



# NEWS RELEASE

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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### MARIN COUNTY PARKS GEARS UP FOR ANNUAL STAND UP PADDLEBOARD RACE SERIES

**SAN RAFAEL, CA** - Marin County Parks and local retailer Demo Sport are in final preparations for two paddleboard races in the coming weeks. The third annual Stand Up Paddleboard (SUP) race at McNears Beach Park will take place on September 10, 2011, and the first annual Hog Island Huff will take place on October 1, 2011. Race organizer and supervising ranger Adam Craig said that "Stand Up Paddleboarding is one of the fastest growing sports in the country and Marin is a huge contributor to this growth."

Craig noted the "McNears Beach Park race is quickly becoming a classic in the bay area paddleboard scene and is the crown jewel of the Marin County Parks SUP race series." The four mile course starts and finishes on the quarter-mile long sandy beach and goes around the islands off Pt. San Pedro and China Camp State Beach. Registration for the McNears beach race begins at 8:00 am and the race starts at 9:00 am. The \$10 parking fee includes the entrance fee for the race. There are prize packages for the winners, courtesy of Demo Sport in San Rafael.

This year, Marin County Parks and Demo Sport have added a second SUP race- the aptly named Hog Island Huff on Tomales bay adjacent to Nick's Cove. Craig remarked that "we are adding a second race this year to keep up with demand and show participants another spectacular location for Stand Up Paddleboarding in Marin." The five mile race will start off of Miller Boat Launch, on the east shore of Tomales Bay, taking racers through channels and sandbars, around Hog and Duck Islands and back to the launch. After the race, participants are invited to enjoy \$1 raw and \$2 barbequed oysters prepared on-site by Nick's Cove chefs.

Steve Merrifield, owner of Demo Sport says that "the races are fun family activities that create awareness of access to Marin beaches and waterways and the benefits of their continued preservation." Eventually, Merrifield would like to see Marin SUP races become regional qualifiers for a locally organized international paddleboard event anchored in the San Francisco Bay Area.

Registration for the Hog Island Huff begins at 8:00 am on October 1 and the race starts at 9:00 am. There are prize packages for the winners, courtesy of Demo Sport and Lagunitas Brewing Company. The \$10 registration fee includes event parking. There will be paddle boards available to rent courtesy of Clavey Equipment. On-line pre-registration is available at [demosport.com](http://demosport.com). Meet at Miller Boat Launch, 3.5 miles north of Marshall.

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For more information, contact Supervising Ranger Adam Craig at (415) 446-4423, visit [marincountyparks.org](http://marincountyparks.org) or Demo Sport's Steve Merrifield at (415) 454-3500.