

NEWSLETTER

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE



December, 2021

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Questions? Want to contribute to the newsletter?

Patty Geisinger at pattyjoeg@sbcglobal.net

Membership:

New Membership Benefits! New this year—sign up for Auto-Renew!

Please consider joining or renewing for 2022! Membership must be renewed now and now we have the option to make your membership Auto-Renew to make your life much easier! The link to the website is below. Fill out the form and submit at your chosen level. You will receive 2 vinyl TCKRA stickers, a 2022 TCKRA Fridge Magnet Calendar, a free parking pass for shuttle setting only at the new Fentress Amigos Beach and at San Marcos River Retreat (the Goynes), the annual banquet and the TCKRA Newsletter before everyone else! 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 [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 2022 TCKRA fridge magnet calendar
- A 2022 TCKRA parking pass(for setting shuttles only) at Fentress Amigos Beach and the 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.

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

Follow us on Instagram: https://www.instagram.com/tckra_/

2022 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



Letter from the TCKRA President

Nate Tart

I'm honored to be part of a great organization dedicated to promoting paddle sport racing and environmental stewardship of our waterways in the State of Texas. When I moved to Texas in 2005, it took me 4 years to discover that there was a small community of folks that absolutely LOVE canoe and kayak racing. I too was hooked! Thousands of race miles later and some great friendships, I can't imagine a life without this community. I look forward to seeing familiar faces, new names, and great racing in 2022. See you on the river.

2022 Race Calendar

(Editor's Note: Due to the nature of the Covid pandemic, many spring races are still unconfirmed: We will continue to update the 2022 Race Calendar as soon as information on the races becomes available.) [Upcoming Races and Events](#)

Jan. 2nd – Ho Ho Ho- Gonzo to Hochheim: Erin Magee, 8am start time (subject to change)

Jan. 23rd–Town Lake Series, Fiesta Gardens, Austin 9am (Jan 30, Feb 13, Feb 20)

Jan. 29th– Texas Winter 100K (TWO), Town Lake to Bastrop, 5 am/7am/Sup start-Noon

Feb. 12th – Safari Seminar, TBD

Mar. 5th – Buffalo Bayou Regatta, Houston, start times and format--TBD

Mar. 13th – **TCKRA Spring Break Open:** Fentress to Luling 90, 10am

Mar. 19th – Spring River Clean up, San Marcos

Mar. 20th –MAC #1 City Park to Spencer's Campground (please pay the day use fee)

Mar. 26th – Greens Bayou Canoe and Kayak Classic, Houston

Mar. 27th – MAC #2 Staples Bridge to Luling 90

Mar. 27th – TCKRA ICF Marathon State Championships

Fall River Clean Up

Holly Orr

Clean up, clean up, everybody did their share! Clean up, clean up all the rivers, everywhere. Thank you to the dedicated paddlers who came and volunteered for the annual Fall TCKRA River Clean Up. The calendar was so full so that we weren't able to have a set day! Instead we are encouraged everyone to get out on do an "On your own Clean-up" the first few weeks of November! You can always do a 5 minute clean up while you are paddling!!



Annual TCKRA Banquet

Shannon Issendorf & Kaitlin Mynar

Great job and big kudos to Shannon Issendorf and Kaitlin Mynar for organizing a terrific end of year TCKRA banquet! We dined on BBQ and Ginsie Stauss made some delicious veggie kabobs!! The ladies created some super fun awards and gave us a relaxing evening with a slideshow from Sandy Yonley, a campfire from our gracious hosts of Tom and Paula Goynes, a few fireworks, and time to visit and linger with our paddling community! We honored Jill Mulder as Volunteer of the Year!

Membership in the TCKRA is your invitation to the banquet at the end of each paddling year!



Race Reports

Open Water State Championship

Tommy & Sandy Yonley

2021: For the TCKRA Open Water State Championships, we usually have SE wind and waves and run an out and back loop course through the waves; but with wind and swell from the N/NE, we ran a downwind course along the beach. Although we've had this type of course before, with reasonably easy downwind surfing, this time catching waves was quite challenging!

