rapids on the Guadalupe and San Marcos Rivers, shins bruised on thwarts after ramming underwater obstacles, getting hassled by the Luling police for stealth camping in an attempt to get an early start on a long paddle day, and beer on the river bank after a hard day's paddle.



Aquatic Armadillo

Boat # 1996 – Benjamin West & Stevens Herbst- Austin, Tx

Goal: Under 75 hours and we are getting tattoos

How much have you trained? Weekend trips along the course including one 76 mile paddle. After work trips on Town Lake

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 12th Novice (63rd overall) in a time 6:53:18

Type of Boat: 17' Grumman

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: Avid outdoorsman, backcountry camping and recreational paddling

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Spiz and hopefully a Whataburger from our captain

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

Interesting Training Stories: We were about a mile from the takeout on our first longer training run and a man was enjoying a beer while fishing. We got swept under a tree and Stevens got clotheslined and flew off the boat. The fisherman was rolling around laughing at the whole scene.



South Texas Scalawags

Boat # 2121 – Cody Maddux & Brendon Hale- Cody – Seadrift & Brendon - Victoria

Goal: We will be very satisfied to finish around 80 hours, but mainly just finish

How much have you trained? Roughly 20 hours and some personal training with Holly Orr

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 16th Novice (105th overall) in a time 8:36:11

Type of Boat: Alumacraft

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience:

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Spiz, cliff bars and whatever our team captain can scrape up for us while on the road

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? A cold beer wouldn't hurt!

Interesting Training Stories: Our first time really paddling together was during the prelim race, we had no idea what we were doing. Spent 2 hours fighting each other before we figured out how to kind of keep the boat straight! We would also like to give a big thank you to Nate Tart for helping us secure a canoe that he provided, the TCKRA for a ZRE paddle, Holly Orr for giving us some good training and John Bugge for letting us rent some paddles from him!



Crawdads

Boat # 2344 – Peter Pham & Tony Kusbel- Peter - Houston, Tx & Tony – San Antonio

Goal: **Peter** - Make it out alive and still friends with my partner in 70-74 hours. **Tony** – 74 hour goal. Lots of Friends and family support.

How much have you trained? **Peter** -Not enough. But when we did we made sure it counted. Shout out to Holly Orr with Paddle With Style who helped us through many of our training session. Taught us a lot about how to work as a team and "read" the river. **Tony** – I feel we have trained very little. Peter lives in Houston and I live in San Antonio. This made training difficult but we were super intentional and received lessons from the best of the best...Holly from "Paddle with Style" is amazing. She supplied us with all the tools we need to get it done.



Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 9th Novice (88th overall) in a time 6:44:18

Type of Boat: Aluminum

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: **Peter** - Running 1/2 and full marathons, **Tony** – Peter and I have completed multiple marathons together. I have over 25 years of experience working outside all year in the cold and the heat-pushing my limits the very max.

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? **Peter** - Spiz, Doritos, ramen noodles, anything I can get down in about 10-20 secs. **Tony** – Red Bull and hotdog wieners

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

Interesting Training Stories: Seeing a Bald Eagle on the San Marcos was very exciting. Found so many interesting things on the river like an abandoned kayak, river pot.

River Wolf

Boat # 2351 – Chase Meadors & Chavel Silva- Chase – Bulverde & **Chavel** – San Antonio

Goal: Chase – To Win. **Chavel** - I experienced cardiac arrhythmias in late 2021, had an ablation in December. This is my midlife crisis and I want to be able to prove to myself, I can still do it all. I feel I am near the best shape of my life and want to do something I've never done before. Just want to finish and not die.

How much have you trained? **Chase** - Started rowing a couple of months ago. **Chavel** - I probably should have trained more. Much more. But I did as much as I could with my work and family schedule. Twice a day concept 2 rower and weights. Most days. Since early February. Got out on the water some. 20 miles trek.

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: Did not Race.

Type of Boat:

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: **Chase** - Tough Mudder, 5 day solo backpacking hunting trip in -20 degree temperatures. **Chavel** - Have never done any other endurance race or anything like this before. First time. My experience on the water is limited so will be learning much along the way.

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? **Chase**- Water, Energy drinks, meal replacement shakes (Chavel is in charge of food) **Chavel** - I plan to eat small light snacks primarily peanut butter, protein shakes, amino acid drinks, and gu gel packs. And of course lots of water. Will likely squeeze in a burger or something

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? **Chase** – Cold Beer. **Chavel** - A nice cold beer. And a burger.

