

PADDLE

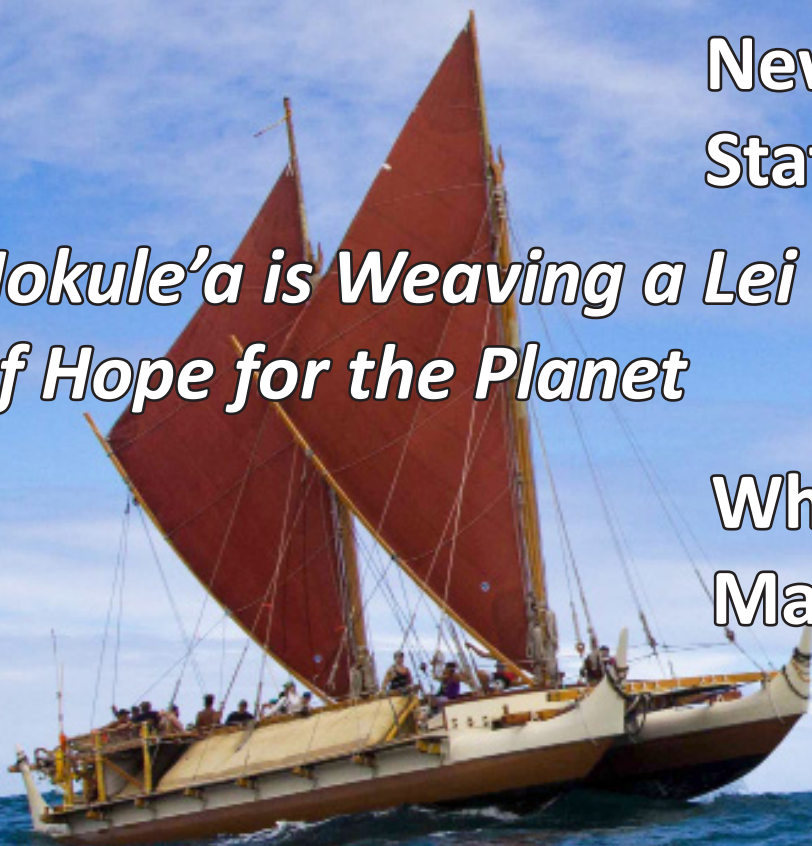
ACA | Canoe - Kayak - SUP - Raft - Rescue, Volume 2, Issue 3, May 2016

*Instructors of the Month
for April & May*

**News From Your ACA
State Directors**

*Hokule'a is Weaving a Lei
of Hope for the Planet*

**Why Your Language
Matters on the River**



ACA Mission Statement

Founded in 1880, the ACA is a national nonprofit organization serving the broader paddling public by providing education related to all aspects of paddling; stewardship support to help protect paddling environments; and sanctioning of programs and events to promote paddlesport competition, exploration and recreation.



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Amy Ellis - State Director/Membership Coord.
Candy Patten - Insurance Coordinator
Katie Hansen - Membership Coordinator
Shannon Green - Membership/Insurance Coord.
Catharine Lloyd - Communications Coordinator
Kelsey Bracewell - SEI Manager
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Safety & Rescue - Charlie Walbridge (WV)
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U.S. Coast Guard Office of Boating Safety
National Safe Boating Council
Outdoor Alliance
Outdoor Alliance for Kids
Hobie Polarized Sunglasses
Association of Outdoor Recreation & Education
International Whitewater Hall of Fame
Whitewater Symposium
Leave No Trace
National Association of State Boating Law Administrators
Western States Boating Administrators Association
Polynesian Voyaging Society

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SAFETY, EDUCATION & INSTRUCTION

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Coastal Kayak - John Browning (WI)
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Cover photo

Photographer: Kaipo Ki'Aha
Hokule'a, Polynesian Voyaging Society

Follow us on...

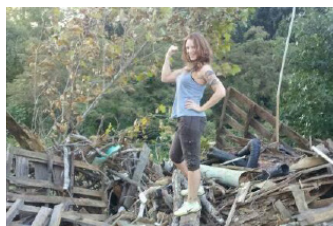


Meet Your ACA Staff



Wade Blackwood
Executive Director

"Fun outdoor activity!"



