



Michigan Canoe Racing Association

Join



Online MCRA Registration

## May 2026 Newsletter

### What's New:

- Bellaire B.I.G. Canoe Race May 2 - 3
- Roscommon Canoe Classic May 8 - 9 (Friday Saturday)
- Memory Layne Byron May 17
- Huron River Canoe Challenge May 30 \*MIXED BONUS\*

Racers will score points on their 10 best races throughout the year.

**Reminder: MCRA dues must be paid by April 1 to avoid late fees. Both paddlers must be current on dues in order to receive points and prize money.**

Dues processing is now available online. If any members need assistance with registration issues, please reach out to the MCRA board and we will be more than happy to assist.

You can pay your dues by clicking the "join now" (pay by April 1 to avoid late fees).  
Visit <https://runsignup.com/MemberOrg/MichiganCanoeRacingAssociation/Register>

Check out our tentative 2026 race schedule below!

## 2026 MCRA Tentative Race Schedule

This tentative schedule is subject to change.

Bellaire "BIG" Race – May 2-3

Roscommon Canoe Classic – May 8-9 **(Friday Saturday)**

Memory Layne – Byron – May 17

Huron River Canoe Challenge – May 30 **\*Mixed Bonus\***

Newaygo Power Paddle – June 6-7 **\*Women's Bonus\***

Betsie River Race – June 13 **\*C1 State Championship\***

Muskegon River Throwdown – June 20-21

Paddle Hard River Rampage – June 27-28 **\*E2 Championship\***

Curley Memorial Canoe Race – July 11-12

Spike's Challenge – July 18-19

Mio "First Dam" Challenge – August 29-30

Tahquamenon Wilderness Canoe Race – September 19 & End of year awards

Presented By:



## Bellaire B.I.G. Canoe Race

Preregistration ends 5/1 @ 8pm

<https://www.runreg.com/big-canoe-race>

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1242242241218478>

# The B.I.G. Canoe Race

## 5<sup>th</sup> Annual Race

C1: Saturday, May 2, 2026 @ 6:00 PM (Ohio St. Boat Launch)

C2: Sunday, May 3, 2023 @ 10:00 AM (Fisherman's Paradise)

C1: Ohio St. Boat Launch – Bellaire MI, 49615

C2: 5925 Fisherman's Paradise Rd, Bellaire, MI 49615

Race Director: Ben Tarbutton  
1367 Plum Valley Rd. NE  
Mancelona, MI 49659  
btarbutton@mancelonaschools.org  
989-370-1215

**Registration:** Pre-Registration will be online. Link will be posted on miracing.com and Michigan Canoe Racing Association facebook page.

**Course:**

C1: Will have a wave start at Ohio St. Boat Launch (Same as 2024 and 2025). Course will be two loops turning counterclockwise around a buoy near Lake Bellaire and the start. Estimated winning time is 50.

C2: Parking and start will be located at Fisherman's Paradise Boat Launch. Start in Lake Bellaire and entre the Grass River. Turn a buoy just before Clam Lake and travel back upstream. The racers will go past the start line and paddle upstream to the Ohio St. boat launch. Complete a buoy turn and return to the start line.

Contestant #1 (Only C1)	Contestant #2
Printed Name: _____	Printed Name: _____
Street Address: _____	Street Address: _____
City: _____ State/Zip: _____	City: _____ State/Zip: _____
Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Age: _____	Date of Birth: ____/____/____ Age: _____
Male: ____ Female: ____ Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL	Male: ____ Female: ____ Shirt Size: S M L XL XXL
MCRA Canoe # _____	MCRA Canoe # _____

Entry Information		
C-2 Race Expert I \$30/Team	Race Day \$35/Team	C-1 Race: Expert I \$15
C-2 Race Expert II \$20/Team	Race Day \$25/Team	Race Day: \$20
The undersigned waves any and all rights to claim against the officers, and individuals of the M.C.R.A., the officials and committee members of The B.I.G Canoe Race, and any landowners on or bordering the Intermediate River, Lake Bellaire, and the Grass River, both individually and severally and acknowledges that the above organization are assuming no responsibility to the undersigned. The undersigned hereby acknowledges the inherent danger in all water sports and attest to his/hers understanding of and agreement to abide by the safety rules and regulations of the M.C.R.A. and A.C.A. Any disputes will be finalized by the committee, and or the M.C.R.A. board members.		
Contestant # 1	Contestant # 2	
Signature: _____ Date: _____	Signature: _____ Date: _____	
Parent/Guardian: _____	Parent/Guardian: _____	



## Roscommon Canoe Classic

<https://www.rccra.net/#/>

Facebook Event Page:

<https://www.facebook.com/events/1638444120759259>

**C1 will be held Friday evening to ensure all paddlers have Mothers Day off to spend with Mom's!**

Friday, May 8TH C1 Race starts at 5:30pm. Day of registration opens at 4:00pm.

