

**Kristin Thomas**  
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## **Background & Bio**

### **I'm all about Stand Up Paddling!**

**ACA:** A long time regular member, I have more recently become a Competition Member (requirement as SUP ITO. See next section). Since the first SUP World Championships under ICF, I have reached out and worked with Beth and ACA to work to understand SUP nationally and globally, and identify top SUP competitors to represent the USA.

**ICF:** I was lucky to be chosen to be a part of the very first SUP ITO class in China 2019. I have worked as either Race director or competition manager at all of the Worlds except one, and both of the ICF SUP CUPS that have been held in the USA (OKC & NBP Sarasota). I will be the Competition Manager in November of this year at the ICF SUP World Championships be held at Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota, Florida.

**Athlete:** I have raced Stand Up Paddleboards since January of 2010. Mostly due to the area I live (year round paddling, early 'hub' of SUP & access to water) and stage of life (retired), I believe I have raced SUP in over 300 events; Perhaps more races than anyone else. Still a joy! And stoked for 'Golden Senior Masters' age group! ;)

**USA SUP:** Three years ago I was part of a group forms in a SUP specific SUP racing organization. Without getting into too much detail, SUP as a sport has already been 'fought' over through the Olympic Court of Arbitration, and while the decision concluded that no one

**Industry:** In my former 'life' in SUP, I worked as the Executive Director of SUPIA (SUP Industry Association) were I attended Trade Shows (namely Surf Expo, Outdoor Retailer and Paddlesports Retailer) and had many close industry contacts in the world of paddlesports. I worked closely with Chris Stec & others ACA staff and volunteers, often on panels together and working our 'membership' booths together.

### **Other SUP:**

While competition is my passion, I have been involved in many other aspects of SUP.

- I have never focused on instruction, I have certifications though WPA, SUPA and PaddleFit.
- I am a substitute coach for my current Performance Paddling training program in Dana Point, CA
- I had a 'podcast' (weekly Instagram live, actually) for the SUPCONNECT, interviewing over 130 Stand Up Paddle folks through the 'COVID' years. You can find them all on YouTube (supconnect or KT Outside)
- I have co-guided SUP Trips to Mexico, Catalina, Tahoe and the Colorado River.

### **BIO:**

Married 38 years, Mother of 3 grown children (and grandmother twice over this year!), 31 year resident of Laguna Beach, California in transition to San Diego, California.

My background is in Education with most of my teaching in 6th grade & technology. BA in Liberal Studies from CAL POLY San Luis Obispo, MEd. in Curriculum & the Study of Schooling from UCLA. Certificates in Technology in Education from UC Berkeley, and College Counseling

from UCLA. After years of full time teaching, I worked as a Director for our local public school foundation, SchoolPower. I have also had my own businesses Creative Memories & Laguna College Counseling.