Shannon Green
Membership/Insurance
Coordinator

"Green, clean, and serene."



Christopher Stec
Chief Operating Officer

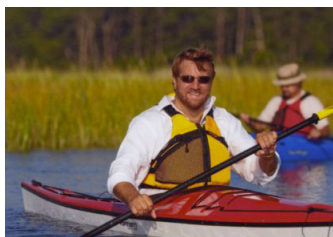
"Fun, friends, outdoors."



Candy Patten
Insurance Coordinator

"A peaceful getaway."

Sum up your love of paddling in 3 words!



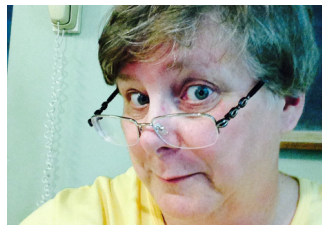
Dave Burden
International Paddlesports
Ambassador

"I'm mostly water."



Amy Ellis
State Director/Membership
Coordinator

"Camaraderie, challenge,
gratification."



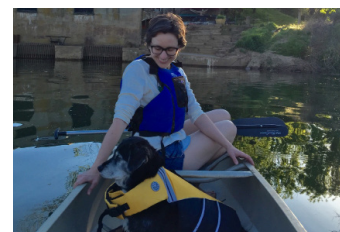
Barbara Bendele
Office Manager

"Outstanding lifelong
activity."



Kelsey Bracewell
SEI Coordinator

"Freedom, confidence,
flow."



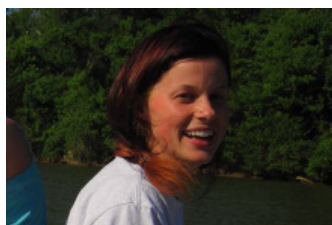
Catharine Lloyd
Communications Coordinator

"Better with dogs!"



Louis Metzger
Public Policy Chief

"Ocean, free, deep."



Katie Hansen
Membership Coordinator

"Love being outside!"



Marcel Bieg
Western States Outreach
Director & Grant Manager

"So much fun."



T.J. Turner
Education & Outreach
Coordinator

"Saltwater heals all."

www.americancanoe.org/staff

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A kayaker wearing a blue cap with the ACA logo and a red life vest is navigating a turbulent white-water rapids. The kayaker is smiling and looking towards the camera. The background shows a large, powerful waterfall or dam with cascading water.

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Photo by Marcel Bieg

STEWARDSHIP



Stay Informed About the ACA's Stewardship Initiatives

Interested in the political process? Check out some of the local and regional policy letters the ACA has submitted on behalf of paddlers:

www.americancanoe.org/publicpolicy



Want to help your local waterway? Watch these videos from fellow paddlers at their Paddle Green Events:

www.americancanoe.org/pgevents



How much is there? Where does it come from? Help the ACA and NOAA 'Track Trash' and clean up your local waterway in the process! Learn how to participate here:

www.americancanoe.org/tracktrash



How do the 7 Principles of Leave No Trace apply to river corridors? Learn more at:

www.americancanoe.org/Int

Paddle Green Spotlight: Great Bay Paddlers Kayaking Club



“In honor of Earth Day on Friday, April 22, members of the Great Bay Paddlers kayaking club participated in a bay front cleanup. We managed to gather numerous bags (supplied by the ACA and NOAA) full of debris from the surrounding area. The debris consisted of plastic, wood, aluminum and styrofoam.” -John Scott



Recent Paddle Green Policy Action

Niobrara River Water Flow in Nebraska

The Niobrara River, over 500 miles long, runs through Wyoming and Nebraska. A seventy-six-mile section of the river, in central Nebraska, has been designated a National Scenic River. At the request of Jordan Messerer, ACA State Director for Nebraska, the ACA Stewardship Department wrote a letter to Nebraska's Department of Natural Resources in support of allowing the Nebraska DNR and Natural Resource Districts to manage local water use to assure flow in the Niobrara sufficient to preserve and sustain the wildlife and recreational use of Nebraska's premier recreation river.

