

42nd Annual Missouri Whitewater Championships (MWC)
—Slalom, Boatercross & Downriver Races—
March 21 & 22, 2009

If you cannot find the information you need, contact the Race Director, Mark Wehking, at (636) 391-9753. For info on volunteering, contact the Volunteer Coordinator at racevolunteer@missouriwhitewater.org.

Where: St. Francis River (Class II - III), Millstream Gardens Conservation Area, Fredericktown, MO.

Registration: Pre-registration must be postmarked before March 13 or hand-delivered to the Registrar or Race Director NO LATER than Friday, March 20, at 7 PM. See refund note below. Limit is 75 decked boats and 60 open boats. Pre-registration is very strongly recommended! The Race Registration PDF is available for download at www.missouriwhitewater.org.

Race Schedule: Wire setup is Saturday, March 14, with party for the volunteers that night at the Silver Mines upper campground group campsite. **Final course setup and gate-hanging** is Friday, March 20, with practice AFTER all gates are strung.

Rules

Races will follow traditional MWC race rules (based on ICF rules, but with some exceptions, primarily in classes, age groups and scoring. Scoring will use 0/5/50 and best of two runs).

Number of runs & classes: Individual paddlers and tandem teams are permitted a maximum of two judged runs per slalom class and a maximum of three slalom classes per day. Race Committee reserves the right to limit total number of runs and classes.

Boatercross—introduced 2008

There will be strict disqualification for ANY intentional harm to another paddler or “skirting” the gates. No slashing with paddles, punching, grabbing or pulling on another PERSON, their helmet or PFD. Boat loops may NOT be taped down. Competitors should keep their hands on their paddles as much as possible. Paddlers can reach across the deck of a competitor in order to plant a stroke in the water. No pulling on grab loops, skirt loops, cockpit rims, etc.

Course Description & Rules

Emphasis of Boatercross is FUN, not competition! There will be 3-5 boat heats for each round with single elimination. The winner of EACH heat will advance to the final round. Actual course length, starting line, schedule of heats and final heat will be determined at the time of the race since these are dependant on water level and racer participation. The course will start at the designated Boatercross start line. When announced by the Starting Judge, each heat of 3-5 racers will line up side-by-side, bows facing downstream. The start will be a “rolling start” so that when the Starting Judge determines that all racers in a heat are lined up EVENLY, he/she will immediately announce “GO!” as the start of the race.

Note: since this is a head-to-head style race, timing the racers is NOT required. When lining up competitors, the Starting Judge may ask racers to “Back-up,” “Move Forward” to ensure that the boats are lined up and no one has an unfair advantage. Racers should pay close attention to the Starting Judge, as he/she may announce “GO!” at any moment after deciding that the boats are lined up evenly. Any racers who fail to respond to the commands of the Starting Judge’s orders may be disqualified from the event.

The boatercross director will explain the course (negotiation of gates, buoys, obstacles, etc.) before the start of the first heat. When the Starting Judge says “GO!” racers will paddle into the main flow of the river, negotiate the course, and cross the main finish line at the end. The first person to cross the finish line with their boat wins that heat. Each heat will be completed before the next one begins.

The top two finishers from each heat will advance to a second round using the same course, until 4-5 racers remain (depending on the number of people who enter, and subsequently, the number of heats). These 4 or 5 finalists will race to decide the overall winner.

When the top two finishers of a given heat are identified by the Finishing Judge, they will be required to follow the instructions regarding who they will be paired up with for the next race.

Boatercross Boats & Classes

There are no separate gender or boat classes in Boatercross—it is an open event. Competitors may race in kayaks (K-1), or canoes (C-1). Solo or tandem.

Safety

Paddlers: PFDs and protective whitewater headgear are required. Wet suits or dry suits are STRONGLY RECOMMENDED. Be prepared for cold water.

Boats: *Decked boats* must have endloops and be unsinkable. Full flotation and/or bulkheads will suffice. *Open canoes* must have endloops and no less than 10- and no more than 15-cubic feet of secured flotation which must be below the water line & not impede water flow.

Boat inspection: All race boats must be inspected and pass length, material and safety (flotation) requirements. NOTICE: Boats not meeting flotation requirements will not be allowed on the course!

Work Assignments: *Each racer completing the course must remain afloat at the finish to help with safety until relieved by the next 2 boats.* Paddler work assignments are required each day the paddler races. Racer is responsible for getting & fulfilling work assignments. Worker substitution is allowed (family member, etc.)! Not working may result in disqualification! Volunteers: If in doubt, see the Volunteer Coordinator on Saturday morning for volunteer needs. Thanks!

Volunteers

Among the volunteer jobs to be filled are:

Safety Boaters: Must be proficient in on-water rescue. Selection determined by Safety Chair. Racers are required to assist other boaters as needed. Each boat completing the course must remain afloat at the finish until relieved by the **next 2 boats!**

Sales Table: Working raffle table/ selling shirts, banquet tickets. Must be MWA member in good standing.

Start/finish: Work start/finish line

Public Address: Announce races, and other events over PA system.

Parking (morning only): Direct cars to appropriate parking

The following require pre-event training. We're happy to train!

Communications: Send times, gate scores, other data between start/finish, judging stations and scoring tents using the supplied radios.

Timing: Operate one of the following-start or finish timing, boat scheduling at start.

Scoring: Operate computer scoring, organize times, gate scores, or post scores.

