

# dragon tales

Summer 2022

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



**Upcoming Events in SRDBA Region:**  
For full calendar of SRDBA events visit:  
[srdba.org/events/](http://srdba.org/events/)

## June 4

- 14th Annual CHATTANOOGA Dragon Boat Festival, TVA Park Chickamauga Dam Chattanooga, TN
- Pan Am/USDBF Certified Level 1 Coaching - online with Pat Bradley

## July 18-24

- CLUB CREW WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP Nathan Benderson Park, Sarasota FL

- ROWAN CHAMBER Dragon Boat Festival, High Rock Lake Salisbury, NC

## Aug 13

- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY OF MARSHALL COUNTY Dragon Boat Race, Civitan Park, Guntersville, Alabama

## Aug 20

- 2nd Annual MITCHELL'S PLACE Dragon Boat Festival, East Lake Park, Birmingham, AL
- HABITAT FOR HUMANITY Dragon Boat Festival, Gadsden Riverwalk Park & Boardwalk, Gadsden, Alabama

## SRDBA REGIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP Coming this fall !!

SRDBA is partnering with Pan Am Dragon Boat to host the 2022 SRDBA Regional Championship on Saturday, October 1, 2022 at Nathan Benderson Park, Sarasota FL. This will be a stand-alone championship, so results will not fold into an International/Worlds Championship berth, but WILL incorporate a SRDBA-Clubs-Only competitive component (i.e. Regional Bragging Rights) within the PanAm competition parameters.

The 2022 SRDBA Regional Championship welcomes ALL teams and ALL levels of Dragon Boater paddlers, and if we get enough interest, will include Community/Corporate teams, Competitive Festival teams, and Special Interest teams (BCP, ACP, Paradrasons, and Youth). We are also pleased to announce that we will have the new Senior D division (70+) for this competition.

The race course will feature 200 meter, 500 meter & 2000 meter race lengths with both 10-person boat and 20-person boat classes. Team medals will be awarded for 1st, 2nd, 3rd places by race length and class. SRDBA will recognize Division Champions with 2022 trophies for those teams from clubs that are in good standing as SRDBA 2022 Club Members.

The SRDBA/PanAm competition announcement is on the PanAm race calendar, but registration is not yet open: <https://www.panamdragonboat.com/race-calendar>

## New Board Member

### Meet Eileen and Darin Hume ....

Eileen Hume joined us in 2022 as our North Carolina Director on the SRDBA Board. Her husband, Darin, is probably known to most of you because he is a Dragon Boat addict. Eileen describes him as living and breathing for Dragon Boat. She says that she is "merely" his sidekick, but we all know that he could not do it without her. Not only does she put up with his passion, but she is always out there at festivals, taking videos, watching the kids so parents can paddle, and cheering like crazy.

It all started the summer of 2017 when they were looking for something to do. Eileen saw an ad for a dragon boat festival in Cornelius, NC. Darin likes dragons, so she said, "Let's go." Immediately after seeing his first race, he declared "I want to do that." He found out where to show up, bought a paddle and a vest, and that was that. He found a new purpose in life. Luckily, it was a purpose that included a lot of cool people, good sportsmanship, and beautiful venues, always near the water.

Always one to jump in on a getaway, Eileen was more than happy to accompany. Then she "got to helping", even holding shoes and badges in Tobago or filling in an empty seat for a women's race and

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In collaboration with PanAm Dragon Boat

## SRDBA Regional Championship

**OCT 1, 2022**  
NATHAN BENDERSON PARK  
SARASOTA, FL

**New Senior D Division**  
10 & 20 person boats

SRDBA Teams can compete for  
**Best In The Region**  
Braggin' Rights

**ALL TEAMS WELCOME!!**

**PAN AM** DRAGON BOAT

For information and to register visit:  
[www.panamdragonboat.com/RACE-CALENDAR/](http://www.panamdragonboat.com/RACE-CALENDAR/)