[Read the letter from the ACA.](#)



Whitewater Park in Waterloo, Iowa

According to the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, "communities around Iowa have embraced the idea that replacing high maintenance and failing dams with lower-cost, safer alternatives can also be great for the river and fishing, while better serving recreational needs of today's Iowans." One dam targeted for modification is the Park Ave. dam on the Cedar River in Waterloo. The ACA Stewardship Department sent a letter to the Mayor and City Council supporting plans to modify a section of this dam to lessen the hazard of drowning in the backflow plus create a whitewater park similar to others in the state. These parks have proven to benefit paddlers, anglers, tubers and local businesses such as liveries and restaurants. [Read the letter from the ACA.](#)



EDUCATION





We are proud to partner with Kokatat to bring you the
ACA Instructor of the Month program.

Do you know an instructor who deserves recognition?

[Nominate them today!](#)

April Instructor of the Month - Rob Hutchison

ACA: What aspect of paddling is the most exciting and engaging to you? Approximately how much of your time do you dedicate to paddling (or thinking/training/dreaming about paddling)?

Hutchison: For me, paddling is my favorite way to spend time outside. I love being able to explore any body of water: Oceans, lakes, rivers etc. I spent a great deal of time as a kid at the beach with my family. Now, instead of going to the beach, my wife and I grab our SUPs or kayaks and hit the water. Living on the coast of Maine provides so many places to paddle right outside our front door.

Paddling truly is one of my top passions so I try to dedicate as much time to it as possible! I'm fortunate that both of my jobs at LL Bean allow me dedicate time to paddling. I'm the Inventory Buyer for all of our kayaks, canoes, and boards in addition to my work as a kayaking and SUP instructor for the LL Bean Outdoor Discover Schools.



ACA: Can you please describe your instructional role at LL Bean?

Hutchison: I primarily teach Sea Kayaking and stand up paddleboarding skills courses. With the growth and popularity of SUP, I spend the majority of my time teaching intro and intermediate level SUP classes. I also get to be involved in our instructor training and assessments as well. My favorite part of being an instructor is helping people master new skills and feel safer and more confident on the water.

ACA: What aspirations do you still have, in regards to personal and/or business related paddling pursuits?

Hutchison: I want to continue to maintain and build skills. I'm now considering working

towards an Instructor Trainer (IT) certification as well. I love to combine travel with paddling, so any time I travel I generally have a kayak or a board with me. Someday my wife and I hope to visit Antarctica and are hoping we have the opportunity to do some paddling while we are there. That is our last continent to hit. I'd also love to travel to Greenland at some point so I can experience the Greenland Qajaqing Championship. My wife and I also have been paddling every month of the year since early 2005. We hope to keep that streak going. Since we do most of our paddling in Maine, we have to pick our winter paddles pretty carefully. With paddling being such a low impact sport I hope I can do it for many years to come. I'm proud to represent two great organizations when I'm teaching on the water – L.L.Bean and the ACA. Thank you to the ACA and Kokatat for the selection.



May Instructor of the Month - Bill Vonnegut

Paddling on the coast is where I feel at home. I am always checking the forecast and planning what I'll be doing the next time I'm on the water. No matter the conditions, there's always something I can do on the coast. Surfing, rock gardening, or open water storm paddles, I love it all and try to get out whenever possible.

I also enjoy spending time in flat water practicing strokes. This practice helps me with one of my favorite classes I teach for California Canoe & Kayak, called Blending Strokes. This flat water class is a great base for those wanting to get into rock gardening. It focuses primarily on different ways to efficiently maneuver, which is one of the most important skills for any paddler to spend time developing. The foundations in blending strokes translate directly to the skills I teach in rock garden classes. Positioning, timing, and running features all depend on the ability to efficiently maneuver.

