

Pro Staff News

Volume 7 Issue 4 April

Team Ocean Kayak place 4th in IFA Port Aransas, TX

Team Ocean Kayak's Captain Filip Spencer placed 4th overall in the first IFA event of the year held in Port Aransas, Texas. The weather was miserable, winds in excess of 30 mph made for a tough day of fishing. Team mates Vincent Rinando and Clint Barghi both had opportunities to cash in on first place, but lost the battle with the winning fish. Cameron Barghi 11th Place, Clint Barghi 16th Place, and Vincent Rinando 17th Place.

Vincent's tournament Recap:

Tournament fishing is always humbling. This past weekend was no exception. It's never the titles or the trophies that you remember, it's always the one that got away that sticks in your mind. For the past year, I've been telling my friends that I couldn't wait for the IFA to start in 2012. Last year 2 days before the opening event I was in a bad car wreck that left me with a fractured pelvis and many weeks of rehab. Eager to start the year off right, I travelled to Corpus Christi on Thursday to get a head start on pre fishing. Winds in excess of 25mph all week made for some miserable fishing. Pre fishing Friday and Saturday did nothing more than eliminate 5 bad spots, where fish had been, but moved when the winds picked up. Sunday was brutal, started off the day crossing a deep boat channel that at 6:30am didn't look too menacing. Unfortunately the tide was ripping out and the winds were blowing in at more than 25mph and there were some nasty 4-5 curling surf waves dead center of the channel. I pointed towards the first big wave headed my way as I was paddling perpendicular to the channel. When the wave hit me, it spun me 90 degrees and I was now facing straight down the channel. The second wave picked me up and started to surf me down the face of the wave. I leaned out and performed a brace, which allowed the wave to slip under the kayak and let go of me. Just then wave number three hit me in the back and crested over the deck of my kayak. I think had I not been bracing, it would have knocked me out of the kayak. I made two hard sweep strokes and was able to get my bow facing back into the swell and push myself over the next wave before it crest and a few more strokes and I was out of the current and the waves. Heart racing, I was sure I was going to turtle in 30 foot of water in a heavy current, waves, and strong wind, not a good combination. We made it into our first area and Fil hooks a keeper trout in the first cast. I caught a few dink trout before the winds increased by more than 10 mph to well over 30mph. White caps were forming under the mangrove bushes and extended from shoreline to shoreline. I tied my kayak to me and started wading down wind dragging an anchor to slow the kayak. I get a small pop on a topwater and as the fish swims past me I see it's a nice upper slot redfish around 26-27" long. I let it run out a bit into the lake to get it off the shoreline and turn it back to make the landing when it pulls back and comes unhooked. Dejected, I wasn't too worried, it was only 8am and I had plenty of time. No more than 10 casts later Fil gets a blowup on his topwater and I make a cast just beyond his lure and it gets inhaled by a fish. As I sit back on the hook, the fish comes to the surface and headshakes for about 5 seconds. My heart sunk, it was a BIG trout, for Port Aransas anyways, well over 5lbs and 25-27" long at least. It stops the head shakes and decides to jump straight into the air. This fish is in about 6" of water and right on top of a shell pad. It makes a thrash in the water, then makes another monster jump and does a complete flip, I still haven't seen my top water, that's a good sign. It head shakes again and decides to make another big jump. Still on I decided to put some pressure on this fish and make it do something other than jump and headshake. As it swims past Fil and I, neither one of us can see the top water, so I'm thinking it's buried in this fish's throat. I decided to jump out of the kayak and land this fish on my feet considering what happened to the redfish a few casts earlier. The fish makes a big run, I turn her back towards me and start her towards the net. I get her less than 5 feet from the net when the unthinkable happens. I felt the 50lb braid cut and the line go limp. Without thinking I drop my rod and make a dive for the fish, no such luck, came up empty, and now had to fish around on the bottom to find my rod. I rig back up and try and contemplate what has just happened, Did I just loose 52" and \$2500.00 in about 10 casts? That's hard to shake, and with my brain shut down about 10 minutes later I didn't look back for my kayak and made a cast that hung one of the rods in my seat rod holder. It wasn't good, I broke the tip off one rod and stripped 4 guides off the other rod. Destroyed two high end bait casters in one cast. I was able to try and fish with one of them...did manage a 18" trout, but the braid in that wind kept wrapping around the rod and hanging on the broken posts. I finished the day throwing a topwater with a 7'3" medium heavy spin rod in a 30mph wind. I found and hooked the winning fish, but fate decided it wasn't in the cards. It's going to take a while for the sting of this tournament to go away.....but it will....Vincent



Upcoming Events

May 12, 2012 Galveston Redfish Series.