2021 Open Water Championships			
1 hr 16 min	Benjamin Beck	1st OCl	
1 hr 16 min	Tommy Yonley	1st Surfski	
1 hr 21m 48sec	Jackson Lau	2nd OCl	
1 hr 22m 10sec	Hau Pham	3rd OCl	
1 hr 24 min	Gaston Jones	2nd Surfski	
1 hr 27 min	Mark Zlomke	1st OCl Masters 50+	
1 hr 34 min	Su Boone	1st Women's OCl	
1 hr 37 min	Matthew Murphy	3rd Surfski	
1 hr 52 min	Tina Burgos	1st OCl Women's Masters 50+	
1 hr 53 min	Mike Gordon	2nd OCl Masters Men 50+	
1 hr 53 min	Douglas Chavarria	1st SUP	
1 hr 55 min	Michael Mathews II	4th Surfski	
1 hr 58 min	Ric Tinney	1st Surfski Masters 50+	
2 hr 7 min	Jimmy Mooney	2nd Surfski Masters 50+	
2 hr 10 min	Aaron Olds	3rd OCl Masters 50+	
2 hr 21 min	Annie Ginnett	2nd OCl Women's Masters 50+	

Dickinson Bayou Brawl

Sandy Yonley

The 2021 Dickinson Bayou Brawl was held on Saturday, November 6th at Paul Hopkins Park in Dickinson, Texas. It was a perfect fall day! A great time was had by all. We think the kids had the most fun of all!



2021 Dickinson Bayou Brawl Adult Race Results			
Saturday, November 6			
Dickinson, Texas			
~4.83 Miles			
Overall	Finish Time	Name	Class Placement
1st	36:24	Tommy Yonley	1st Men's Solo
2nd	43:01	Don Wallis	1st Men's Masters Solo
3rd	45:06	Robin Lashway	2nd Men's Solo
4th	45:10	Teddy Gray and Jackson Lau	1st Mixed Tandem
5th	47:44	Tave Lamperez and Joey Sturm	1st Men's Tandem
6th	48:12	Martin Blue	1st Women's Solo
7th	50:09	Rong Mercado	2nd Men's Masters Solo
8th	51:30	Jay Berger	3rd Men's Solo
9th	51:40	Linh Do and Eric Whicker	2nd Mixed Tandem
10th	52:20	Gwen Hills	2nd Women's Solo
11th	52:45	Steve Dawson and Barry Tse	2nd Men's Tandem
12th	52:49	Donna Layton and Jeff Davis	3rd Mixed Tandem
13th	54:35	Mark Duvall	1st Men's SUP
14th	58:30	Joel Truitt, Andrew Heard, and Kiddo	3rd Men's Tandem
15th	59:00	Huang Pham	1st Men's Masters SUP
16th	59:15	Morris Paillet	2nd Men's SUP
17th	59:23	Karel Vanlookeren	3rd Men's Masters Solo
18th	59:42	Doug Crum	Men's Masters Solo
19th	1:02:06	Frank Gray and Lauren Wallace	Mixed Tandem
20th	1:02:22	Jimmy Mooney	2nd Men's Masters SUP
21st	1:03:46	Douglas Chavarria	3rd Men's SUP
22nd	1:09:44	Richard Longeras	Men's SUP

2021 Dickinson Bayou Brawl Youth Race Results			
Saturday, November 6			
Dickinson, Texas			
Teams C2 Race			
Overall	Team	Time	
1st	Randal Lee	8:05	
2nd	Ashley Hosamooi	9:40	
3rd	Kayden Layton	10:03	
4th	Christian Cortez	10:13	
5th	Eden Yonley	10:13	
6th	Stephen Griggs	10:52	
Girls C2 Race			
Overall	Team	Time	
1st	Mary Cortez	8:57	
2nd	Jane Yonley	7:55	
3rd	Katherine Yonley	8:27	
4th	Elizabeth Brady	9:00	
Boys C2 Race			
Overall	Team	Time	
1st	Shaffer Kittle	9:09	
2nd	Benjamin Harnermann	9:56	
3rd	Ryan Brady	8:37	
4th	Joseph Lacombe	10:19	
5th	Colton Hartnett	10:38	
War Canoe Race			
Overall	Team	Time	
1st	Shaffer Kittle	13:06	
2nd	Ashley Hosamooi	13:37	
3rd	Katherine Yonley	16:10	
4th	Christian Cortez	20:00	
5th	Eden Yonley	25:00	