Paddler order will be determined by pre-registration (day of registration participants will automatically be put last). Paddlers will be sent off every 5 seconds, paddle down to Steckert Bridge and perform a clock wise buoy turn and continue paddling back up river to Wallace Park.

Saturday, May 9th C2 Race Starts at 11am. Day of registration will open at 9:30am.  
Race Briefing at 10:40!

Heats will be determined following pre-registration and day of registration (day of registration participants will automatically be put in the last heat). We **WILL** be doing our normal run start with one paddler starting across the road and over the hill while the other paddler waits with boat on the river edge.

Paddlers will paddle down to Deerheart Valley Rd and perform a clockwise buoy turn and paddle back up river to Wallace Park.

Amateur Class (E2) will paddle down to Steckert Bridge, perform a clockwise buoy turn and paddle back up river to Wallace Park.

Following the C2 race there will be a award ceremony under the pavilion at Wallace Park

Directions to race start:

From South: I-75 North, Exit 239, Right onto M-18/E Michigan Hwy  
3 miles-Park is located on the left – just past the Catholic Church

From North:I-75 South, Exit 244,Left onto W. Federal Hwy/CR 200

3.8 miles, Turn left at light onto Lake Street.2 miles- Park is located on left – just past the Catholic Church

For more information, contact: Sean Brabant  
[sean.g.brabant@gmail.com](mailto:sean.g.brabant@gmail.com)



# Memory Layne Canoe Race

May 17

This race is put on by Memory Layne Global Missions to bring awareness of their continuing projects and missions. Please come even just to watch and be part of the hype! Bring family and friends. Great local event for a family outing. There will be 2 races and DELICIOUS FOOD TO FOLLOW

C2 race starts at 930

There will be bonuses at each bridge.

C1 race starts about 1230. C1 will begin after C2 race is finished

\*\*\* Entry fee \*\*\*

C2-\$20

C1-\$10

RACE STARTS AT  
Byron High School  
312 W Maple St,  
Byron, MI 48418

AND FINISHES AT  
GEEK ROAD COUNTY PARK  
Exchange Road  
Bancroft, MI

ANYONE can participate who has proper gear( canoe, paddles, life jackets) and a passion for water sports.



Feel free to reach out to Nathan Widing at [\(810\) 919-9268](tel:8109199268) with any questions



## Huron River Canoe Challenge

### \*MIXED BONUS\*

Huron River Canoe Challenge  
May 30, 2026 @ Gallup Park, Ann Arbor

The Huron River Challenge is a sanctioned paddling event of the Michigan Canoe Racing Association designed to bring an exciting day of canoe racing to the Huron River in Ann Arbor.

Facebook Event Page

<https://www.facebook.com/events/959691329745926/>

Event Schedule:

C-1 Professional Race (10:00am)

+ Juniors (10:00am)

The kickoff to the Huron River Canoe Challenge will feature 20 – 30 solo canoes in a 6 mile race around Geddes Pond. This event will begin at 10:00 am with a mass start in Gallup Park and feature 1 large lap between US23 and Furstenburg Nature Area. Registration begins at 9:00 am at the Maas Picnic Shelter, Gallup Park.

C-2 Professional Race (12:30 pm)

The highlight event of the Huron River Canoe Challenge will feature up to 30 professional canoe racing teams competing in a “marathon style” event. The course is 14 miles long and includes a portage at the Geddes Dam. This event will begin with a mass start in Gallup Park. Registration begins at 9:00 am at the Maas Picnic Shelter, Gallup Park.

Awards (After C-2 Race)

Join us for awards following the races.

Directions:

Maas Picnic Shelter Gallup Park

3000 Fuller

Ann Arbor, MI

Gallup Park

Gallup Park is one of the most popular recreation places in Ann Arbor. Some sections of the bike path are under construction and may not be open during this year’s event. For information and a map of Gallup Park, go to:

<https://www.a2gov.org/parks.../parks-and-places/gallup-park/>

Lodging

The nearest campgrounds are located in Ypsilanti and Brighton. There are several hotels and motels in the Ann Arbor area if you wish to stay overnight.

Event director:

Tim Feldkamp

[aaxc19@yahoo.com](mailto:aaxc19@yahoo.com)



## Michigan Canoe Racing Association

Powered by RunSignup, © 2026 [Unsubscribe](#) | [View in Browser](#)