

Rain, Rain Go Away!

By Roger Gocking

The ninth running of the Tupper Lake 8-Miler Canoe and Kayak race was easily the wettest on record. When it wasn't raining cats and dogs there was still dripping precipitation with menacing rain clouds in the distance gearing up for the next downpour. Luckily there was hardly any wind. Nevertheless, 56 paddlers and five children sometimes-paddlers braved the elements to make this one of the better attended 8-Milers. A scheduling snafu with a wedding ceremony that was also competing for space at the Tupper Lake boat launch, where the race began and ended, added to the organizer's headaches!

The rain let up to merely a drizzle for the race start which was in two waves: canoes, recreational boats and sups in the first and kayaks and surf skis in the second. First to complete the eight-mile course up to the oxbow on the Raquette River and back to the boat launch finish on Simon Pond was the C-4 Open with Will Siegfried, Gene Newman, David Thomas and Jon Santor in 1:09.02. However, ahead of them timewise, and closing, was the sole 2-person surf ski with Eric Young and Jim Phillips in 1:07.39. They had started two minutes behind.

The Unlimited Kayaks and Surf Skis class for Men Over 50 was one of the two largest classes. Leading the charge home was Bob Underwood in 1:13.56, and behind were Greg Hewlett in 1:15.49 and Matthew Wench for third in 1:18.27.

In the C-2 class for Men Over 50 Neal Sand and Ralph Vincent in 1:15.03 were the fourth fastest. Some distance behind were Tim Henning and evergreen Glen

Vanderwinckel at 85 in 1:24.53.

In the other largest class the C-2 Mixed class for competitors Over 50 Becky Sutter and Bob MacDowell finished in 1:16.58. Behind were Cathy and Bruce Lee in 1:18.00. Third was Roberta Shapiro and Pete Ostrum in 1:22.00.

There were only two women in the unlimited kayak and surf ski class in which "youth" triumphed with Andrea Vogel in the Under 50 class edging out Heidi Underwood in the Over 50 class: 1:17.38 to 1:17.41.

In the touring kayak class for men youth triumphed again with Chris Legard in 18.07 and Joshua King close behind in 1;18.11 in the Men Under 50 class. In the Men Over 50 class Peter Jaworski in 1:21.04 was ahead of Steven Vogel in 1:25.37.

Mary and Allen Kelly were first in the C-2 Stock Over 50 in 1:20.05 with Robert McCormack and Susan Stranglia some distance behind in 1:27.32 and Cindy and Don Jones in 1:28.02. Leading in the Under 50 class were Eileen Visser and Steve Dilger in 1:21.17. Some distance behind were Jessica Murphy and Andy Pickeign in 1:30.11 with Kerry Newell and Brienne Basford in 1:32.24.

There was one women's C-4 Stock class with Rebekah Mills, Kathleen Brannon, Tiffany Kivlen and Condice d'Hernscourt in 1:23.33.

Two Saranac Lakers battled it out in the C-I Amateur Men Over 50 class with Chas Billingsley edging out Rodger Dempster: 1;25.50 to 1:27.38.

There was only one competitor in the C-I Stock class, Brian

Watson in 1:38.05.

In the Solo Recreation class John Marona was easily the fastest with 1:28.30 for the men and Cindy Bright for the women in 1:44.05.

There were two SUPS , Laurel Cowbarn in 1:40.28 and Charlie Scene in 2:13.20 who emerged from the Raquette River paddling his SUP on his knees.

Undoubtedly the most noteworthy paddling combination was the C-4 Stock with Karen Labonte and Kim Schwartzberg with their five young children on board as sometimes paddlers in a time of 1:55.22.

Roger Gocking, Race Organizer.

Results Tupper Lake 8-Miler

24 June 2023

2-Person Surf Ski: Men Over 50

Eric Young and Jim Phillips, 1: 07.39

C-4 Men Open

Will Siegfried, Gene Newman, David Thomas. Jon Santor,
1:09.02

Unlimited Kayaks and Surf Skis: Men Over 50

Bob Underwood, 1:13.56

Greg Hewlett, 1:15.49

Mathew Wench 1:18.27

Steve Berghash, 1:32.56

C-2 Amateur: Men Over 50

Neal Sand and Ralph Vincent. 1:15.03

Tim Henning and Glen Vanderwinckel, 1:24.53

C-2 Mixed Over 50

Becky Sutter and Bob MacDowell, 1:16.58

Cathy Lee and Bruce Lee, 1:18.00

Roberta Shapiro and Pete Ostrum, 1:22.00

Ed Greiner and Kim Greiner, 1:24.44

Unlimited Kayaks and Surf Skis: Women Under 50

Andrea Vogl, 1:17.38

Unlimited Kayaks and Surf Skis: Women Over 50

Heidi Underwood, 1:17,41

Touring Kayaks: Men Under 50

Chris Legard, 1:18.07

Joshua King, 1:18.11

Touring Kayaks: Men Over 50

Peter Jaworski, 1:21.04

Steven Vogl, 1:26.37

C-2 Stock: Mixed Over 50

Mary Kelly and Allen Kelly, 1;20.05

Robert McCormick and Susan Strangia, 1:27.32

Cindy Jones and Don Jones, 1:28.02

C-2 Stock Mixed Under 50

Eileen Visser and Steve Dilger, 1:21.17

Kerry Newell and Brienne Basford, 1;32.24

Jessica Murphy and Andy Pickreign, 1:30.11

C-4 Stock: Women

Rebekah Mills, Kathleen Brannon, Tiffany Kivlen, Condice D' Hernscourt, 1:23.33

C-1 Amateur: Men Over 50

Chas Billingsley, 1:25,50

Rodger Dempster, 1;27.38

Solo Recreation: Men Over 50

John Marona, 1:28.30

C-1 Stock: Men Over 50

Brian Watson, 1:38.05

Stand Up Paddle Board: Woman Under 50

Laurel Caburn, 1:40.28

Solo Recreation: Men Under 50

John Fattus, 1:44.26

Cory McWilliams, 1:50.17

Solo Recreation: Women Over 50

Cindy Bright, 1:44.05

Beverley Blinn-Knapp, 1:47.15

C-4 Stock Women Under 50 With Children

Karen Labonte and Kim Schwartzberg with Five Children,
1:55.22

Stand Up Paddle Board: Men Over 50

Charlie Shene, 2:13.20