Photos by Sandy Yonley



43rd Martindale Triathlon

Patty Geisinger & Sandy Yonley



The 43rd Annual Martindale Tri had a huge turn-out for 2021! Lots of Tri-athletes discovered our little race after many of their races were cancelled. It was great to have so many fast runners and bikers! But the Paddlers did still win the day!

Almost perfect racing conditions of a cool morning gave way to a gorgeous afternoon. The run went great, but the bike course had some tough sections with a newly chip-sealed section causing a bit of havoc! Recent rains and high water caused an ugly jam at the Staples Bridge but everyone was able to safely navigate that on river left!



A return to a post race meal and awards ceremony was very welcome! The door prize drawing was especially exciting as the Amodio's had donated a wing blade! Thank you to everyone who came out to race, volunteer, or sponsor our beloved Tri!



San Marcos Dec. Solos

Jay Daniel

Thanks to Jay Daniel for putting on another great San Marcos December Solo race this year. The course was modified due to the construction at Rio Vista: it was upstream from the Goynes' campground (San Marcos River Retreat) to Cummings Dam, then downstream to Staples. The weather was great--and the birthday celebration was a success.

2021 Goynes' Birthday Bash							
San Marcos Solo Results							
Position	Name	Start Time	Finish Time	Split	Split Position	Boat Type	Special Recognition
1	Chris Issendorf	10:25 AM	11:59:17	1:34:17	1	SU	Fastest Split, SU, and Master
2	Chuck Scheidt	10:05 AM	12:02:34	1:57:34	5	SU	Fastest Senior
3	Shannon Issendorf	10:00 AM	12:09:02	2:09:02	8	SU	Fastest Female
4	Gaston Jones	10:20 AM	12:09:50	1:49:50	2	SU	
5	Chris Bailey	10:15 AM	12:10:50	1:55:50	4	SU	
6	Austin Bodin	10:00 AM	12:10:53	2:10:53	9	SU	
7	Garrett Jones	10:00 AM	12:12:58	2:12:58	11	USCA	Fastest USCA
8	Will Leeds	10:20 AM	12:13:05	1:53:05	3	SU	
9	Richard Zambrina	10:00 AM	12:14:40	2:14:40	12	USCA	
10	Daniel Baumbach	10:05 AM	12:17:53	2:12:53	10	SU	
11	David Earnest	10:20 AM	12:18:21	1:58:21	6	SU	
12	Jay Berger	10:00 AM	12:18:40	2:18:40	15	SU	
13	Jason Cade	10:20 AM	12:20:31	2:00:31	7	ICF	Fastest ICF
14	John Dupont	10:05 AM	12:21:50	2:16:50	14	SU	
15	Tim Curry	10:15 AM	12:30:00	2:15:00	13	SU	
16	Drew Holmes	9:30 AM	12:34:00	3:04:00	16	Rec	Fastest Rec
17	Norm Thomas	9:30 AM	DNF		17	SU	

2022 Upcoming Races

Ho Ho Ho Gonzo to Hochheim

January 2nd, 2022

8 a.m. (subject to change)

This annual tradition is the creation of Erin Magee. She invites you to come out and usher in the New Year on the river! Temp, Water Level, Details to follow as we close in on the date. Details will be shared on the FB forums. BIG RED BUS - generously Possum Belly is in the run and running the shuttle. Red Bus holds 11 max in the interior....might be able to strap a couple of people on the canoe rack - LOL NOT! Shuttle is for one person per team, no gear. If you want a seat in the Big Red Bus, to hear the stories of Safari's past on the 20 miles up to Gonzo.....email quickblade14@hotmail.com.



