

Kayaking **Top kayakers survive elements**

Ed Anderson

Ed Anderson navigates the waters near Mavericks just beyond Pillar Point Harbor, Conditions were rough on Sunday afternoon but all of the Tsunami Rangers made it back safely.

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Only 10 people in nine kayaks ventured out into the water Sunday to participate in the Tsunami Rangers/Reef Madness race. That's because this race is not for the faint of heart nor those with little kayaking experience.

The currents can be rough and dangerous on a course that runs from Miramar to Mavericks and back.

Ken Howell won the race, finishing in 1 hour, 1 minute, 35 seconds. Earlier Sunday, Howell, an experienced racer, went out on a 45-minute ride. Sunday's race started at noon.

"That was the best time to go out," Howell said.

The final racer finished in an hour and 43 minutes, to the delight of all present.

Several racers noted that they had successfully cheated death again.

The only person not quite sure of the course was Frank Jacobsen. A friend of race co-founder Michael Powers, Jacobsen is an expert kayaker himself, but he comes from Norway. It was his first time participating in the race. The only information he was able to get was from photos shot by other participants.

He finished second.

“I would like to do the event again,” he said. “Michael has invited me every year to come to the race.”

All the participants had plenty of racing and kayaking experience and they all knew of the challenges of paddling a particularly thrilling corner of the Pacific Ocean.

“The race was just as advertised — challenging,” said participant Ed Anderson.

Anderson, who finished fifth in an hour, 36 minutes, 51 seconds, provided the pre-race instructions.

“It was a beautiful day out there,” Anderson said. “The best part was that no one got hurt.”



