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An exciting rematch is shaping up this weekend, Nov. 4-6 for the 2016 North Carolina's Surf to Sound Challenge. Race conditions are expected to be near perfect.

WRIGHTSVILLE BEACH, NORTH CAROLINA, USA, October 31, 2016 /EINPresswire.com/ -- An exciting rematch is shaping up this weekend, Nov. 4-6, for the 2016 men's championship in North Carolina's Surf to Sound Challenge. Olympic gold medalist Larry Cain of Burlington, Ontario, and Olympic sprint canoer Tamás Buday Jr. of Québec City, Québec, will be in the field of elite competitors.

Cain, known as the "paddle monster" in the sport of standup paddleboard, captured the Surf to Sound Championship three times with Buday winning twice. No one else has snagged the title.

Equally thrilling, the top three 2015 women's elite winners have signed up to compete again this year, including champion April Zilg of Wilmington, NC, second-place finisher Stephanie Shideler of Long Beach, NY, and Tracey Finlay of Ontario, Canada.

Ranked 10th in the world on SUP Racer's Top 50 Women, Zilg is favored to repeat the women's elite championship.

"Race conditions are expected to be near perfect with a sunny sky, temps in the low 70s, light winds, and moderate water temperatures," said Bill Baggett, owner of the host hotel, Blockade Runner Beach Resort.

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— Bill Baggett, Blockade Runner Beach Resort

Surf to Sound is a weekend of family activities, paddle clinics, vendor displays, and races designed to include all skill levels from beginner to professional. Events commence on Friday, Nov. 4, 10 a.m.-4 p.m. with paddle clinics taught by professionals Larry Cain and April Zilg, followed by a Surfside Shrimp Boil at 5:30 p.m. with proceeds benefitting the North Carolina Coastal Federation.

Saturday, Nov. 5, paddlers can compete in the beginner to intermediate Intracoastal 4-mile Harbor Island Loop or the elite division 6.5-mile Surf to Sound Challenge. Races begin at 8:30 a.m. and 8:45 a.m. respectively, with a Kids Race on the sound side at 11:30 a.m.

On Sunday, Nov. 6, paddlers who want to test their speed on a longer flatwater course will register for the 9-mile Blockade Runner Flatwater SUP Championship, now in its third year.

Also on Sunday, and new in 2016, ultra-distance paddlers can take on the monster 25-mile Kraken endurance race, circumnavigating Harbor Island at Wrightsville Beach, and nearby Masonboro Island, a protected wildlife refuge.

"Originally, we wanted to set up a distance race that would appeal to OC-6 [six-man outrigger canoe] paddlers," said race director Mark Schmidt. "But then we thought, 'Why restrict the distance to one type of craft?' So, we have solo paddlers registered as well as OC teams."

Following Sunday's Kraken, six-man canoes will be on display and visitors can ask questions and learn more from the paddling teams. The Surf to Sound Challenge awards ceremony is scheduled Sunday at 1 p.m.

More than 300 paddlers from Canada and the East Coast are expected to participate. Surf to Sound Challenge is one of the nation's last major gatherings of the paddleboard season.



Olympic Gold Medalist Larry Cain, Courtesy of North Carolina Press Release



Surf to Sound Elite Women's Champion 2015, April Zilg, Courtesy of North Carolina Press Release



OC-6 Racing at Wrightsville Beach, NC, Courtesy of Karen Pennington

Presented by the Wrightsville Beach Paddle Club, North Carolina Surf to Sound Challenge is hosted by Blockade Runner Beach Resort and sanctioned by the World Paddle Association (WPA).

[Click here for race information and registration](#)

[Click here for accommodations](#)

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Keywords: #StandupPaddleboard #OC-6 #SurftoSoundChallenge #S2S #Kraken #SUPEnduranceRace #HarborIslandLoop #AprilZilg #BlockadeRunnerFlatwaterChampionship #LarryCain #TamasBuday #GabBeauchesne-Sevigny #MarkSchmidt #NorthCarolina #SUP #WrightsvilleBeachPaddleClub #WPA

Robert B Butler

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