12th Texas Winter 100K (TWO)

January 29th, 2022

5 am/7am/noon

West Hansen

www.texaswinter100k.com

It's hard to believe our little race is 12 years old. It started with simple on-line discussion about the gap in canoe races from December to March and now, along with several more races helped established Texas as a winter/spring racing destination. During the 2021 TWOk, we experimented with an Adult/Child division, which is being formalized for the 2022 race, along with the permanent status of the SUP division for the long course. Though the SUP division is in the Competitor classification, start times for the SUP 62-mile course will begin at the same time as the Adventure divisions. The Adult/Child course goes from the FM 969 Bridge at Utley, to the finish line at Fisherman's Park in Bastrop and starts at noon, the same starting time as the 14.5-mile SUP race. Any racer younger than 16-years old will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis, so please contact race management to be sure your sub-16-year-old racer can enter.

REGISTRATION: Please register here: <http://www.texaswinter100k.com/registration.html>. Last day to register is Thursday, January 27th. There will be NO registrations after the Active registration closes at midnight. NO Exceptions!

PADDLE WITH STYLE TRAINING: Holly Orr will be bringing trailer and training skills to the TWOk this year with a training session on Town Lake and another session on the race course. She charges a very reasonable fee for some very valuable skills, especially if you're a new racer.

Jan 8th - Flat water lesson on Town Lake. Ideal for first year racers or those looking to tweak and improve.

Jan 15th – TWOk race course on-river lesson. Section: to be determined. For more information and to sign up contact: www.PaddleWithStyle.com or email Holly at: paddlewithstyle@yahoo.com

SUP RACE NUMBERS: We finally have race number placards that will be taped to the bow decks of the paddle boards. The numbers will be handed out at the registration or start of the races. Please return them to race staff at the finish line to be reused next year.

CANOE/KAYAK NUMBERS: Will be given to teams at check-in or the start. Please remember that it is more difficult to apply the numbers in the damp morning of the race, so some extra duct tape may be needed.

FINISH CHOW: Jeannette Burris has once again graciously stepped up to provide hot food for racers, supporters, friends and family members at the end of the race. Please remember, that all race officials are volunteers so please show them appropriate courtesy.

SWAG: Finisher swag this year will be dry bags with the TWOk logo and all entrants will get the ever-popular long sleeve technical race shirts. These will be not be available at the start—must be picked up at the finish!

CHECK-IN: Race check-in, orientation, questions/answers and the raffle will once again be at the Holiday Inn Town Lake location, beginning at 4:30 on Friday, January 28th with the talk and raffle at 7:00 p.m. For those unable to attend, the orientation will be available via Zoom and any raffle items not picked up on Friday night will be available at the race finish line in Bastrop. A Zoom link will be emailed to all entrants and posted on social media prior to the meeting. **In order to be eligible for the prize at the meeting, the participant MUST be present either in person at the meeting or via Zoom. If they do not reply that they are there, we will draw another name for the prize.**

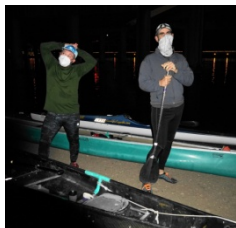
MORNING OF RACE: Participants must physically check in that they are present. This is not to pick up swag or registration. This is just to let us know WHO is there to start the race so we can keep track.

COVID-19 PRECAUTIONS: for all attendants regardless of race status, support status, family member or age – if you are not fully vaccinated with the Johnson/Johnson, Moderna or Pfizer vaccines – PLEASE DO NOT ATTEND the orientation meeting. We will have your packet at the start of the race and if your name is drawn for the raffle, we will have your prize at the race start. We strongly urge those who are fully vaccinated to obtain a booster before the race.

LONGHORN DAM PORTAGE: My uncle Johnny Nielsen and his wife, Sue, have for 11 years volunteered to be in charge of setting up and taking down the Longhorn Dam portage at the end of Town Lake. They've done this on their wedding anniversary each year and have finally decided to take a well-deserved break. I'm deeply grateful for their sacrifice and efforts. Now, we're looking for someone to fill their shoes. For any interested parties, please send me an email so we can discuss the duties – which require a short amount of time, but are very important for the racers.

west@westhansen.com

WEATHER and WATER FLOW: As always we expect perfect weather and ideal water conditions for the race, both of which are guaranteed or the race will go on anyway.



