

# TEXAS CANOE RACING ASSOCIATION

JUNE 2008

PROMOTERS AND ORGANIZERS OF THE SPORTS SINCE 1971



*TCRA Spring River Clean Up*

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<http://txcanoeracing.org/>

# 2008 TCRA Officers, Board Members and Committee Chairs

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Richard Steppe

### Web

Cindy Meurer

### Club T-Shirts

### Constitution & Bylaws

Bob Spain

### Race Directors

Unlimited Tommy

Yonley

USCA Grady Hicks

USCA-Youth Frank Gray

Aluminum Bob Spain

Pete Binion

ICF John Baltzell

Martindale Cindy Meurer

Ann Best

Teddy Gray



## President's Message

### June 2008

The Water Safari is upon us and our thoughts are dominated by preparation and training for this marathon event. In fact, the race may be over by the time some of you are reading this. This is a good opportunity to thank everyone involved for their contribution, effort and dedication. The Texas Water Safari provides a paddling venue to test skills with whatever you choose to paddle and with whomever you paddle with, including yourself. While the Water Safari is independent of the TCRA, over the years it has served to introduce many a family to the sport of canoe racing. There is no race like the TWS. Not just in America but, in the world.

### Aluminum Nationals

The 40th Annual United States Canoe Association (USCA) Aluminum Canoe Marathon Championships are coming to Bastrop, Texas on Saturday the 27th of September. The races will be held on the Colorado River and all are encouraged to attend regardless of skill level. The TCRA is planning a reception on Friday night, a paddling clinic on Saturday afternoon and a banquet on Saturday night with guest speaker, Peter Heed, marathon canoe champion and noted author of, *Canoe Racing*. Peter will discuss the sport, be available to sign copies of his book and will host the paddling clinic on Saturday afternoon.

There is a **C-2 Pro race** scheduled for Sunday morning paying ten places. Please monitor the TCRA web site for additional details. The LCRA is providing discount lodging at its McKinney Roughs

facility over the weekend\*\*

### Banquet

On September 27, following the Aluminum Nationals and other activities at the Nature Fest, a banquet will be held at 7:30pm for racers, their families and local paddlers, guests and other interested parties at McKinney Roughs Environmental Learning Center. The Center is 9 miles west of Bastrop on Hwy 71. Following the meal, Peter Heed, noted marathon and whitewater national canoe racing champion, will speak. Peter is nationally known for his canoeing and his book, *Canoe Racing: the Competitors Guide to Marathon and Downriver Canoe Racing*. If you have his book, bring it along and get his autograph. Because seating will be limited to 150 people, make your reservation now to join the fun, have a meal and listen to Peter speak.

A ticket will be \$15.00 for adults and \$6.00 for children under 12. Checks should be made payable to TCRA and sent to;

*Ken Keiffer  
170 Cotton Gin Rd  
Kyle, TX 78640.*

Please visit our website at

[www.txcanoeracing.org](http://www.txcanoeracing.org)

and click on the Aluminum Nationals icon for entry blanks and additional information on lodging and the banquet.

### River Report

Across the state water levels are down. We're not yet in a drought, but in most rivers and streams, the CFM's are dropping. The dry situation reminds us of how precious our natural resources are in sustaining human and animal life at all levels. Boat repair shops are staying a little extra busy this

spring.

Make a note to support the Texas River Protection Assn. (contact Tom Goynes). The TRPA serves a valuable purpose by keeping our waterways open, flowing and protects our right to paddle them in place. Please pay attention to legislation effecting our rivers, stay informed and vote. The TCRA is proactive in protecting our natural resources.

### Post Spring Racing Review

#### *Zedler Mill - March*

Over 100 racers participated in these races. Zedlers is a good example of combined recreation and canoe racing. All paddling styles were displayed. Everyone's best effort was put out there from the one time a year rec. paddler to the seasoned expert. It was phenomenal!

The Aluminum Pro race was a lesson to any paddler that wanted to see how canoe racing is done. It was very competitive and hotly contested. Congratulations to the winners.

