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Bluebird skies, torrential runoff and the world's best river surfers combined for a memorable weekend of fun and action in Glenwood Springs. The Aloha spirit was flowing at the inaugural [Rocky Mountain Surf Festival](#). A diversity of events at the Glenwood Springs Whitewater Park wowed and entertained the crowds June 11<sup>th</sup> & 12<sup>th</sup>. This one of a kind Polynesian themed extravaganza featured long and short board surfing contests, a [Goof Off](#) competition, hula hooping with [Betty Hoops](#), an impromptu float in all types of crafts on the Colorado River and planet earth's best river stand up paddlers displaying their paddling prowess on the snowmelt swollen Colorado River.

The Whitewater Stand Up Paddling Championship was the focal point of the festival but the [Alpine Quest](#) River Surfing Championship proved itself equally popular with the throngs attending the festival. A [gaggle of geese](#) set the stage for the festivities by surfing the wave at the park and going viral on You Tube just prior to the event.

Not to be upstaged by the avian surfers, the stand up paddlers started out the action in the 2011 Whitewater Stand Up Paddling Championship presented by [C4 Waterman](#) with a downriver race on Saturday morning. This 3.5 mile sprint saw 2 time whitewater SUP champ Dan Gavere once again out paddle the competition with local river SUP pioneer Charlie MacArthur hot on his tail the entire race in 2<sup>nd</sup> and [Timberline Tours'](#) Matt Paula in 3<sup>rd</sup>. In the hotly contested woman's division Jenny MacArthur blitzed her way into first with Nikki Gregg in second and newcomer Brittany Parker taking third.

In the day's 2<sup>nd</sup> event – the action packed SUPcross – heats of 4 paddlers had to maneuver around gates and sprint downriver in this fast paced, crash and burn filled event. After a number of closely contested heats, the field was whittled down to the final eight. Dan Gavere used his precision eddy turns and blazing speed to charge into first with Hawaii's Nao Ginella taking second followed by Ryan Guay in third. The women's final heat was equally thrilling with Jenny MacArthur losing her board but somehow managing to remount just prior to the finish line for her second straight victory. Nikki Gregg once again took second with Lorin Paley coming in third. After the SUPcross the [Primo Beer](#) Garden kicked into high gear and the crowd feasted on Hawaiian style BBQ while listening to music and watching river surfing action until the sun set.

Day two of the festival was epic. Another blue bird day, the river was near a record flow (22,000 cfs) and the wave was going off. The action started out with the hotly contested short board comp. The pack of surfers carved up the wave with the best 2 combined scores out of 3 surfs counting towards the final placings. Stand up paddling star Noa Ginella ripped on his C4 Waterman short board and slashed his way into the top spot. Bad Fish founder Zach Hughes' agro arcing landed him in second and always smooth and styley Whitney Guild took third. Next up was the long board division. River surfing guru Whitney Guild's lightning fast cross stepping impressed the judges and he nudged out Noa Ginella for the top spot. Another C4 Waterman surfer, Christian Bradley, put on an impressive display of moves and took third.

After the regular surfing competitions, it was time for the festival's grand finale – the stand up paddling surf event. The action was amazing and the crowd was stoked. MC Mike Harvey's color commentary entertained the throngs who crowded along the river bank to watch the Whitewater Stand Up Paddling Championship's last event. The competitors took river stand up paddling to another level with a diverse array of tricks. 360 spins, shove its, hang fives and a head stand were just some of the many moves that wowed the crowd.

Once again Noa Ginella put on a remarkable display of balance, technique and just pure agro ripping and captured first place. Two time whitewater SUP champ Dan Gavere dug deep in his bulging bag of tricks and displayed masterful surfing as usual blasting his way into second with Whitney Guild once again landing on the podium in third. [Aspen Kayak & SUP Academy](#) owner Charlie MacArthur took 4<sup>th</sup> pulling off his first 360 ever and local favorite Mark Gammill was 5<sup>th</sup>. In fitting fashion for this tight knit posse of river surfers, the event's MC Mike was even a competitor. For the last ride of the festival he pulled a cold Primo Beer out of his life jacket. The crowd went wild as he skulled it while surfing the world's best river wave – in [Glenwood Springs](#) – the river surfing capitol of the world.



#### OVERALL RESULTS – 2011 Whitewater Stand Up Paddling Championship

##### Men's

- 1<sup>st</sup> - Dan Gavere
- 2<sup>nd</sup> - Noa Ginella
- 3<sup>rd</sup> - Charlie MacArthur
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Mark Gammill
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Christian Bradley

##### Short Board

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Noa Ginella
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Zach Hughes
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Whitney Guild
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Mikey Dunworth
- 5<sup>th</sup> – John Ginella

##### Woman's

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Jenny MacArthur
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Nikki Gregg
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Lorin Paley
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Nadia Almuti
- 5<sup>th</sup> – Brittany Parker

##### Long Board

- 1<sup>st</sup> – Whitney Guild
- 2<sup>nd</sup> – Noa Ginella
- 3<sup>rd</sup> – Christian Bradley
- 4<sup>th</sup> – Mark Gammill - tie
- 4<sup>th</sup> – John Ginella

FOR MORE INFORMATION AND RESULTS

[www.rockymountainsurffestival.com](http://www.rockymountainsurffestival.com)

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