



Upcoming Events:

Nov 6

- 🏆 Lake Hernando Dragon Boat Festival, Lake Hernando FL

Nov 20

- 🏆 Miami Dragon Boat Regatta
Miami Rowing Club, Virginia Key, FL
- 🏆 Board Nominations due

Dec 11

- 🏆 Synergy Series Dragon Boat Racing Festival; T.Y. Park, Hollywood, FL

Dec 15

- 🏆 Annual General Meeting and Board Elections (via Go To Meeting)

Jan 22, 2022

- 🏆 Synergy Series Dragon Boat Racing Festival; T.Y. Park, Hollywood, FL

Sept 24, 2022

- 🏆 Synergy Series Dragon Boat Racing Festival; T.Y. Park, Hollywood, FL

Another paddling season ...

The Southeastern Regional Dragon Boat Association (SRDBA) had another "interesting year". Boats got back on the water, CCNC 2021 was a success, even with many challenges, including the Covid-Delta wave. We doubled our membership in the run up to the race and set up our new SRDBA tent for the first time. Our paddler engagement committee rolled out the Discord app for Regional members and a Map app allowing us ways to stay connected on and off the water. The Youth Engagement committee is gearing up to make 2022 the year that we shift our membership curve a little more toward the left! Want to show your SRDBA Pride or start your holiday shopping early? SRDBA merchandise and SWAG are available at two online stores.

Want to be part of the momentum? We are looking for nominations for 2022 Board vacancies and members interested to serve on committees. Mark your calendar for the virtual **SRDBA Annual General Meeting scheduled for December 15**. More information will be sent to members soon.

Check it all out in this issue of Dragon Tales.

🏆 New SRDBA Board Member 🏆

Meet Erin Kellehan

Erin recently joined the SRDBA Board as an At-Large Member to replace a position recently vacated. She will complete the remainder of this year and can run again in the upcoming election. She currently lives in Louisville, Kentucky. She recently became the Volunteer Executive Director for 502 Dragon Boat Community (a new 501c3 and dragon boat club in her area). Before joining this organization, she had 7 years experience as an organizer with the previous dragon boat festival in Louisville. She was mostly in charge of the website, marketing, registration, practice sessions, fund raising, coordinating with teams and captains. Funnily, she came into that position with absolutely NO knowledge of dragon boating! They built a website and ran promotions, but it wasn't until the week before the races that she finally got to see what dragon boating was really all about. She says it honestly changed her life and it took off in so many beautiful ways after that!

She started paddling in 2014, became a captain in 2016, and started steering for sessions in 2017. She says that she is still learning, and has way more knowledge of the "behind the scenes" of organization than she has expertise in technique or actually

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Call for Nominations

2022 Board Elections coming soon.

The SRDBA Board of Directors will have several vacancies next year and it is time to receive nominations.

Vacancies include:

- President (2 year term)
- Treasurer (2 year term)
- All of the State Directors (1 year term)

Submit your nominations to secretary@srdba.org by **November 20, 2021**.

Nominations should include a letter of intent signed by the nominee stating the slot for which the person is interested, a bio and a brief summary of why the individual is qualified to serve in that position. All nominees **MUST** be a member of SRDBA and, if elected, remain a member throughout their term.

By-Laws regarding the Board of Directors:

The Board consists of the President, Vice-President, Secretary, Treasurer, Membership Director, as well as an individual elected by the voting Members of each State in the region, for a total of thirteen (13) voting members/Directors. (For example, the voting Members residing in Florida shall together elect one (1) Director, the voting Members residing in Georgia shall together elect one (1) Director, etc.) If a State does not have any voting Members located therein, or if no individual residing in said State on a full-time or part-time basis states that he is willing to serve as a Director, then, for that particular term, such Directorship shall become an at-large Directorship and all of the voting Members of the Corporation shall vote on the election thereof. Each Director must be a resident of the United States and must reside on a full-time or part-time basis in the State which he is elected to represent (unless he is serving as an at-large Director as described in the immediately preceding sentence); provided, however, a Director who changes residence during the middle of an elected term is not required to resign or to be replaced merely because he changes his place of residence during said term.

Term of Office. Each Director who is also an Officer shall serve as a Director until his term as Officer expires or terminates. Each non-Officer Director shall serve a one (1) year term, and shall serve until his successor shall be elected and qualified.