#### *East Fork/West Fork and Greens Bayou*

kept the spring months provided with plenty of competitions.

#### *The Texas River Marathon and Barrier to the Bay*

TWS tune up races, were well attended. The big boats may have dominated both competitions, but the TCRA's hospitality sandwich, fruit and peach tea table at the finish line in Victoria held it's own. Membership information and Aluminum National flyers were passed out and many attitudes lifted at the sight of sustenance at the finish.

### Future Race Agenda

September 13th. *The State USCA Championships* will be held. The course will be on the Colorado River in Columbus at Howell's. **Grady Hicks** will be race director. This event gets back to the basics and tests our USCA C-1 and C-2 skills. The course will be challenging and the youth and mixed races are always hotly contested.

On August 23rd, the *State Aluminum Championship* will be held on the Colorado River on the same course as the USCA Aluminum National Championships. This will provide a good opportunity to tune up your aluminum skills and learn the race course.

*The ICF State Championships* will be held on Town Lake in Austin, October 18th. **John Baltzell** will be race director and has an exciting venue planned.

As always please support our upcoming races across the state.

*The Neches* in Palestine August 2nd and *The Colorado 100*, Labor day weekend, followed by the

*Come and Take It, Trinity River Challenge, and Dickinson Bayou.*

Get out the bicycle and running shoes for

*The Martindale Triathlon*, will be upon us come October 25th.

See you on the water.

Pete



# PALMETTO HOTLINE

## JUNE 2008

*Did the RG miss a memo? Seems rather than the planned elimination of long boats of varying degrees of wisdom in construction and population, the blight has hit the Aluminum, Standard and C2 division. Thrown all together they make a good division, but right now it's finish & win. –River Guru email [palmettohotline@yahoo.com](mailto:palmettohotline@yahoo.com)*

RG bets that if the old aluminum and C2 dragster type trophies made a comeback, that there'd be a little more interest in the divisions, those old trophies were gigantic, gaudy things of beauty, I'm thinking of digging around in the Spencer's storage shed and see if I can find 'em.

RG notes with interest that the C2 division is so good they almost add up to a competitive boat.. Not so with aluminum, but you could recycle them all and buy an old tandem U.

C1 actually has some real entrants this year. **Karim** looks good for it - as good as he's ever apt to look anyway. He's so excited about the prospect of a trophy that's he's promised to reverse his name to **Ziza Mirak!** RG believes that's the same cheer used by Mexico's national soccer team. **Michael Simmons**, whose name makes no sense backwards, has promised to use smaller words on all postings for the month following



The "River Guru"  
Somewhere between  
San Marcos and Seadrift

a prospective win. RG can't decide who to cheer for.

A note **Paul** and **Leo**, the standard division champs in waiting - a defective spray skirt will not be an acceptable excuse for a poor performance, unless you get caught in the rain! ... rain, Ha!, oh, man, I crack myself up, rain... And speaking of rain, there isn't any. The last time the river was this low on the San Marcos, was the pre-cambrian era, when a particularly dimwitted brachiosaur said, "oh, let's do a rain dance!", that's when the meteor got them, and the rest, as they say, is history.

**David's Kelly** and **Carter's Johnson** will soon find out it's quite a different matter to draft a boat with **John Bugge** driving than one chock filled with **Idio Cowboys**. RG's advice-bring some floss to help get the brush out of your teeth. The other Belize boat, with **Stephens** and **Russell** is expected to take the turn around the Falls at Martindale very tenderly this year.

Heard that the boat is 2 foot shorter and the spray skirt is 2 foot too long...DOH!

The **Cowboys** have finally figured out how to win-buy all the boats! RG is reminded of the Hunt brothers tried to corner the silver market. Word was the Boys almost made it, but he last couple of ingots tripped them up. Of course, their advertising on certain bluffs is truthful, if not self deprecating. **The Binions** got a real family affair in the Four man boat - last time they did that back in 2000, the rain gods teased us with a bone-dry river until the starting gun went off. Maybe this will be a repeat for both the teams and the rain. The best hope that **Team Ameen** has got for a trophy is to knock the Cowboys out of contention for the Ugliest Boat Paddlers.

