

Pro Staff News

Volume 6 Issue 10 October

Team Ocean Kayak at Galveston Trophy Trout Series

Team Ocean Kayak's Vincent Rinando, Clint Barghi, and Sam Rinando fished in the first Galveston Trophy Trout Series as a three man team. The Galveston Trophy Trout Series is a speckled trout tournament event where one to three man teams fish for three speckled trout. Team Ocean Kayak was the only kayak team entered in this event, which has some of the most respected speckled trout



fishing guides on the Texas coast competing in this tournament. Known for our redfish tournament wins, there seems to be an added respect factor involved in trout fishing tournaments. Unlike redfish, which tend to stay in a given area over a period of time, speckled trout roam the bays and finding and staying on quality trout is a special skill. Having not fished for trout in over 8 months, our team was a little rusty, but we are spending the vast majority of our time now targeting speckled trout instead of redfish. The tournament series has one event each month from October through February, with an invitational championship held in March. We started out the day great adding three quality trout to our stringers early. This proved to be as much of a curse as a blessing as we learned some valuable lessons about keeping trout alive in a kayak. Boaters have the advantage of putting a trout into an onboard live well without having to handle the fish too much. We took out two of our Ocean Kayak Torques (equipped with a trolling motor), to allow us to cover as much area as possible. We quickly learned to keep an eye on the fish as we ran one over with the prop and ended up killing that fish. We also learned that trout do not handle the stress of being pulled around in the kayak as easily as redfish, as our biggest trout also died. In this tournament a dead fish gives you a half pound penalty per fish. As luck would have it, we had to weigh in a smaller fish as our two largest trout ended up dead. The dead trout with the half pound penalty for our largest trout tumbled the team from 5th place to 9th place overall as many of the stringers were similar in weight. It was a good showing for the team, as we competed against seasoned speckled trout fishing guides who fish for trout on a daily basis.

Upcoming Events

November 11-12, 2011 IFA Championship Chalmette, LA

November 19, 2011 Galveston Trophy Trout Series



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Team Ocean Kayak and Artist Boat Float the Boat

Team Ocean Kayak again helped sponsor The Float the Boat fundraiser. Jeff Herman and Rick Spillman hung a donated Necky Manitou in Galveston's Mod Coffee shop in August. As the decorative center piece for the islands most popular fundraiser, it was seen by thousands, and sold countless raffle tickets. The Necky brand was considered the primary sponsor for the event and Jeff had the donation and brand mentioned in 3 publications. (Pictured).

In addition to magazine coverage there was news coverage as well. The Necky Manitou was again front and center the night of Galveston's Art Walk Gala, and was seen by more than an estimated 2000 people as the center piece of Artist Boat's Float the Boat campaign. The raffle announcement was standing room only, and the winner couldn't have been a better pick. The lucky winner was Kelly Drinnen of the Flower Gardens National Marine Sanctuary!

Team Ocean Kayak is thrilled to continue helping Artist Boat and their efforts to educate our states school children through kayaking. Additionally, the brand recognition created cannot be understated, and we hope to continue this partnership in the future."



Paddling Out The ART of ARTIST BOAT

I think most fishermen, whether they are wading, kayaking, or drifting in a powerboat, come to realize the importance of our marsh and wetland areas. The health of our fisheries is completely dependent on the health of our marshlands. Whether you are a new fisherman or an old salt as weathered as a King Ranch mesquite, this realization comes to you at some point.

There is a group of paddlers and conservationists in Galveston who have done incredible work in promoting the importance of our wetlands and disseminating this very information to our youth and our schools. Artist Boat is a nonprofit organization founded by Karla Klav in 2003. The folks at Artist Boat recognized that the public was generally unaware of how critical our wetlands and marsh areas are for the health of our fisheries and the coastal ecosystem in general.

Karla and her staff have disseminated this message to thousands of paddlers through their work. During the school year, they spread this message to the most important demographic possible. That demographic is the school children of the upper coast.

Working with various school districts, many in urban and economically depressed areas, Artist Boat takes kids paddling, and spends time explaining to our youngsters how and why our bays and estuaries work together. These youngsters would probably never have occasion to

learn these important facts at all. Through Artist Boat they not only learn about our coastal areas, they do so first hand, in kayaks with instructors who are both well trained and informative. (Where were these kinds of field trips when I was a kid?)