President's Message

Kelly Hood, SRDBA President

CCNC 2021

The 2021 Club Crew National Championship held in Sarasota October 3-5 was a successful event, especially given the Covid concerns. Seventy-five teams competed, representing 29 clubs and 918 paddlers. Twenty-one teams earned medals and potentially earned a berth to the 2022 Worlds Championship. Of these, seven clubs and 21 teams were from the SRDBA region. Validation of club rosters is currently underway to make sure the winning teams had bona fide members before berths to the 2022 Worlds Championship will be awarded.

SRDBA is considering bringing back Regional races every other year race using a point system to qualify to participate in Regionals. Regional races would give more SRDBA clubs and teams the opportunity to have some sanctioned higher levels of competition just for fun or as preparation for a national race. We are planning to begin offering SRDBA sanctioned races in 2022 and points earned will apply to eligibility for the Regional race in 2023. The Board is looking for estimates of how much it would cost and logistic options would need to be ironed out before moving forward.

Here's looking to another year - Paddles Up!

SRDBA Committees

Paddler Engagement Committee

Contributed by Annely Thorstad

The SRDBA map is now up and running and we need your help to ensure we do not miss any clubs by emailing membership@srdba.org. Each club who is a member will have all contact information, however those clubs who are not members will only be allowed to choose one point of contact. Please note that the club is listed on the map and not the individual teams, as there are some clubs who have a large number of crews. We encourage you to add a link to the map on your website and social media.

SRDBA Squad Locker for brand name clothing and accessories that include Nike, Adidas, Reebok and more is now accessible at:

<https://teamlocker.squadlocker.com/#/lockers/southeastern-regional-dragon-boat-association>

Want more SRDBA swag? Our store on Printify has all kinds of SRDBA branded items that include mugs, tumblers, ornaments, clothing, Coozies and more. You can access this store through a link on the SRDBA Website <https://www.srdba.org/srdba-store/> or directly at: <https://secretary313.wixsite.com/srdba-store/shop>

Check back to both stores for new items each month.

Keep in touch! The SRDBA also has a server on the Discord app! Download the app, search "SRDBA" and request an invite to check out our channels that include videos, information, links to our map and stores, a marketplace to buy and sell and more. Having troubles

2021 SRDBA Board

President - Kelly Hood
 Vice President - Drew Rogers
 Treasurer - Patsy Zick
 Communications/Membership - Annely Thorstad
 Secretary - Deborah Carson
 GA Director - Jenay Thompson
 FL Director - Beverly Sorrells
 NC Director - Faith Douglas
 SC Director - Alice Turner
 TN Director - Esther Wallace
 Member at Large - Erin Kellehan
 Member at Large - Judy Lundy
 Member at Large - Efrat Almog



Follow this treasure map of teams and join us!

REGIONAL MAP

ON THE MOVE? LOOKING FOR A TEAM TO GET OUT ON THE WATER WITH?

Check out the new SRDBA Regional Map and find a team near you to join, or join for a paddle!
 Know of a team that's not listed?
 Send info to: membership@srdba.org
 Members receive a full contacts listing.
 Non-members have one point of contact listed.
<https://www.srdba.org/srdba-regional-clubs-map>

SRDBA COMMITTEES

Paddler Engagement:

- Annely Thorstad (chair), Faith Douglas, Leslie Hagan, Judy Lundy, Beverly Sorrells, Steve Tayon, Stana Jergova

Youth Engagement:

- Alice Turner (chair), Mike Mondrell, Vicki O'Neil, Annely Thorstad, John Radel, Ande Oliver, Joshua Hall, Rebeca Rodriguez Loaiza, Joni Carone, Stana Jergova

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getting on there? Send us an email to membership@srdba.org and we can give you hand to get you up and running.

Our new SRDBA tent was at Nationals where we sold swag and other items, many of which were donated by Boundary Waters Paddlesports Coaching & Conditioning.

We also held a drawing for a new Burnwater Reactor III 380 paddle that was also donated by Boundary Waters Paddlesports Coaching and Conditioning in Sarasota-Bradenton. A big THANK YOU goes out to this sponsor! Congrats to Elizabeth Olivares, winner of our draw!



We were able to discuss our projects with paddlers from the tent as well as provide information about the SRDBA and our membership, and we received some really great suggestions and feedback from all who stopped in to see us. Now, to help keep the tent going year round, we are looking for regional teams and businesses to sponsor and volunteer to help us

host the SRDBA tent in your area. Contact us at membership@srdba.org to find out how you can volunteer or sponsor a race location near you. Watch for us at Lake Hernando and in Miami!