Interesting Training Stories: **Chase** – When we purchased our 40 yr old canoe off Craigslist, we wanted to make sure it didn't leak, so we put it in Chavel's pool. He sunk it to the bottom in 5 seconds. He had literally never been in a canoe until that moment. **Chavel** - Chase and I went out for our first on the river training run. Planned to go 20 miles. Made the 20 miles. Only didn't end where we wanted to. Had to have my wife pick us up at a river crossing. Would have been fine, but we had no food with us. Only water. Expected a 3-4 hr run. Ended up 8 hrs in 100* weather. We learned a lot. But made some decent time, even with 200+ portages and extremely low water levels. But we felt good overall of our performance. I didn't feel tired until about 6 hrs in. Mind you, no food. But I was able to still push on fine.

Tug Ol' Buddies

Boat # 3003 – Robert Kliment & Mike Schrader- Rob: Kyle, TX; **Mike:** Fayetteville, AR

Goal: Robert - To finish! **Mike** – Finish with our friendship intact

How much have you trained? **Rob:** Very little, and I mean little. **Mike:** Hero level status (Both of us train consistently.....not for river races.)

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: Did not Race

Type of Boat: Grumman 17'

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: **Rob:** Couple Marathons, **Mike:** several adventure races!

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? **Robert** - Drink the river and eat my friend if supplies run low. **Mike** - Water and Carbs. Lots of water and lots of crackers/cookies/gummy bears, etc. then more water and hopefully, finally, beer.

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? **Robert** - A ride home. **Mike** – My battle buddies

Interesting Training Stories: Mike and I were in the Army together. The whole team was. We did a couple tours overseas and managed to stay friends for years. We live in different states and hardly see each other. When I asked Mike if he would be interested in doing this race he didn't hesitate. The same for our team captains, Bryan and Todd who happily stepped up. We've never trained together and I have very little canoe experience. I'm fully relying on my friends to help me see it through. Even if we don't make it. Still feel blessed to have these guys.

Dang It Gina!

Boat # 4442 – Dale Sigler & Kip Fedora- Waxahachie, Tx

Goal: under 60 hours, Finish, Don't Die

How much have you trained? Very Little

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: DNF

Type of Boat: Old Town 14' Canoe Thermoformed polyethylene

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: **Kip** - none for me **Dale**- has ran some Spartan Races

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Beef Jerky, pickle juice Dried Fruits, water, maybe Whataburger too, and a beer or 4

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

Interesting Training Stories: We have no idea what we are getting ourselves into.

The Stephenson's

Boat # 5668 – Patrick Stephenson & Brady Stephenson- Lockhart, 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:

Give Up Bros

Boat # 5755 – Ryan Hebrink & Michael Watson- Austin, Tx

Goal: Finish alive, preferably in less than 70 hours

How much have you trained? About 420 miles, over 10 sessions.

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: 7th Novice (75th overall) in a time 6:28:01

Type of Boat: 17' Alumacraft Quetico

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: Paddling: Texas Winter One Hundred in 2022, multiple CR100 finishes (Mike), multiple trips such as Devils River. Other - Spartan Obstacle Race in 2021, Mountain climbers, Rock climbers

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? Hammer products: perpetuum, heed, gels, endurolyte pills, Clif Bloks, Crackers, Kind Bars, Trail mix, Beef jerky, Water

What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? A cold beer on dry land with our TCs

Interesting Training Stories: Attacked by monster carp!



Yeah Bouy!

Boat # 6288 – Collin Koonce & Ian Magee- Dallas & Plano

Goal:

How much have you trained?

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: Did not Race

Type of Boat:

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:

Different Strokes

Boat # 7734 – Dick Kuntzman & Ricky Arambula- Round Rock Tx (We are neighbors)

Goal: With any luck, we won't drown and will limp across the finish line sometime Wednesday morning!!

We're really just two giant ogres squeezing ourselves into a canoe and being too stubborn to give up!

How much have you trained? We bought a plastic canoe in early February and started paddling around the lakes around Round Rock around once a week. After a couple 15+ mile trips down the San Marcos, we realized we needed to upgrade to a "real" aluminum canoe in late April and have continued to try to get on the water at least once a week

Prelim Novice Placement/Time: Did not Race.

Type of Boat: Alumacraft Voyager 2 (from Paddle With Style)

Other Race/Adventure/Endurance Experience: This is our first real paddling experience—just hoping to see where the adventure takes us.

What do you plan on eating/drinking during the race? A ton of water and whatever else our amazing team captains bring us and convince us to eat and drink!