Town Lake Series
Sundays Jan. 23rd, Jan. 30th, Feb 13th & 20th 2022
John Baltzell



2022 Town Lake Race Series Schedule

The Town Lake race series 2022 will once again be a handicapped series, 10km each race with different routes, though we will introduce different class emphases on particular dates. All hulls/classes are welcomed and will be raced each weekend. As a reminder the first class (race) starts at 10:00am registration opens at 9:00am. The race start and finish is located at the festival beach boat ramp on the east side of I 35. Numbers will be provided and there is no entry fee.

Jan. 23rd: *Solo unlimited/K1

Jan. 30th: *OC1/C1

Feb. 13th: *Tandem unlimited/K2/ C2

Feb. 20th: *Adult/Child Start at 9:00am, 10:00am Reg. Handicaps, Post race potluck.

Town Lake Handicaps (10km)

*Female SUP/Rec. Solo (anything plastic) 10:00am

*Rec. Tandem/Aluminum (First time paddler's) 10:02am

*Female C-1/OC1 10:04am

*Female Solo Unlimited (Safari style hull)/Male SUP14' 10:06am

*Female C-2/Female V8 Pro 10:08am

*Male C-1/Pro Aluminum 10:09am

*Male OC1/Fast Sea Kayak/PRS Ski 10:10am

*New to C2 Male 10:11am

*Female K1 (ICF)/Mixed C2 10:12am

*Male Solo Unlimited (Safari Style Hull) 10:16am

*Male V8 Pro 10:18am

*OC-2/Tandem Unlimited/Fast Male C2 10:19am

*Male Surfski 10:20am

*Male K1 (ICF) 10:21am

*K2 (ICF) / Multi-man (Safari Style Hull 3-6 man) 10:22am

See you on the Water

John

TCKRA Spring Break Open

Saturday, March 13th, 2022 10 a.m., Amigos Beach at Fentress

The TCKRA invites you to open the 2022 racing season with a 14 mile race on the San Marcos River. On March 13th, the **Spring Break Open** will start at 10:00am at Fentress Bridge and finish at Luling 90 River Trail Park. We will post driving and parking directions on our Facebook page as we get closer to the event. Race registration will be available both online and day of race. Please visit www.tckra.org to register for the race or on race day beginning at 8:30am. All Solo and Tandem hulls are welcome so BYOB (Bring your own Boat) and we'll see you on the river!

Awards will be given out to top three Female, top three Male, and top three Aluminum winners.

Race Fee's: \$20/racer



2021 MAC Spring racing schedule

Brought to you by Kaitlin Mynar and the Martindale Athletic Club, the annual MAC races are held along sections of the San Marcos River. The intention behind this series is to get folks into a racing mindset, to race how they train, to test equipment and begin their training season!

It is also a lot of fun competition with friends!

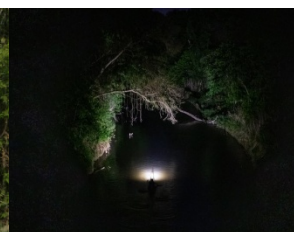
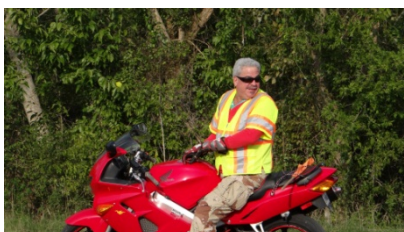
Race 1: City Park to Spencer's Campground (highly subject to change with the work being done at Rio)
Sunday, March 20th, 10 a.m.

Race 2: Staples to Luling 90
Sunday, March 27th, 10 a.m.

Race 3: Luling 90 to Palmetto State Park (be sure to secure a Palmetto day use pass)
Sunday, April 3rd, 10 a.m.

Race 4: *Mike Simmons Memorial Night Race*

Palmetto State Park to Gonzales (Pay for parking at Palmetto and gates lock so make appropriate arrangements
Saturday April 23rd, this race involves staggered starts at 5:30pm, 6:30pm and 7:30pm



Fireside Chats with Tom Goynes

Early on during the pandemic, Tom Goynes began sharing some of his Safari stories on his facebook page. With the loss of Safari that year, everyone missed out on the yearly ritual of sharing stories after the race. So with Tom's blessing, we hope to continue sharing with everyone some of his legendary Safari stories.