Since there aren't any actual entrants in aluminum this year, RG has to root for **John Edwards** and **Fabio Aloisio**, if only for the incredible teasing they've had to endure as other paddlers come up to them, use both hands to make "Obama Ears" and say "Ah, cian't beleef it's not buttah!" Really, guys, show some respect out there!

RG's seen some of the **Mynars** team (or :**The Yonley** boat" as **West** calls it to stir the pot) practicing their single blading on Town Lake...Prediction - By Palmetto Bridge Tommy will have found 17 things to disagree with the other 5 paddlers on, and Freddie will threaten to gag him with one of Eden's used diapers. Of course, being Freddie it will sound like, "Huh!"

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The solo race:

**Phil Bowden** claims he wasn't really ready in years past, he has changed his life, committed to living healthy, he has been training hard and knows the river well! **Wueste** after 10 years never having gone solo and a broken boat last year will only stop to yogacize, no sleep 'till Seadrift! **Gaston** is showing real improvement, and has jumped from wannbe class to mightbe class. Only time and 260 miles of low water will tell. **Old Geezer M. Shively** is back to try and snatch the trophy from the youngsters. He'll have to wash the spray paint from his hands before he'll be handed the Solo trophy.

**Scott Johnson** is ready to take them on in his Extreme-having sworn off the Rainmaker Hard stuff a year ago. He, **Erin**, and **Mike Drost** have been training together a lot, but RG worries that Drost may think the race is over at Hochhiem. Mike, just remember - There are some races longer than 100 miles! **Ken Startz** has the skinniest boat known to mankind - 13 inches or something? Went from shortest to skinniest! RG went from skinniest to fattest in the same time period. **Erin** is expecting a good run down to Cottonseed, where this year she intends to sternhook and waylay any aluminum within a quarter mile of her.

Tandem class will be intense and hard fought too...

**Cory L's** dream of racing with **Phil Gumbert** is happening, **Phil's** dream of not racing with **Cory** seems to be shattered.

**Colin and Vance?** FAST! How did they end up together? It's like a raccoon mating with a wallaby - A **Coonabie!**

**Jason Locke** and **Kent Harlan** were fast in the prelim like they had an Evenrude motor power source?

**West** and **Steppe** together, again in a 6 man, I mean C-1, I mean 4 man. Oh well... add another fast team to the Tandem Unlimited race!

3 women's teams. Could and *should* all be in different classes...

Tandem Unl. and Masters -**Debbie** and **Ginsie**,  
C-2 -Derrick youth girls **Jamie Norman** and **Stephanie McFerren**

Aluminum - **Joy Emshoff** (Bob Spain's fiancé Smoochie, smoochie!) and **Kim Sorenesen** .

OH... They all beat **Gib** in the prelim! I expect all three teams will need to get in touch with their inner feelings somewhere around Victoria. Somebody keep a TV tuned to the Dr. Phil show at the Victoria Boat ramp.

RG wishes all the best of luck and would like to thank the **mystery contributor**, who wisely chooses to remain anonymous.



TCRA  
Spring  
River  
Clean-Up  
2008!





*Thankyou to all the participants!*

The Goynes

Clay Wyatt and Wes Wyatt

Grady and Kiersten Reed

Mike Rendon, Tommy Yonley, Fred Mynar

Mike Simmons and Cindy Meurer

Holly Orr and Ginsie Stauss

Mike Anderson and Ken Starbor Startz

Ginger Turner and Zolton Mraz

Gary Gibson and Kirsten Gibson

T.C., C.J., Ian and Carlton

Wade Binion

Kevin Bradley, Jim Powell, Kent Metzler, Stacey Metzler

Jessica Bugge, John Bugge, Alexa Friedberg, Jim Pye,

C.J. Pye, Dod Yeager

