



NANCIE BATTAGLIA
One Square Mile of Hope, Fourth Lake

Why this one? The flag. Simple as that. This image was among a handful of my aerials that went viral after One Square Mile of Hope, in Inlet, in 2011. Some of those photographs have more boats. Some have all the boats and water. But this one is a closeup and it has that flag.

Most editors chose to print the photos with more boats. There were spreads in the print editions of *Sports Illustrated*, *National Geographic*, *Canoe and Kayak*, *Kanu* (Germany), *Paddling* (Sweden) and in other publications from near to very far away. The photographs were all over the web. There were posters, signed enlargements, calendars, puzzles. And I bet there are a bunch I haven't seen yet!

But this lesser-seen version holds a warm spot in my heart. It is colorful, fun, mesmerizing. It's a kaleidoscope of humanity and Americana.

I was a lucky girl to be in that sea-plane overlooking the scene as the paddlers came together to form the floating raft. They did it. They succeeded in setting the Guinness World Record for the Largest Raft of Canoes and Kayaks. I was just the button-pusher in the right place at the right time, looking to document the event with some very unique, different and fun photos. *Voilà!*