June 2, 2012 Lonestar Kayak Series Galveston

June 8, 2012 Casting for a Cause Tournament Corpus Christi

June 10, 2012 IFA Kayak Series Rockport

June 16, 2012 Galveston Redfish Series Galveston



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Team Ocean Kayak at the Austin Canoe and Kayak Paddle Demo Houston, TX

Team Ocean Kayak's Vincent and Sam Rinando were on hand at the spring paddle demo held by ACK in Missouri City, a suburb of Houston. Crowds and sales were great on both days with big sellers being the Ocean Kayak Trident, Torque and the Ocean Kayak Malibu II XL. Team Ocean Kayak provided a kayak fishing seminar to those in attendance and were on hand to answer customer questions and help out with the paddle demo.

Sales escalated on Sunday near the end of the demo, I remember at one point taking a deposits for 5 kayaks in the last 30 minutes of the demo. The Ocean Kayak brand was well represented with a variety of models to demo.

Allowing the customer to place a deposit down on a purchase at demo prices, is a great way to get them into the store. Once in the store they can shop the various accessories and get to know the staff. This is always a successful demo, well attended with strong sales.



Vincent giving a kayak fishing Seminar



Sam shows off a rigged Trident



Sam explains the features of this Ocean Kayak

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Team Ocean Kayak at the Austin Canoe and Kayak Paddle Demo San Marcos, TX

Team Ocean Kayak's Captain Filip Spencer was on hand at the spring paddle demo held by ACK in San Marcos, Texas.

Big winners for the weekend were the Ocean Kayak Frenzy, Tetra and Trident. Great low prices on the Frenzy drove sales of that model into the double digits.

The weather was great and the crowds were strong on both days. This event is held at the San Marcos Ski Ranch, located off I35 between Austin and San Antonio.

Captain Filip Spencer provided a kayak fishing seminar, where he answered customer's questions.

Customers are beginning to gear up for the summer and eager to include some form of exercise or outdoor gear into the summer fun. This area of Texas is dotted by spring fed rivers and crystal clear lakes. Water activities dominate the landscape and kayaking has been a mainstream sport in this area for decades.

This has always been a great market for smaller sit on top and sit inside kayaks that allow for maneuverability and ease of transport.

Recent rainfall in Texas is bring back lakes and rivers to normal levels. After a historic drought in the state, it's great to see things begin to return to normal. Many rivers and lakes were inaccessible last summer due to low water levels.





Team Ocean Kayak

Paddle to the People

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Team Ocean Kayak at the Austin Canoe and Kayak Paddle Demo Austin, TX

Team Ocean Kayak's Jeff Herman was on hand at the spring paddle demo held by ACK in Austin, Texas. The weather was a bit overcast, but Austin has an outdoor culture about it, and it showed with strong crowds both days.

Austin has a love affair with the outdoors, whether it's strolling down the shores of Town Lake in downtown Austin, bathing in Barton Springs, or tearing around Lake Travis in a ski boat. It's almost a requirement that you keep a pair of flip flops or water shoes and your bathing suit in your vehicle at all times.

Jeff was on hand to provide a kayak fishing seminar and answer customer questions and aid the staff in kayak sales. Heavy crowds kept the staff jumping all day long both days. Ocean Kayak's brand was well represented at this demo with many of the available models on hand.

It was a good jump start to the summer and the first demo of the spring season, many customers are eager to get out on the water after a long winter layoff. College was back in from spring break and many the University of Texas students were in attendance.



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Team Ocean Kayak at Lonestar Kayak Series Galveston, TX

Team Ocean Kayak's Vincent Rinando was on hand to help launch a grass roots kayak tournament series in the Galveston area. This tournament offers a low entry fee, and a family friendly atmosphere. Dustin Koreba, a long time friend to Team Ocean Kayak is the tournament director. The first event of this series had an awesome turnout with 60 kayak anglers entered. The weekend was windy and mild, but sunny and beautiful.

This series offers assistance to first time tournament anglers from some of the best tournament anglers in the sport of kayaking. It offers participants the opportunity to ask questions to some of the veteran tournament anglers about gear, locations, and tactics.

This series also benefits two causes in our area, Heroes on the Water and Texas Kayak Fisherman. One dollar of all the entry fees went to both causes. An additional 400.00 was also raised for the local Heroes on the Water chapter by passing around a bait bucket for contributions.

The weigh in was held at Louis's Bait Camp. The friendly staff and great hamburgers and cold beers made for an awesome day with family and friends. I brought my four year old son Jordan with me to give him his first taste of a tournament weigh in. Clint's three year old son Andrew was also on hand to enjoy the festivities.



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