

## Barton Cup: History and Greg Barton



**Olympic Gold Medalist Greg Barton, for whom the Barton Cup Challenge is named.**

### History of the Barton Cup Challenge and Biography of Greg Barton, Namesake of the Award.

The *Barton Cup Challenge* was first introduced to the delegates of the *USCA* for approval in 2000. **Jim Mack**, the former Executive Director, and **Trish Heed** put together the program in order to encourage a nationwide network of youth marathon paddling programs. These were to be established with the intention of expanding the growth of the sport of marathon paddling using **Greg Barton's** achievements to motivate participants to "follow in his paddle strokes".

The motions were passed, and the first competitions were held at the 2000 *USCA National Canoe and Kayak Marathon Championships* on the *Wabash River* in Lafayette, IN.

Here are some highlights from **Greg Barton's** biography, by him, from the Epic Kayaks website (<http://www.epickayaks.com>).

#### **Greg Barton**

- Birthdate: December 2, 1959
- Married to Justine Barton and has two daughters, Kendall, 6 and Hayley, 9
- Height: 5'11"
- Weight: 175 lbs.
- Favorite Sports Drink: Cytomax
- Favorite Training Device:  
Garmin Forerunner 305 GPS/Heart monitor

#### **Athletic Accomplishments**

##### **Sprint Kayak Competitions**

- Double Olympic Gold Medalist (K1 & K-2 1000 meters), Seoul, Korea, 1988
- Olympic Bronze Medalist (K1 1000m), Los Angeles, CA, 1984
- Olympic Bronze Medalist (K1 1000 meters), Barcelona, Spain, 1992
- World Champion (K1 10,000 meters) and Bronze Medalist (K1 1000m), Paris, France, 1991
- Double World Champion (K1 1000m and 10,000m), Duisburg, West Germany, 1987
- Double Pan Am Games Champion (K1 & K2 1000m), Indianapolis, IN, 1987
- World Champion (K1 10,000m), Hazewinkel, Belgium, 1985
- World Masters Games Champion (K1 500m, 1000m & 10,000m), Portland, OR, 1998
- Winner of more than 50 U.S. National Championship Titles

- Open Water Kayak / Outrigger Canoe Races
- Winner of USA Surf Ski Nationals, 2003 & 2004
- Winner of Finlandia Clean Water Challenge - Chicago to New York City, 1994
- Winner of Hawaiian State Surf Ski Championships, Honolulu, HI, 1995
- Winner of Sea Trek Alcatraz Island Race, Sausalito, CA, 1993, 1995, 1997
- Winner of Molokai to Oahu Outrigger Canoe Challenge (Team Offshore), 1989

#### **Major Marathon Canoe Championships**

- *United States Canoe Association National Marathon* Champion
  - C2 men's category 1983, 84, 89, 93, 94
  - C2 mixed category 1982, 84, 89
  - K1 Downriver category 1976, 77
- Winner of *General Clinton Regatta 70 Pro Race*, Cooperstown, NY 1996, 1997
- Winner of *Classique internationale de canots de la Mauricie*, Shawinigan QC, 1996, 1997

#### **Special Honors**

- Selected for "100 Golden Olympians" for 1996 Olympic Games
- First American to win an Olympic Gold Medal in Kayaking
- Won more Olympic medals than any other American in Sport of Canoe/Kayak
- Sullivan Award Finalist, 1988
- Olympia Award Recipient, 1986

#### **Committee memberships**

- U.S. Olympic Committee Board of Directors and Athlete's Advisory Council, 1997-2000
- Member of Selection Committee for National & Olympic Sprint Canoe/Kayak Teams, 1995-96
- Chairman of Sports Science & Technology Committee for U.S. Canoe & Kayak Team, 1992-96

#### **Speaking/announcing highlights**

- 1996 Olympic Games Announcer for Sprint Canoe/Kayak Venue, Gainesville, GA
- Keynote speaker for numerous meetings, events and fundraisers, 1988-2006

#### **Career and academic highlights**

- President, Epic Kayaks, Inc. - Manufacturer of high performance kayaks and paddles
- Graduated summa cum laude from University of Michigan, B.S. Mechanical Engineering, 1983
- High School Salutatorian, National Honor Society, Honor Athlete.