



45th ANNUAL MISSOURI WHITEWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS SLALOM, DOWNRIVER & BOATERCROSS RACES, MARCH 17-18, 2012

Welcome to the Missouri Whitewater Championships! This year's races will again be held on the Saint Francis River at Millstream Gardens, 7 miles west of Fredericktown, MO. This is 95 miles south of St. Louis on Hwy 72, west of US 67.

Enclosed are updates for this year's races, rules on boating safety, a schedule of race events & information on volunteering. The Missouri Whitewater Championships are organized & run by the Missouri Whitewater Association, judged by the Sierra Club, Ozark Chapter, and sanctioned by the American Canoe Association.

John Kornfeld
Co-Race Director, MWA
kodakk@gmail.com
314-374-3794

Bill Fordyce
Co-Race Director, MWA
bill.fordyce@gmail.com
406-231-3342

Jim Warren
Race Registrar, MWA
jawarrenjr@sbcglobal.net
314-727-2213 (H) 314-583-7981 (C)

Thanks for racing—good luck and have fun!

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RACERS & VOLUNTEERS

updated for 2012

REGISTRATION

Late registration will **CLOSE** Friday, March 16, at the Millstream Gardens Pavilion at 6 pm — **NO EXCEPTIONS**. There will be **NO SATURDAY REGISTRATION**. This will help things run smoother.

The ACA event fee is \$5 for non-ACA members. You WILL be charged \$5 if your ACA number is not provided.

Bibs will not be given out until the registrar has your signed ACA waiver. There is no deposit for race bibs. Bibs will be exchanged for your race t-shirt at the end of the race. Please don't lose your bib! You will be held responsible for the cost of lost bibs.

No backup weekend is planned. Go to www.missouriwhitewater.org for the latest race information.

REFUNDS will only be issued only if the race is cancelled, or water levels exceed personal limits/ability. \$15 will be deducted to cover service fee & t-shirt. A race t-shirt will accompany all refunds.

SAFETY

Each racer completing the course must remain afloat at the finish until relieved by the next 2 boats. Be ready to assist other boaters as needed. All boats must have grab loops, plus adequate flotation. Flotation on open boats must be below the water line & not impede water flow. All racers will wear helmets & PFD. Be prepared for cold water.

COMPETITION, SCORING & AWARDS

Slalom races will follow traditional MWC race rules (based on USA CANOE/KAYAK Slalom Racing Rules). Timing will be best of two runs with 0/5/50 second penalties for touches/misses. Awards are presented to the top three eligible racers per class.

Bib order racing. Racers will run in numerical order. **Be ready to go in bib order or you risk missing your run!**

SLALOM:

Saturday Expert Classes – ICF rules allow 3.5M boats of any construction for expert class, including glass, composite and plastic. **NO EXCEPTIONS** on minimum length will be allowed, even if low water levels exist.

All types of K1	MINIMUM length: 3.50 M/11.48'	MINIMUM width: 0.60 M/23.62"	MINIMUM weight: 9 kg/19.84 lb
All types of C1	MINIMUM length: 3.50 M/11.48'	MINIMUM width: 0.65 M/25.59"	MINIMUM weight: 10 kg/22.05 lb
All types of C2	MINIMUM length: 4.10 M/13.45'	MINIMUM width: 0.75 M/29.53"	MINIMUM weight: 15 kg/33.07 lb

Saturday K-1 Novice does allow composite boats. Emphasis of the class is on paddler skill level.

Sunday's K1 Plastic Long/Short classification: Long is 7'6" and over. Short is under 7'6". Racers may only run either one or the other, not both. We will confirm boat lengths on site, so please measure your boats carefully to avoid reshuffling!

Returning for 2012 is OC1 Novice Men & Women. This class is open to any racer who has NOT previously *placed* in OC1, regardless of how many times they've raced OC1 in the past. Racers may only enter either Novice or Expert, *not both*.

A slalom race clinic will be held on the Saturday of setup weekend (March 10) for those interested in improving their skills. Free to volunteers, \$20 to others.

DOWNRIVER:

NEW FOR 2012: Downriver age group classes for K1M-Plastic and also a Wildwater class.

Wildwater K1	MAXIMUM length: 4.50 M/14.76'	MINIMUM width: 0.60 M/23.62"	MINIMUM weight: 11 kg/24.25 lb	Rudders Prohibited
--------------	--------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	---------------------------------------	--------------------

The downriver racers' mandatory meeting is at Fisherman's Put-in at 3:30 PM.