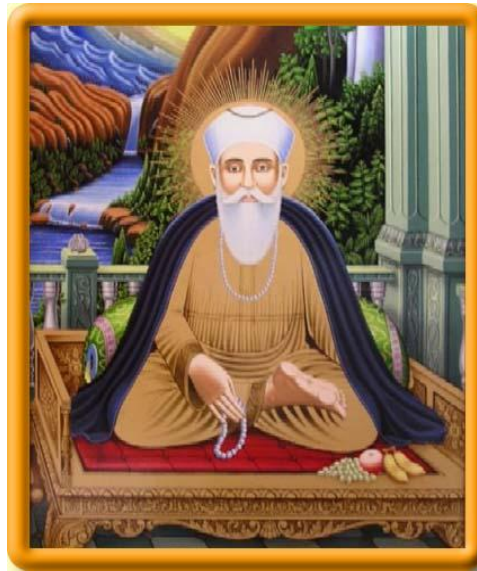
What is the 1 thing you want waiting for you at the finish? Our loving wives and someplace to collapse and sleep for a good, long time!

Interesting Training Stories: From taking a bath at our first minor sweeping corner on the San Marcos, to all the snakes, wild boars and dead cow carcasses we've passed along the way, it's been an adventure so far. We're learning new tips and tricks every time out, and hopefully we'll spend more time in the boat than outside it once the race starts.

Good Luck to you All! We will all be looking forward to seeing you at the finish line!

Palmetto Hotline

River Guru



Hello from National Weather Service headquarters, where yours truly, the **River Guru**, is lobbying hard for searing temperatures, a choppy bay, and flow as weak as an old man's piss in hopes of drumming up the most miserable Texas Water Safari on record.

You can thank me later, when the old-timers try to tell you how hard the race was back in the early days.

In the meantime, the Texas River Marathon is behind us, the most obsessive-compulsive members of the Spiz-swilling paddling community have scouted their routes through the log jams, and the biggest race of the year, the Texas Water Safari, looms.

It's May, obsessive paddle people, and that means it's time to analyze the Prelims and pull out the crystal ball to make a few predictions ...

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Speaking of the Prelims, **Chris and Kyle Issendorf** and his team of wannabes are probably back at home smirking about their win over the other big six-man in the hunt for the top finish. But the only reason the Issendorf boat edged out **Andrew Condie's** crew is because the second-place team stopped to lift their shirts and compare lat muscles.

As **Ricky Bobby** says, if you're not first, you're last.

Mike Buck, Dennis Hall, and Kent Fish were apparently so ashamed of their team mascot, a flock of rubber duckies that they tried to scrape them off in a sweeper along the course. That quacks me up.

West Hansen and **Jeff Wueste** are taking the aging thing hard this year and keep complaining that they're 20 years older than everyone else in their division. (It's OK guys, we've known you were old since back when the Safari was hard.)

And where is this super-fast solo guy named **Andrew McEwan** everyone is talking about? It looks like **Adam Sims** and **Mike Tecci** stepped it up a notch.

Debbie Richardson and her crew - which includes **James Green**, **Pam LeBlanc** and some imaginary out-of-state teammates who apparently chickened out of the Prelim - are whining about starting at the back of the pack on June 11. Get over it.

A bunch of teams went down into the cuts after the race to scout the best way around the log jams. Someone saw a dead alligator, someone else saw a giant (living) alligator, (geesh, people, what do you expect?) and everybody else just wandered around back there like a bunch of lost kittens. (Except **Erin Magee**, she definitely wasn't lost.)

Our advice? Give it up. I've already consulted with **Mother Nature**, and we're going to suck every last drop of water out of the place. Forget Cowboy Cut, forget Three O'clock Cut – forget No-Name cut, the New Cut, or the lake. The only way out of that nightmare will be the Jeep Road. And we're bringing the mosquitoes. Don't count on the river fairies to bring down their chainsaws, either. They gave up on you sad sacks a long time ago.

**

But enough of that; let's get on to the predictions. As we continue to peer into our crystal ball, we can see that some of the teams you might expect to win are going down hard.

The six-man filled by **William Russell** et al will be leading the race going into Victoria, but **Tommy Yonley**, and Faster-Pastor **Tim Rask** will stop paddling to debate the best way to program their GPS units and navigate the log jams. Just as the debate breaks out - Tommy voting for Cowboy Cut and Tim suggesting the Jeep trail - **West Hansen** and **Jeff Wueste** will pull over to settle the matter. Jeff knows it's no use when those two start talking, so he'll just lie down and take a nap.

Logan Mynar's team will forget everything but their paddles. They'll incur a time penalty for leaving their life jackets behind, but despite paddling in the dark, they'll make it first to the bay. There, Ma Nature will greet them with 22 mph winds. With no spray skirt or pumps, they'll try to swim, and 15 teams will pass them.

The **Cowboys**, led by stalwarts **John Mark Harras** and **John Dupont** (and whoever else they convince to sit in their boat on race day), convinced of better living through pharmaceuticals, will try some new drug prescribed by their doctors to keep them at the front of the pack. Look for them picnicking on the bank in Hallucination Alley.

