

SUP World Battle of the Paddle

By Halie Harrison

I went to California in the beginning of September to compete in multiple Stand Up paddling races, and the biggest race in the SUP World Battle of the Paddle which took place this year at Salt Creek, CA.

When I got to California, I started off at the U.S. SUP Tour at Huntington Beach. In the technical race I got fourth, and competed in the SUP surfing but didn't do as well as I wanted in that.

Next up was the start of the Stand Up World Tour, which also took place at Huntington Beach. I ended up making it to round three, but it was such an amazing experience to compete with some of the best stand up surfers from all over the world.

I then headed up to San Francisco for the Battle of the Bay. Day one was the distance race, which was 8.5 miles and went around Alcatraz then up around the south side of the Golden Gate Bridge. Although this wasn't my first time racing in the Bay, it was probably one of the most difficult races I've done.

Not only does the Bay have many challenging currents, but with that you have to go against side winds and up wind. I ended up getting second in the distance race and the course race, which took place the next day.

My next race was the big Battle of the Paddle at Salt Creek. In the elite race I got 12th overall and first in my age division for the distance race.

The weekend after I got home I headed to Turtle Bay for the final of the Stand Up World Series. On Saturday I competed in the distance race from Turtle Bay to Haleiwa, and ended up getting fourth overall woman.

On Sunday the sprints took place right on the poolside of Turtle Bay, which was a great place for spectators watching from all around the world. These sprints were very challenging having to compete with not only some of the fastest women in the world, but having to stay on your board while getting over some big surf on huge race boards. I got first in all my heats of the Sprint races, putting me in first place for the overall weekend.

I was very happy to end the racing season with this win, and I can't wait until the next season. I want to thank my wonderful mom and dad, as well as my sponsors Coreban SUP, Carbonerro Paddles, Onit Pro, and Maui Jim Sun-glasses. I couldn't have done any of this without them!

Halie Harrison competes in SUP competition at Huntington Beach.