I asked Karla how many kids they took paddling in a school year. She said, "I'd have to run some reports to give you exact numbers."

"Maybe a thousand?," I inquired.

"Oh, easily closer to two thousand," Karla quickly replied.

Imagine that! Artist Boat and their staff have done this year in and year out since 2003. I don't think it's an exaggeration to say they are one of the

The health of our fisheries are completely dependent on the health of our marshlands.

leading organization in promoting wetlands and conservation on the Texas coast.

During the summer, when school is not in session, they do paddling trips for the general public. They charge a nominal fee and this helps with their funding. I worked with Artist Boat this summer to help organize experienced paddlers to assist their instructors with these summer trips. Through Texas Kayak Fisherman, and with the generous help of my fellow pro staff paddler Rick Spillman, we were able to work with Artist Boat on 12 of

their summer paddling trips. The summer paddling trips are always commensurate with the encounter in our area. They have a multitude of how important it is to the back of a growing child. I was schooled up on a father and son paddling trip. Karla asked me to see the "fabled" area. I see the "fabled" area. I see the "fabled" area. I see the "fabled" area.

uction and wine t The Emporium is and awesome isney California (\$2,400 value), from Pablo Blue encounter in our Moody Gardens of important (ki Salon & Spa, s including carts the (\$575) along a local favorite raffle ticket is and mentioned ho- ing would it be a finger to my I flow your way! reds working in not 15 yards out the Artist Boat were speechee office where the seconds of ave- You by UTMB torpedoes. ing more than the father soon w/other Nature: a the coolest thing I' Hope that Art efforts on behalf of 9,000 children teaching so me- ation about the and the arts is one experiences. It have ever seen. To learn more www.ArtistBoat.e

open hearts of Galveston as we unite together as one to Help Float The Boat. This moment of inner peace is yours to experience with joy-n-ease on October 8... Thank you.

Annie Willow is an Islander By Choice, proud sponsor of Help Float The Boat, and the grateful owner of Happy Pretty You! Reiki Salon & Spa. By appointment only to serve you better! Come in for the pretty and leave feeling happy! Visit HappyPrettyYou.com. Call 409-765-5502 for more information.

Help Float The Boat!

Silent Auction & Wine Tasting
Music provided by Alligator Handshake

October 8, 2011 - Artwalk
6 pm - 9:30 pm

The Emporium at Eibands
2201 Postoffice Street - Galveston, TX
Raffle Drawing for a 14'4" Necky Manitou Sea Kayak
call (409) 770-0722
for more information or email: info@artistboat.org

New the kayak and purchase tickets at www.artistboat.org from August 15 to October 8

Drawing will be held at 9:30pm at The Emporium at Eibands. Raffle will be present to win the Necky Ticket! Top 10 for \$100.00. Tickets \$10.00. Proceeds benefit the Artist Boat.



Artist Boat provides a learning experience like none other and teaches its students the relation of a healthy marshland to the health of our fisheries. Photo by author

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TheIslanderMagazine.com 35

3 Publications.

Over \$5000.00 dollars raised.

Brand Awareness via a month long display.

News Coverage.

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Team Ocean Kayak at Yak Attack Tournament Rockport, Texas

Team Ocean Kayak's Captain Filip Spencer was on hand for the annual Yak Attack tournament that benefits Camp Aranzazu. Camp Aranzazu (pronounced Ah ran' zah zoo) is a not-for-profit, year-round camp facility specially designed to serve the needs of people with chronic illnesses or disabilities. The barrier-free facility features paved walkways to assist wheelchair travel, specialized equipment to enable maximum participation in water sports and other physical activities, as well as a medical facility for campers requiring daily medications. Team Ocean Kayak donated a few items from our sponsors and was recognized as a sponsor for the event, along with a few of our sponsors. It was a great day on the water to benefit a great cause, including a few wounded soldiers that were present for and fished the event.



MirrOLure		Skwoosh	
Buggs		Bass Assassin	
Team Ocean Kayak		Rockport Printing	
Otterbox		Rockport Net	

We would like to thank our Sponsors for their continued Support

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