## President's Message

Kelly Hood, SRDBA President

The **United States Dragon Boat Association Annual General Meeting** was held at Nathan Benderson Park (NBP) in Sarasota on May 21, 2022. Patsy Zick, Ef Almog, and Deborah Carson were there as SRDBA delegates. Also in attendance were Mark Kane (USDBF President), Annely Thorstad (USDBF Secretary) and Kelly Hood (USDBF Membership Officer). During the meeting, Chris Marquart was elected to fill the position of Vice President 1 and Judy Lee will be taking on the role as Membership Officer. USDBF is still seeking nominations for the position of Treasurer. Those interested should submit an application at: Officer Candidate Application <https://forms.gle/CgAPZ7TurLN34uGw7>



We learned more about the the exciting events planned during the 2022 **Club Crew World Championship** (CCWC) that will be held July 18-24, 2022 at NBP. This will truly be a world-class affair at a spectacular venue providing a fantastic opportunity to showcase our sport within our region. The USDBF, as a partner for the event, is looking for volunteers to help during the two weeks of activities. Even if your club will not be represented on the water, we encourage all of our members to participate as a volunteer or supporter. To learn more, visit the CCWC website ([2022ccwc.com](https://2022ccwc.com)) or the USDBF website ([www.usdbf.org/club-crew/2202ccwc/](http://www.usdbf.org/club-crew/2202ccwc/)). **It will be an event not to be missed.**

Paddles Up!

## 2022 SRDBA Board

President - Kelly Hood  
 Vice President - Drew Rogers  
 Treasurer - Patsy Zick  
 Secretary - Deborah Carson  
 Communications/Membership - Annely Thorstad  
 AL Director - Steve Tayon  
 FL Director - Efrat Almog  
 GA Director - TBD  
 KY Director - Erin Kellehan  
 MS Director - Judy Lundy  
 NC Director - Eileen Hume  
 SC Director - Leslie Hagen  
 TN Director - TBD

### SRDBA Teams Competing at CCWC

- Dragon Boat Charleston
- Heart and Soul
- Heat
- Jax Fire Dragons
- NBP Paddling
- Tampa River Dragon Boat

## SRDBA Committees

### Paddler Engagement Committee

Contributed by Annely Thorstad

The PEC has been meeting once per month, and we have updated the Printify and Squad Locker online stores, online Regional Map, have increased and will be continuing to improve our social media presence, are working on Zoom information sessions, and are closing in on the official launch of our Discord app. You can email [membership@srdba.org](mailto:membership@srdba.org) now to be added to the Discord app if you would like to take a look at how it is coming together and to offer your feedback.

We have also been working on numbering and categorizing internal documents for tracking and future updates, and are creating an online library with templates, checklists and helpful tips to help clubs and paddlers. They currently include form letters for sponsorship, safety drybag checklist, waivers, and bylaw templates to help get your club going! If you have any great forms or checklists that you would like to share with new and up and coming clubs, please forward them to [membership@srdba.org](mailto:membership@srdba.org).

If you have suggestions for or would like to join the Paddler Engagement Committee, please email [membership@srdba.org](mailto:membership@srdba.org).

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Based on SRDBA registrations as of April 30, 2022

## SRDBA COMMITTEES

### Paddler Engagement:

- Annely Thorstad (chair), Judy Lundy, Leslie Hagen, Steve Tayon, Stana Jergova

### Youth Engagement:

- Kelly Hood, Mike Mondrall, Annely Thorstad, John Radel, Ande Oliver, Joshua Hall, Rebeca Rodriguez Loaiza, Joni Carone, Stana Jergova