Finally, we would like to hear your suggestions. What would you like to see our committee working on next? Want to join us? Don't hesitate to reach out to us at membership@srdba.org. We look forward to hearing from you.

Congratulations to: Elizabeth Olivares Winner of the free SRDBA draw at Nationals!

Burnwater Reactor III 380 Carbon Long Adjustable (48 - 51") Paddle

Made in the USA

3 YEAR WARRANTY

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL
SRDBA
DRAGON BOAT ASSOCIATION

Thank you to all who stopped by our SRDBA tent at Nationals.

Watch for our tent at a race near you for more SRDBA swag, info, and giveaways!

Sponsored by
**BOUNDARY WATERS
PADDLESPTS**

Join the SRDBA on the Discord App!

- Download the Discord app**
On your phone or on your computer from www.discord.com.
- Visit us at the SRDBA Tent**
Search the SRDBA and request an invite to join us.
- Unsure of how to do it?**
Text us at 218-324-3180 and we will get you added for access today!

SOUTHEASTERN REGIONAL DRAGON BOAT ASSOCIATION

ONLINE STORE IS NOW OPEN

FEATURING GREAT PRODUCTS FROM:

3 EASY WAYS TO ORDER:

Squad Locker

For a full line of athletic clothing, hats, outerwear, underwear and more.

Printify

Clothing, gifts, accessories, and unique items with the SRDBA logo.

Meet Erin (Continued from page 1)

racing, but she is happy to help however she can! As Board member, she says she will "be forever grateful to the dragon boat community, and the many amazing people I've been blessed to meet because of it! I am very appreciative for the work the SRDBA does, and proud to be a member."

Youth Engagement Committee

Contributed by Alice Turner

Our committee sent emails to SRDBA State Directors to submit to their state clubs requesting information in regards to how many clubs already have youths involved and if so what age groups. We also asked which clubs would be interested in participating in the encouragement of youths through providing coaches, equipment, boats, etc.

The committee is reaching out to the Citrus County Education contacts to find out how they got the seven youth teams involved in the Lake Hernando races so we might be able to duplicate these efforts with other county education groups throughout the southeast.

Welcome new members John Radel, Ande Oliver, Joshua Hall, Rebeca Rodriguez Loaiza, Stana Jergova and Joni Carone

Please e-mail any interest, comments, or questions to this committee to me at southcarolina@srdba.org.

CCWC berths available to Youth Crews, U24 Crews and University Crews

The USDBF Competition and Technical Committee is currently accepting resumes from Youth Crews, U24 Crews and Universities Crews seeking berths to Club Crew World Championships July 18-24, 2022 in Sarasota, Florida. **Deadline to submit resumes November 22, 2021.** For more information visit: usdbf.org

South Eastern Regional Dragon Boat Association

Web site: www.srdba.org

E-mail Us: communications@SRDBA.org

Follow Us on Facebook: www.facebook.com/SRDBA/

Comments or Suggestions: secretary@srdba.org

SRDBA At A Glance

Contributed by Annelly Thorstad

The SRDBA covers the eight southeastern states: Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Kentucky, and Mississippi. In 2021, we have seen 23 clubs become members and have doubled our membership to 656 individual members since the last report. Here is a breakdown of our current membership:

SRDBA Stats

23 Clubs:

17 in Florida
3 in South Carolina
1 in North Carolina
1 in Georgia

3 Festivals:

1 Alabama
1 Florida
1 Georgia

656 Individual Members:

By State:

573 Florida (87%)
78 South Carolina (12%)
0 Georgia
5 Kentucky
0 North Carolina
0 Tennessee
0 Alabama
0 Mississippi

By gender:

448 Females (68%)
208 Males (32%)

By Age Division*:

4 U18 paddlers (<1%)
0 U24 paddlers (0%)
34 Premier Division paddlers (5%)
80 Senior A Division paddlers (12%)
190 Senior B Division paddlers (29%)
348 Senior C Division paddlers (53%)

* BCP/ACP affiliation not currently included in database.

We increased membership in the younger age groups during the National Championship event, but still have 82% of our Region's members in the Senior B & C age ranges (50+). It is important to work together as a Region to promote our sport to younger paddlers (that includes 49 and under) in the coming years. Our Youth Engagement Committee has some exciting plans for the coming year.

SRDBA members serving as USDBF Officers:

Mark Kane, President
Kelly Hood, Membership Officer
Bob Ricks, VP2
Drew Rogers, VP1
Annelly Thorstad, Secretary

SRDBA Directors to USDBF:

Efrat Almog
Alice Turner
Patsy Zick