



**51st ANNUAL  
MISSOURI WHITEWATER CHAMPIONSHIPS  
SLALOM, DOWNRIVER & BOATERCROSS RACES  
MARCH 16-18, 2018**

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Welcome to the 51st Annual 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, Eastern Missouri Group, and sanctioned by the American Canoe Association.

Dave Kovar  
Race Director, MWA  
[racedirector@missouriwhitewater.org](mailto:racedirector@missouriwhitewater.org)  
402-537-1913

Casara Heaton  
Race Registrar, MWA  
[raceregistrar@missouriwhitewater.org](mailto:raceregistrar@missouriwhitewater.org)  
314-502-9332

Thanks for racing—good luck and have fun!

## **IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR RACERS & VOLUNTEERS REGISTRATION**

**RETURNING FOR 2018:** Friday Downriver event, followed by live music at the D-bridge Pavilion. Food will be available. Come down early, help finish set-up, race and enjoy the fun.

**RETURNING FOR 2018:** Registration will be for one day of racing or full weekend. If you race just one day (Sat or Sun), you pay only \$30. And you can volunteer the other day! Full weekend is \$35. Juniors pay \$25. All racers receive a short sleeve t-shirt.

**Late registration** will CLOSE Friday, March 16, at the Millstream Gardens Pavilion at 5:00 pm. There will be NO SATURDAY or SUNDAY 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.

**REFUNDS** will only be issued only if the race is cancelled, or water levels exceed personal limits/ability. \$20 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!**

### **DOWNRIVER:**

**RETURNING FOR 2018: Downriver classes** have changed, by popular demand. Kayak classes will be by length, Under 10', and 10' & over. Kayak Novice is any length. **No age groups in Downriver this year.** Paddle fast!!

The downriver racers' mandatory meeting is at Fisherman's Put-in Friday at 4:30 PM. The race will be an interval start. Be ready to go in bib order or you risk missing your run!

### **SLALOM:**

**Olympic Class.** What used to be called Expert class is now classified as Olympic class. Previously, Expert referred to the make/model of the boat RATHER than the skill level of the paddler. With our Novice class referring to skill level, the Expert classification often confused the issue between skill vs. boat length/construction. Now, Expert is the class you must run if you've medaled before as Novice. The Olympic class is now reserved for official-length boats of 3.5M (K1 & C1) or 4.1M (C2) of any construction whether or not a paddler has medaled as Novice or Expert. Novice & Expert classes are Plastic only.

**OC1 Novice Men & Women,** for slalom and downriver. 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.

**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!

**Saturday Olympic Classes:** ICF rules allow 3.5M boats (4.1M for C2) of any construction for this class, including glass, composite and plastic. **No exceptions on minimum length will be allowed, even if low water levels exist.**

All types of K1	<b>MINIMUM</b> length: 3.50 m/11.48'	<b>MINIMUM</b> width: 0.60 m/23.62"	<b>MINIMUM</b> weight: 9 kg (19.8 lbs)
All types of C1	<b>MINIMUM</b> length: 3.50 m/11.48'	<b>MINIMUM</b> width: 0.60 m/23.62"	<b>MINIMUM</b> weight: 9 kg (19.8 lbs)
All types of C2	<b>MINIMUM</b> length: 4.10 m/13.45'	<b>MINIMUM</b> width: 0.75 m/29.53"	<b>MINIMUM</b> weight: 15 kg (33.0 lbs)

**Be ready to go in bib order or you risk missing your run!**

## **BOATERCROSS**

Boatercross will be first-thing Sunday morning to improve race scheduling. Be on time!

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.

**Boatercross Boats & Classes:** Competitors may race in kayaks (K1), or canoes (C1), solo or tandem, men and women. Note: since this is a head-to-head style race, timing the racers is NOT required.

**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 dependent 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.

## **VOLUNTEER ASSIGNMENTS**

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

Email [racevolunteer@missouriwhitewater.org](mailto:racevolunteer@missouriwhitewater.org) for more details. 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 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.
- **Judging:** Observe racers passing through gates & mark penalties, communicate scores via radio.

## **MISCELLANEOUS**

- **Race Banquet** will be SATURDAY at the Eagle Lodge: 411 Burris St, Fredericktown, MO 63645.
- Banquet doors open at 6PM, dinner served at 7PM. Saturday racing awards after dinner. Tickets are sold Saturday at the sales table until the event is sold-out. Beverages (soda, wine, beer, etc.) are available for purchase.
- **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, 5 miles east of Millstream Gardens at Silver Mines (South on Hwy. D).
- **Food, gas, and other lodging** 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 3/10/18**  
 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. Fees benefit the MWA and help pay for the races.  
 Evening Camping and party for the setup volunteers that evening! Please help out & have some fun!

**Friday 3/16/18**  
 Start 10:00AM Course set up—please help! Hanging of the gates, followed by open practice  
 4:00-5:00PM Early check-in / late registration at Millstream  
 4:30PM Downriver race meeting at Fisherman's put-in  
 5:00PM Downriver race begins  
 6:00PM Live music at D-bridge Pavilion after the race. Food available, Downriver awards.

**Saturday 3/17/18**  
 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  
 9:30-1:00PM Morning race session: NOVICE, EXPERT, OLYMPIC—K1, C1, C2  
 1:00-4:30PM Afternoon race session: PLASTIC K1 AGE GROUPS  
 6:00PM Race Banquet at the Eagle Lodge, 411 Burriss St, Fredericktown, MO 63645.  
 Doors open at 6PM, dinner at 7PM. Saturday racing awards after dinner.

**Sunday 3/18/18**  
 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  
 8:30-10:00AM Boatercross is scheduled for Sunday morning. **BE ON TIME to help make the day run smoothly!**  
 10:00-3:30PM Post-Boatercross racing: K1 LONG & SHORT, all OC1 / OC2 and SUP  
 3:45PM Course takedown. ALL racers must help!  
 4:45PM Awards, canoe & kayak raffles, raffle for Volunteers.

