

## Tupper Lake 8-Miler: Threatening Weather Relents

By Roger Gocking

The weather forecast was for thunderstorms every hour from late morning till mid-afternoon. Nevertheless, 73 intrepid paddlers showed up at the Tupper Lake Boat Launch for the sixth running of the Tupper Lake 8-Miler. The canoes and stand up paddle boards (SUPS) went off in the first wave and three minutes later the kayaks followed. There were dark menacing clouds to the northwest where bad weather was building, but it only managed to produce a few minimal sprinkles which served to cool red-lining bodies as they made their way up stream on the Raquette River to the four-mile turn around at the Oxbow.

Among the kayakers, Eric Young from Mooers Forks, in his new Epic V10 Elite surf ski, and in the Unlimited Kayak Men Under 50 Class powered out into the lead, but close behind was Jan Wachowiak from Saratoga Springs in an Olympic K1. Eventually, Jan was able to take the lead and came home 35 seconds ahead of Eric: 1:08.13 to 1:08.48. The gap between these two and the rest of the field was substantial. Paul Tomblin of Rochester in the Over 50 Class posted the third fastest time: 1:14.2,1 and not far behind was his fellow Rochesterite, Mike Finear, in 1:15.54.

However, by far the most competitive class was the Touring Kayak/SS20 Men Over 50 with ten kayakers and surf skis vying with one another. Bob Raymond from Syracuse led home the charge in 1:15.53 followed by Mark Syndeo from Rochester in 1:17.04 and John Morona of Lake Clear in 1:20.15.

The first woman kayaker was Eileen Visser from Potsdam in the Unlimited Under 50 class with a time of 1:17.02. The second fastest woman was Emily Hart from Williamstown in the Touring Kayak Under 50 class with a time of 1:26.51. Dorine Peregrin of Lake Placid was first in the Over 50 Class with a time of 1:42.26 and Lisa Tebo of Tupper lake was second in 2:02.24.

The fastest canoers were Cathy Lipski and Bruce Lee from Port Crane in the C-2 Amateur Mixed Class in 1:15.47. They were followed by Ralph Vincent and Betsy Gregory from Essex Junction and Sutton Vermont in 1:16.57 and Linda and Bob Cooley from Scotia in 1:22.07. In the C-2 Stock Men Over 50 Michael Pocchiarri and John McMahon from Ava and Rome, NY were first in 1:20.01 and Chas Billingsley and Bill Jemison from Lake Clear and Potsdam were second in 1:22.04 while evergreen Glen Vanderwinckel and Mike Skivington of Webster and Scottsville were third in 1:28.50. The most competitive race was in the C-1 Amateur Men Over 50 class with only a second separating Peter Cain and Gene Newman of Canton: 1:21.28 to 1:21:29. Steve Buzzell of Saranac Lake was third in 1:45.05.

Other notable times were Peter Ross and Tim Henning in the C-2 Men Over 50 Class with a time of 1:17.02 followed by Roger Henry and Gary McCain in 1:19.52. Morgan Hoven posted an impressive 1:20.12 in a Placid Boatwork canoe in the Solo Recreation Canoe Men Under 50 Class and his father in the Over 50 Class posted a 1:33.05. Mary and Allen Kelly of Rensselaer Falls were first in the C-2 Stock Mixed Over 50 in 1:22.10. The father and daughter team of Danny and Kahenwentha Stacey were

second in 1:26.10, with Saranac Lakers, Nancy and Rodger Dempster, third in 1:39.38. There were two C-4s: a Mixed Under 50 from Saranac Lake of Joe Munn, Aron Mozdier, Megan Glennon and Shane Ash who posted a 1:17.36, and all-women team of Christina Hayden, Heidi Krester, Andrea Grant and Kim Greiner, most of whom were from Lake Placid and Saranac Lake, and posted a time of 1:24.27. Michael Stansland and his son, Ivy, posted a time of 1:38.51 in the C-2 Stock Family Class.

There were five SUPers from the Itahaca area. Paul Wiech was first with a time of 1:37.50 and first among the women was Aušra Milano in 1:43.40.

The Tupper Lake 8-Miler was a fund raiser for the Adirondack Medical Center in Saranac Lake and specifically for the Heart Center. Hannah Hanford and her staff at the Adirondack Health Foundation were particularly helpful in publicizing the race, and most appropriately the Medical Director of the Heart Center, Dr. Anthony Tramontano, participated in the race. Thanks, are also due to the local merchants who contributed prizes: Adirondack Lakes and Trails, Beef's Electric, Coakley Home and Hardware, Curtis Lumber, Hannaford Supermarkets, Placid Boatworks Placid Planet Bicycles, Raquette River Brewing, St Regis Canoe Outfitters, Shaheen's IGA and the Wild Center.

The weather finally turned sunny for the post-race BBQ and award's ceremony.