Refunds: All fees except \$15 will be refunded if a racer withdraws because he/she feels the course is beyond his/her ability to safely negotiate due to high water level or if the race is canceled for any reason. A t-shirt will be sent with all refunds.

Additional Information

Setup: Initial course setup will be on Saturday, March 14, beginning at 10 AM. This involves stringing wires for the gates across the river, so bring your gloves, wire cutters, pliers, and water. Campout and party follows on Saturday night for setup volunteers at the Silver Mines Group Campsite (see map). **Final course setup** (stringing the gates) is the following Friday, March 20, usually followed by gate practice, race training or recreational paddling. Come help out and have fun!

Awards are presented to the first three eligible finishers in each class. There must be at least three boats to constitute a class. Awards are presented after course takedown on Sunday.

Race Banquet: Saturday evening at 6 PM (dinner at 7) at the Arcadia Valley Country Club (off Hwy 72, just before Ironton). Tickets are \$15 adults, \$5 ages 6-12, children under 3 are free. Reserve your ticket by sending in money with pre-registration. Tickets will also be available at the t-shirt sales table until through the day Saturday and also at the door.

Paddler/Volunteers' Raffle: A drawing will be held Sunday after course takedown for racers and volunteers (remember: helping to take down the course is MANDATORY for all racers). Paddling gear and accessories will be given away.

Important

Because of the variable water levels of the St. Francis River, participants are strongly advised to verify if the race will be held before traveling long distances. Check the message board at www.missouriwhitewater.org for the latest info. The following outdoors stores will also have definite information after NOON on THURSDAY, March 19:

Alpine Shop
(314) 962-7715
440 North Kirkwood Road, Kirkwood, MO 63122

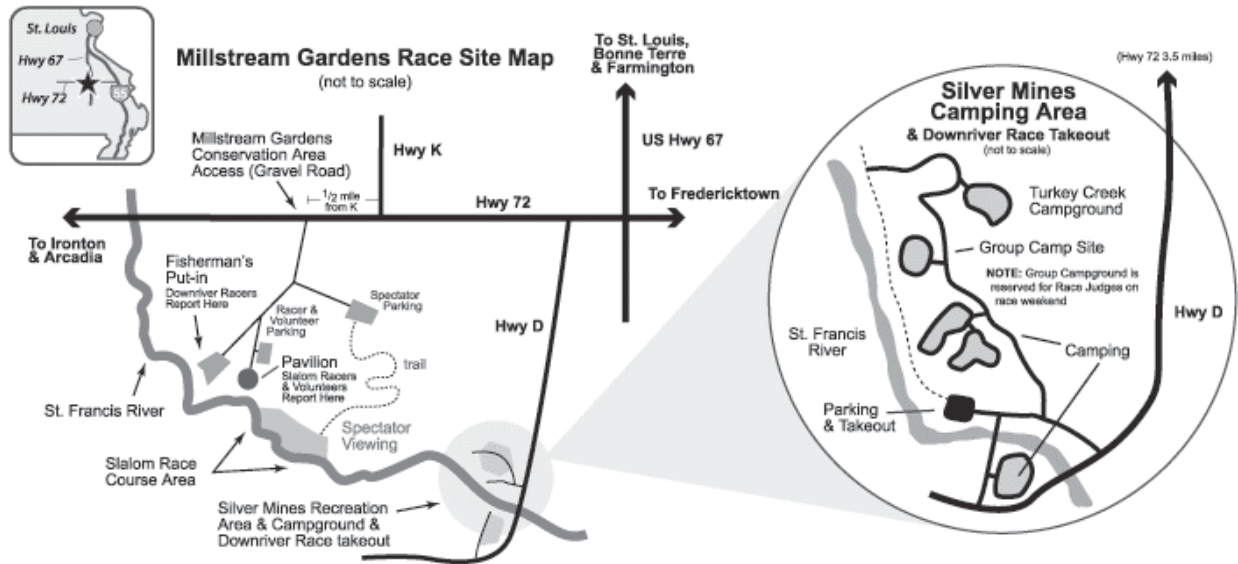
www.alpineshop.com

Brentwood REI
(314) 918-1004
1703 S. Brentwood Blvd, Saint Louis, MO 63144
www.rei.com

Millstream Gardens and Silver Mines Recreation Area are located West of Fredericktown and East of Ironton/Arcadia off of State Highway 72. Fredericktown is about 85 miles southwest of St. Louis off State Highway 67. Lodging, food, gasoline, etc., are all available in the Fredericktown/Ironton/Arcadia area. Camping is available at Silver Mines Recreation Area (see map). Hot and cold breakfast, lunch, and other concessions will be available at the race site both Saturday and Sunday.

Parking: Due to limited parking at the put-in, only racers and volunteers will be allowed access. All others need to park at the visitor parking lot. Failure to comply may result in being ticketed by Missouri Dept. of Conservation officers. An overflow parking lot may be available for a small charge. Warning: parking may be muddy.

Other Rules: Please don't litter. Spectators and racers should pick up after themselves and others—use wastebins. Dogs must be leashed at all times! No outside solicitation is allowed. Alcohol will not be sold but you may bring your own—please drink responsibly.



The Missouri Whitewater Championships are organized and administered by the Missouri Whitewater Association, with lots of invaluable help from the Ozark Chapter of the Sierra Club, the Missouri Department of conservation and lots of other volunteers and organizations. These races are sanctioned by the American Canoe Association (ACA).

Last updated January 13, 2009.