The sirens of the sea will convince **Dodd Yeager**, an old seaman, to keep paddling all the way to the open ocean. **Shannon Issendorf** will tell him he's going the wrong way, but she'll get outvoted. **Virginia Parker** and **Jason Cade**, just trying to keep everyone happy, will keep quiet until they realize Dodd is heading to Miami.

Seldom-crack-a-smile **Andrew "I can't decide if my last name is Davis or Delta"** and his fun-loving teammates will capsize for a swim break and **Bobby Smart's** veteran five-man boat will glide past with ease.

Nathan Tart and **Brian Jones** are a lock for winning the tandem division - until Jones has a flashback when he spots a few carefully placed No Trespassing signs around Mile 240. He'll paddle upstream to speak to a race official, only to realize he hallucinated the whole incident. **Lee Lichlyter's** organizational skills will ensure that he and teammate **Bruce Beall** will finish faster than expected.

Morgan Kohut, who is paddling with **Courtney** and **Ryan Martinez**, will stop to pick up trash and pet her dog, Finnegan. **Dr. David Earnest** will pull over to render aid to **Derrick Lee's** four-man boat when someone complains about an aching tooth. Lucky for them, **Dr. Cohl Brazil** and his recruited novice teammate, **Dr. Peter Pham**, will hear their cry for help and pull up to offer a hand. Soon everyone will realize it was just the side effect of ingesting too much Spiz. And while that

drama unfolds, fellow solo paddlers **Yusuf Johnson** and **Geoff Waters** will glide past. **Will Leads** and **Joel “Baby Daddy” Truitt** will stop in Palmetto for a quick shower, and no telling where **Adam Sims** has gone.

Midway through the race, **Salli O’Donnell** will finally realize that she’s spent 85 percent of her life sitting in a kayak with giant blisters on her hands, and will make a concerted effort to adjust that ratio to 50-50 by taking an extended break. You can find her on shore. “Already-spent-a-scary-night-in-the-log-jams”, **Martha Adame**, now has every tree and cut memorized and will speed through like she’s driving down a four-lane freeway headed towards the nearest Buc-ees. Not far behind her, you’ll find **Kim Kaiser** and “I-May-Be-New-But-I-Have-Zip-Tied-and-Duct-Taped-My-Boat-Back-Together-and-Still-Paddled-It” **Katie Bee**.

Novice teams coming are coming in from everywhere. What is a "novice paddler" anyway? I see that **Trent Lowry and Bren Rose** practically won the MR340 - but we all know that little bitty race ain’t nothing compared to the Texas Water Safari.

And the Fainting Goats - aka **Luis Briones** and **Craig Ahlhorn** - appear ready for their much-delayed debut, based on their first-place novice finish at the Texas River Marathon. You’ll smell their musk before you see ‘em.

In the standard category, I’m not quite sure... Will **Jay Daniel** and **Tim Curry's** shiny new top-notch boat hold off “Never-Miss-A-Safari” **John Bugge** and **Joe Mann**, or will their matching beards create too much wind resistance and slow them down? Time will tell. **David McGonagill** and **Sean Rommel** will no doubt take the prize for the best patriotic matching shirts award. I fully anticipate to see a full-size Texas flag waving proudly off the stern of their canoe, or maybe some buzzards.

We are still trying to figure out why Colton Moore would rather do a stand-up-paddle-board than his shark solo unlimited boat?

The Guru is predicting the mixed teams will clean house this year.

Brother and sister team of **Josh** and **Susanna Hulin**, while new to the Safari, grew up together in a canoe. They will claim the C2 win.

In the aluminum class, **Daniel Driver** and **Brother Mr. Sam Driver**, will pick banjos and sing their way down the river. They may not be fast in their trusty aluminum, but they sure do have fun! **Joe** and **Libby Geisinger**, racing aluminum this year, are no strangers to the race. Only after **Micah Wheeler** shows them how to navigate the log jams, will they snatch the aluminum cup (like the one Joe brought to Texas from the MR340 last year).

In the mixed class, **Brenda Jones** will stop for a hair appointment in Victoria and **Keifer Mauldin** will need to make a few calls.

Heather Harrison and **Holly “A Tornado Can’t Take Me Down” Orr** told their boys the 260-mile race would be "fun." That will mean stopping at rope swings and getting ice cream handoffs from their team captains. But when the cartoon characters come out at night, look for the Mamas to put the boys to bed and drop the hammer. (And if you can’t tell Heather and her son Cameron apart because they have matching ponytails, you’re not alone.)

And finally, **Sam Binion** knows paddling the Safari is a piece of cake compared to chasing four kids around all day. She’ll get the best sleep she’s had in three years during a 15-minute nap in Victoria. Then she and **Vance Sherrod** will paddle on, not saying much to anyone, just nodding and grinning as they move up to the front of the pack to claim the first-place cup.

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.