"I just got word today that Mike Wooley, my Safari partner from 1970, died last week. So, I wrote this memory in his honor." From Tom Goynes facebook post on July 28th, 2021

In 1970 I raced the Texas Water Safari with Mike Wooley. In those early days of the race, teams were not given food or water. You had the option of hunting or fishing for your food or taking it with you from the start. And you could either get your water out of the river or, if you could find a hydrant somewhere (and the owner didn't shoot you) you were allowed to drink that water. Most folks drank river water and purified it with Halazone tablets. As I understand, these tablets produce chlorine gas and that is what kills all the bad stuff in the water. I learned, during this particular race, that chlorine gas can also kill people. One chemist I talked to later said he always used half the recommended dosage of Halazone, waited twice the amount of recommended time for the chemicals to do their thing, and then carefully opened the lid of the drinking container and blew away the chlorine gas before ever taking a drink. You really didn't want to breathe in that chlorine. Remember, we had technology back in those days. Heck, we had just sent some guys to the moon and back.

I should digress just a bit and talk about a giant of a man named John Evans. Don't get me wrong - there are a lot of guys nowadays who have plenty of muscles. But John had more than his share. His plan was to win the Water Safari and then climb Mt. Everest later that year. And I kinda felt like he could run all the way to the top if he felt like it. John was teamed with a guy named Bob Mitchell. I wouldn't say that Bob was the brains of the outfit (mostly because I would be too concerned about what John might do to me if he were to read this) but let's just say that Bob was mighty smart to pick John as a partner. I've noticed that the Michiganders tend to team up like this - a monster of a guy in the bow and a smaller version of a monster in the stern. Kinda like Tom Goynes and Pat Oxsheer. Or Tom Goynes and Jim Trimble and Pat Oxsheer. Or Tom Goynes and Red Motley. I'll let you figure out who the monsters were.

So anyhow, back in the summer of 1970 (and it musta been kinda close to the date of the Safari) the landowner of the property on the left side of the river at the famous logjam (30 minutes downstream of the railroad bridge and about the same time upstream of the salt water barrier) decided that he would build a road along the river and put a berm between the logjam and that road to keep the river from trespassing on his property. So he dredged out a ditch and used that dirt to build his berm. All in all, it was a muddy mess. But if you had the wisdom to check out that section of river (mind you, neither the internet, nor GPS, nor Facebook had been invented, so you actually had to go look at things in person) you learned that you could drag your canoe from the take out (where the logjam started) to that ditch, put into that ditch, and paddle to the secret spot where you needed to exit the ditch and drag back to the river.

Mike and I actually practiced this section of river and discovered all these wonderful things. Bob and John, unfortunately, did not. And, I have to confess to you right now, that I wasn't entirely truthful when, right before the gun went off, Bob asked me if I knew anything about the rumors that he had heard about the logjam. I alluded to the fact that there was lots of mud, at least one mosquito, and all kinds of dozer work. But I probably left out some details. I have been bothered by this omission for years, but now, having written about it, I somehow feel better.

But, back to the Halazone.

Once Mike and I reached Victoria, he assured me that he knew of a water hydrant, close to the river, in Victoria City Park, with some of the best tasting water in Texas. Since the river water had already developed

a less than desirable flavor by that time, I agreed to let him search for that elusive hydrant. We stopped numerous times and never found it. So, once we reached the Moody Street Bridge in downtown Victoria (and right about where the power plant dumped their cooling water back into the river to add some thermal energy and more flavor) we reluctantly filled our drink jugs with heated Guadalupe River water. Racers today don't know just how much warmer the river could get when the Central Power and Light Company was using river water to cool its plant. But, let's just say that the water, which was already kinda tepid, got downright hot. And then, I'm kinda thinking that there might have been a downtown sewage treatment plant somewhere in the area... So the water was a whole lot worse below the Moody Street Bridge than it had been at the boat ramp - where I had wanted to refill my jug. But, I'm not going to dwell on that... The water looked pretty bad, so we doubled the dosage of Halazone. And we were mighty thirsty, so we waited half the recommended time. And we were blissfully unaware of the chlorine gas so we didn't blow it away. Instead we guzzled that water (and gas) right down. I even remember chewing up a little lump of something - but I assumed it had to be a bug and not a Halazone tablet. Bugs were kinda common. Sometime later, I noticed that Mike sounded a whole lot like Donald Duck. So much so that I died laughing (well, almost). Then I regained my composure enough to tell him why I was laughing and realized that I sounded like Donald as well.

