

PADDLER

M A G A Z I N E

JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2007

Made in Manhattan

BARTON SETS MAYOR'S CUP RECORD

by Joe Glickman

Forty-one paddlers headed north on the Hudson River to start the inaugural Mayor's Cup, a 28.6-mile circumnavigation of Manhattan. With four-time Olympic medalist Greg Barton in the field, the question was not if the record of 3 hours and 43 minutes would fall, but by how much. Since winning his last Olympic medal in 1992, he's won nearly every race he's entered.

And down the stretch, Barton did what he usually does—paddled off alone—through a frenzied cast of motor boats, past the Statue of Liberty, and back to an appreciative crowd at the finish in a record time of 3 hours and 21 minutes.

The task was straightforward; the distance intimidating. Eric Stiller, the author of *Keep Australia On Your Left*, had some advice for a first-timer at the start: "Keep Manhattan on your right!" Heading north with the incoming tide in his 21-foot, 25-pound Epic surfski of his own design, Barton averaged more than 9.5 mph up the windswept Hudson. An hour later, at the top of Manhattan, he turned right into the calm, protected Harlem River.

For the next half dozen miles, Barton paddled against the current, pulling Brooklynite Joe Glickman—me, actually—on his wash at 7 mph. Gary Krapf logged the fastest circumnavigation in a one-man outrigger (OC1), 3:53. Caroline Brosius was the fastest female in an OC1 (4:16) and the first-place female kayaker was Alex Landrum (4:21).

Next year the Mayor's Cup hopes to have a larger purse, attract an international field, and serve as an East Coast bookend to the U.S. Surfski Championships (see page 12) held in San Francisco. *Info: www.nymayorscup.com.*

Joe Glickman is a surfski and adventure racer who lives in Brooklyn. He finished the race in 3:27, 15 minutes ahead of the previous record.

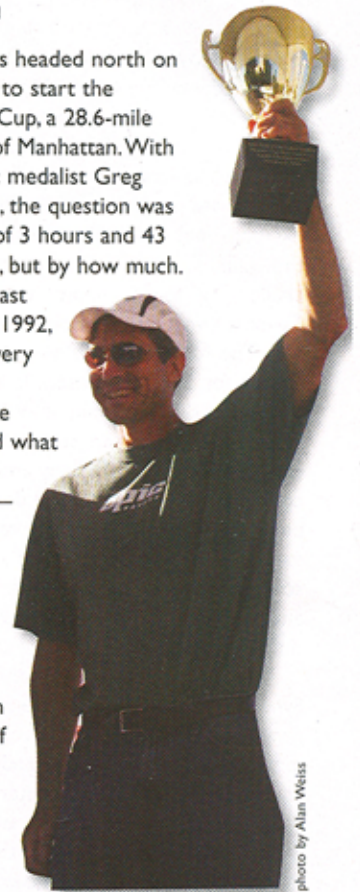


photo by Alan Weiss