I love teaching at kayak symposiums. They are a great way for a paddler to branch out skills, meet members of the paddling community, and take classes from instructors all over the



globe. I primarily paddle around San Francisco, California where Paddle Golden Gate just wrapped up, but I look forward to the opportunity to get out of town for the Lumpy Waters Kayak Symposium in Pacific City, Oregon (October 2016) and Storm Gathering USA (March 2017) in Trinidad, CA.

I feel lucky to be able to paddle and coach in the coastal waters of the San Francisco Bay Area. Even if I'm teaching a flat water class, I'm still enjoying myself because the flat water skills are the foundation for all types of paddling. If a paddler doesn't have a solid foundation, they may just come uprooted when the wind starts to blow.

To learn more about previous Instructor of the Month award recipients, [click here](#).



ACA PRO SCHOOL SPOTLIGHT



CUTTER AQUATICS

KAYAK • SUP • CANOE

Cutter Aquatics is a premiere educational resource for paddlers and has been delivering water safety education programs in Texas with resolute dependability and devoted customer service since 1996.

Cutter Aquatics teaches high-level technical paddling skills in an encouraging atmosphere and helps candidates for ACA Instructor and Instructor Trainer certifications discover and enrich their program organizational skills and personal coaching strengths. The organization has a legacy of quality, safety, and fun in paddling instruction and their trademark guided

trips – adventure vacations close to home and around the world.

Cutter Aquatics currently focuses on developing elite level ACA certified kayaking, canoeing, and SUP instructors and instructor trainers. From anywhere in the country, please contact Cutter Aquatics to provide ACA Instructor Training or to mentor you/your staff to become ACA Instructor Trainers.

Location: Colleyville, TX

Contact: barb@cutteraquatics.com

Phone: 817-354-6853

ACA Pro Schools are some of the best organizations across the country to find top quality ACA certified instruction. Plus, current ACA members receive discounts on certain Pro School instructional programs.

Please visit www.americancanoe.org/ProSchools to find a Pro School near you.



Paddlesports Safety Facilitator

The ACA is proud to announce the Paddlesports Safety Facilitator (PSF) credentialing program! This program is ideal for outfitter or guide service staff, camp counselors, water sport instructors, and other recreation program employees.

Visit www.americancanoe.org/PSF for more information!

Introducing the ACA Paddlesports Safety Facilitator (PSF) Program!

In February of 2016, the Safety Education & Instruction Council (SEIC) and the ACA Board of Directors voted to approve the newly developed Paddlesports Safety Facilitator (PSF) certification program, which was designed primarily for staff from paddling outfitters, guides services, and livery businesses.

This certification allows the facilitator to introduce paddlecraft safety and knowledge to the beginner paddler in a land-based setting. This is a 1 year, non-renewable certification.

Visit www.americancanoe.org/PSF for more information.

Why Your Language Matters on the River

By Elliot Jacobs, ACA Idaho State Director

Imagine this: You've never skied before, but you've always thought about giving it a try, so you sign up for lessons. You arrive early to meet your instructor, Chad. Though you're inside, Chad is already wearing his Gore-Tex jacket and carrying an avalanche backpack filled with tools. Chad introduces himself enthusiastically, and you get started.

First, he selects a pair of skis for you, spending extra time to get the bindings set right. "If these babies don't release," says Chad, with a look of pity on his rugged face, "you will break your femur." Then, Chad puts you on the lift,

pointing out the hazards as you crawl up the hill. "Did you know," Chad asks casually, "that you can actually drown in the hole where a tree comes out of the snow?" Quaking with fear by the time you reach the top of the lift, you look down at the bunny hill, filled with kids working on their pizza-wedge turns and beginners laughing as they tumble onto their butts, and see only a minefield, rigged with opportunities to injure or kill yourself.

For those of us who introduce people to moving water, whether through kayaking, rafting, SUP, or swiftwater rescue, this scenario probably sound familiar. While the example above

is clearly exaggerated, I wonder how many of us have participated in portraying the river as a dangerous and unpredictable environment, even at the same time that we are trying to get people hooked on our sport. I know I have. The root of this fear-mongering is a complex combination of factors, such as legal

liability, making the trip sound exciting, boosting tips, and, of course, actual safety. However, as instructors and river-enthusiasts, it is absolutely crucial that we examine the way that we talk about the river and empower our students and clients to own the experience.