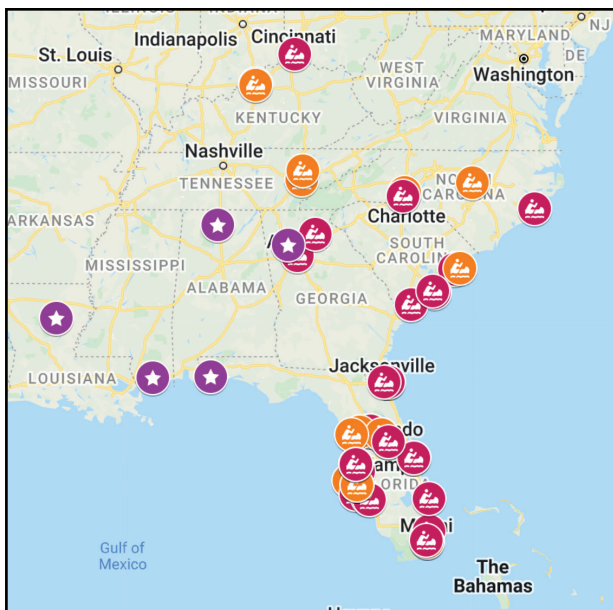
## Membership

Contributed by Annely Thorstad

It has been a very busy first quarter receiving and entering memberships, answering questions, preparing stats and completing the rebates for clubs. Each club who is a paid member received a \$10 rebate for every individual member who paid on or before March 31st, up to a maximum of \$300.00. And yes! You are still welcome to become a 2022 member, your membership will just no longer be eligible for the Club Rebate is all. We currently have 57% of membership paid in relation to last year, with approximately \$2,500 in rebates going out this year.

Most membership inquiries were regarding the ability to list more than one club for individual memberships, and whether or not membership is annual from the date of payment. Unfortunately, we must only list one club per paddler, which is the paddler's choice, and membership runs in the calendar year, not from the date of payment.

As this is the second year using our new member data collection spreadsheet, new columns have been added to capture the number of new and returning paddlers, as well as a payment ID column that helps team captains and coaches identify paddlers who are currently in good standing and those who have yet to pay their annual membership. I also have begun creating fun fact Facebook posts using the data collected.



### Screen shot of our [Regional Map](#)

Don't see your club? Email [membership@srdba.org](mailto:membership@srdba.org) to have your club added.

## South Eastern Regional Dragon Boat Association

Web site: [www.srdba.org](http://www.srdba.org)

E-mail Us: [communications@SRDBA.org](mailto:communications@SRDBA.org)

Follow Us on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/SRDBA/](https://www.facebook.com/SRDBA/)

Comments or Suggestions: [secretary@srdba.org](mailto:secretary@srdba.org)

## SRDBA At A Glance

Contributed by Annely Thorstad

The SRDBA covers the eight southeastern states: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. Our membership is currently made up of 450 paddlers, with the majority of our paddlers coming from Florida, mostly female, with over half of our paddlers aged 60 and over. See our current breakdown here:

### SRDBA Stats

#### 450 Individual Memberships:

6 Youth	124 Senior B
34 Premier	167 Senior C
36 Senior A	83 Senior D

#### 23 Clubs:

2 Kentucky	2 Georgia
2 North Carolina	5 South Carolina
12 Florida	

#### 3 Corporate Members:

1 Florida
1 South Carolina
1 Tennessee

#### 6 Festivals:

- April 29-30 - United Way of South MS Gulf Coast DB Festival, Mississippi
- May 1 - The Acworth Cobb Dragon Boat Festival, Georgia
- May 14 - Decatur Morgan Hospital Foundation Dragon Boat Race & Festival, Alabama
- October 1 - Lake James Dragon Boat Festival, North Carolina
- October 1 - 14th Annual Cumberland River Dragon Boat Festival, Cumberland Park East Bank Landing
- October 8 - Pensacola Dragon Boat Festival, Florida

\* BCP/ACP member affiliation information is not currently included in SRDBA database.

**DID YOU KNOW?**

According to 2022 Club Registrations, the top 3 locations in our region with the most dragon boat paddlers are:

- The Villages, Florida
- Charleston, South Carolina
- Jacksonville, Florida

6 INDIVIDUAL MEMBER CLUBS IN OUR REGION BOAST OVER 100 PADDLERS EACH!

Based on SRDBA registrations as of April 30, 2022



*Southeast Regional Dragon Boat Association (SRDBA) promotes the sport of dragon boating, by providing a community that fosters education, training, and promotion of competition at regional, national, and international levels.*