I just Googled our symptoms today and found this description of our malady: "Vocal Cord Dysfunction after an Inhalation Exposure." I suppose the chlorine gas had about the same effect as breathing helium and then entertaining your guests. With the added benefit of making it mighty hard to breathe.

Anyway, we laughed and Donald Ducked our way to the logjam, oblivious to the fact that we were both having a near death experience. Once we got out to portage the canoe into the ditch, we realized that something was terribly wrong. We could only move the canoe a couple of feet at a time and then we had to roll around in the mud for a few minutes to regain our composure.

So we would count - sounding just like Donald: won too twee and then we would fall forward and inch the canoe toward the secret ditch. After what seemed like an eternity (and a whole bunch of maniacal laughter) we got the canoe into the ditch and began paddling toward the secret take out. That's when we saw John and Bob's canoe. Even though we had been hours behind them, there was their canoe. They had lifted it partially out of the ditch, the light was on and pointing toward Scorpio, and they were evidently off somewhere looking for the end of the logjam.

Here was our big chance to secure second place! Fair and square! We figured that it was hopeless to catch the Canadian team of Luc Robillard and Claude Corsule (I have to say that I'm not sure about the spelling of Claude's last name, but he was another one of the monsters I talked about earlier). Luc and Claude had been about 6 hours ahead of us the last time we had a report. So we figured they had taken showers and were in bed by now.

So we crept by and paddled to our secret take out. But, once again, that is when our problems returned. No longer able to maintain our stealth mode, we began counting to twee, pulling the boat two feet and then falling into the mud in a fit of laughter. Bob and John heard the commotion. They walked up and looked down at us; not the least bit entertained by our ability to talk like Donald. I just remember them looking down their noses like we were a couple of dying bugs. Bugs that had withheld valuable information at that. They didn't say much. Didn't laugh. All they did was walk in the direction that we were pointing and they found our secret put in. In no time they had gone back to their boat, paddled and drug it past us and back to the River and they were gone.

Back in third place. And still near death.

Oh well, the good news is that Luc and Claude spent their six hour lead paddling from the logjam down to the salt water barrier and back to the logjam. They were sure that they were supposed to go through a final

checkpoint before they reached salt water. And there are lots of rivers to check out between the logjam and the salt water barrier if you are trying to find Tivoli.

So, we did, in fact, finish second place. And we eventually got our voices back. And, if I ever want to talk like Mickey Mouse or Donald Duck, I'm gonna use helium this time.

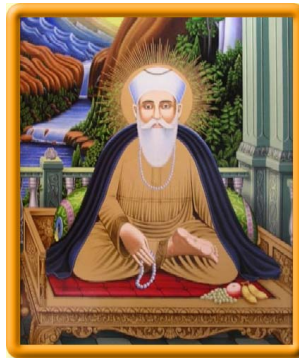
The Safari is open to anyone. You don't have to be crazy to enter. But you will probably be crazy by the finish line.

Tom



Palmetto Hotline

River Guru



Palmetto Hotline

December 2021

Greetings inferior racers!

I wish I had more to report but I have been enjoying the offseason before I start training to wipe the floor with you all during the 2022 race season. As far as predictions go, I am expecting low water (1984, 2009, 2011 levels) and I have also heard rumors of 2 contending 6 man teams in addition to a 4 man. It might actually be more than just a 2 horse race this year. If top 5 is your goal, you'd better be out training now until race day or be in a multi-man team with above average paddlers. I will have more to report in the next newsletter.

See you on the river!

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.