The downriver race will be an interval start. **Be ready to go in bib order or you risk missing your run!**

BOATERCROSS:

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 multiple heats of 3-5 boats for each round. The top two finishers from each heat will advance to the next round using the same course, until just 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. Actual course length, starting line, schedule of heats and final round 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.

Competitors will be assigned to heats of 3-5 boats. The Boatercross director will explain the course (negotiation of gates, buoys, obstacles, etc.) before the start of the first heat. When announced by the Starting Judge, each heat of 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.

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.

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. Each heat will be completed before the next one begins. 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 round.

Boatercross Boats & Classes: There are no separate gender or boat classes in Boatercross unless enough racers (4) sign up to create a separate class. Competitors may race in kayaks (K-1), or canoes (C-1), solo or tandem. Note: since this is a head-to-head style race, timing the racers is NOT required.

VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS

Your help is appreciated Race Weekend—please pitch in! See Volunteer Coordinator Saturday AM for volunteer needs. Thanks!

- **Safety Boaters:** Must be proficient in on-water rescue. Selection determined by Safety Chair.
- **Sales:** Selling shirts, raffle tickets, banquet tickets. Must be MWA member in good standing & over 18 years old.
- **Public Address:** Announce races and other events over PA system.

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

- **Start Line:** Organize racers in correct order, relay start times to scoring tent.
- **Finish Line:** Record and relay finish times to scoring tent
- **Communications:** Send times, gate scores, other data between start/finish, judging stations and scoring tents with via radio.
- **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.

MISCELLANEOUS

- **Race Banquet** will begin at 6PM Saturday, at the **DragonFly-In Pavilion** off of Highway 21 about 3 miles south of Ironton, (which is approximately 13 miles west of Millstream Gardens). Dinner begins at 7PM and the banquet this year is BYOB. Tickets are sold Saturday at the sales table until the event is sold-out.
- Parking at the Millstream Gardens Pavilion is limited to those racing that day due to limited space—please follow this request. There is a separate parking lot for spectators.
- Concessions will be available near the Millstream Pavilion on race weekend. There will be no lunch break during races.
- Camping is available at Silver Mines Campground, about 5 miles east of Millstream Gardens.
- Other lodging/food/gas is available in Fredericktown, Ironton, and Arcadia. Please support the local economy!
- Pets must be leashed. No Solicitations or unauthorized sales. Also, please don't litter! Instead, pick up litter!

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Saturday 3/10/12
 Start 10:00AM Initial course setup. Meet at Millstream Pavilion. Bring gloves, wire cutters and water to drink.
 Post Setup–5:00PM Slalom Clinic. Free to Volunteers, \$20 to others.
 Evening Camping and party for the setup volunteers that evening! Please help out & have some fun!

Friday 3/16/12
 Start 10:00AM Course set up—please help! Hanging of the gates, followed by open practice
 5:00-6:00PM Early check-in / late registration

Saturday 3/17/12
 6:30-8:00AM Open practice AFTER gates are set
 7:00-8:00AM Check-in, boat inspection at Millstream Gardens Pavilion
 8:30-9:00AM Paddler's mandatory race meeting at Millstream Gardens Pavilion
 9:30-12:00PM Morning race session: EXPERT & NOVICE
 12:00-3:30PM Afternoon race session: PLASTIC-AGE GROUPS, C1
 Variable Boatercross schedule will be determined at race time
 3:30PM Downriver race meeting at Fisherman's put-in
 4:00PM Downriver race begins
 6:00PM Race Banquet: BYOB, 6PM, Dinner at 7PM. *DragonFly-In Pavilion*, 3 miles South of Ironton off Hwy 21.

Sunday 3/18/12
 6:30-7:45AM Open practice AFTER gates are set
 7:00-7:45AM Check-in, boat inspection at Millstream Gardens Pavilion
 8:00-8:15AM Paddler's mandatory race meeting at Millstream Gardens Pavilion
 8:30-2:30PM Sunday racing: K1 LONG & SHORT, OC1, ALL OC2s
 2:45PM Course takedown. ALL racers must help!
 4:00PM Awards, canoe & kayak raffles, volunteer donations giveaway.