In order to do this, I propose that we model a positive relationship to the river through our instruction by emphasizing fun. We can start small, by changing the way we talk about the river. Instead of calling it a "combat roll," why not "river roll?" There's no combat involved—we're recreating! The term "carnage" probably does not need to be mentioned, though I do think that swimming is in order. Instead of describing eddies as "safe spots in the river"—indicating that the rest of the river is unsafe—why not refer to them as places we can use to slow down or practice? The safety talk that we start with is an important legal responsibility, but it is also the only formal instruction that

some individuals may ever get about the river. Let's use it as a teaching opportunity, not a tipping opportunity. Make it funny, informative, and empowering! Instead of scaring the clients with hazards they are unlikely to encounter, and with techniques that they are unlikely to remember, let's empower them to feel that they can affect their own rescue by swimming safely in moving water.

Ultimately, we know that first impressions mean a great deal, and when we're teaching people to kayak, taking them on a raft trip, or getting them on top of a stand-up paddleboard, we have a great opportunity to instill a lifelong love of rivers and to combat the impression of paddlesport as an "extreme sport." In this way, as instructors, we are leaders. The Chinese philosopher Lao Tzu writes that a leader is best when, "people barely know he exists...when his work is done, they

will say: we did it ourselves." Unlike Chad, the fictional ski instructor, let's work to help people see what we love about our sport, not what we fear, and at the end of the day, they may be willing to do it themselves.



U.S. Coast Guard Auxiliary Paddlecraft Course



The ACA has partnered with the USCG Auxiliary in a unique program called AUXPAD.

There will be opportunities across the country for ACA Instructors to provide kayak skills assessments for local Auxiliarists.

In addition, ACA kayak Instructor Trainers might have increased opportunities to offer L2: EKT ICW's for select groups of Auxiliarists across the U.S.

Learn more at www.americancanoe.org/AUXPAD



New Paddle Smart WebTV Series!



The ACA is proud to introduce the new Paddle Smart WebTV Series. This series was made possible by generous grant funding provided through the Sport Fish Restoration and Boating Trust Fund, which is administered by the United States Coast Guard. The goal of this video series is to reduce paddlesport related accidents by providing immediate knowledge through short and focused instructional videos.

Visit www.americancanoe.org/WebTV to view the first few videos. The rest will be released over the course of the summer.

Are you a beginner that is excited to get on the water for your very first time, or perhaps an intermediate paddler that has never taken any formal paddlesport training? If so, then please checkout the following Paddle Smart Web TV Series.

These video series are designed to provide you with the need to know information required to make smart decisions and stay safe on the water. The series cover the paddlesports disciplines of Stand Up Paddleboarding, Recreational Kayaking and Kayak Fishing and each series consists of 12 episodes that are entertaining and to the point. Now sit back and enjoy the ACA Paddle Smart WebTV Series.



Paddling with Pups: An Interview with Maria Schultz



Maria with Kona, and Lisa Godfrey with Sadie, in Richmond, VA.

Our friend Maria Schutz just released her new book, [Paddle Tails](#), in March 2016. We recently had a chance to chat with Maria about our shared love for water, friends, dogs, and the healing power of paddling.

ACA: In the prologue to your book, you talk about the profound healing that can happen between humans and dogs, especially when they take to the water together. What are the most important things you've learned— about yourself or about life— as a result of paddling with your dogs, Riley and Kona?

Schultz: Riley taught me to slow down and enjoy the ride. Paddling with him made me realize it's not about how far or fast you go, it's really about the company you keep that makes an adventure special. Then Kona came along, and she helped me heal from the loss of my mother. She reminded that my mom was still with me after all. I had all of these epiphanies

while I was on the water. As humans we're hardwired to want to be near water; it is, after all, the source of life. But the other thing we can't live without is companionship. Dogs, like us, are pack animals too. So when you combine water and dogs something magical happens. A 30-minute paddle after work with my dogs can fix a really bad day. When I started realizing these things, and then when so many people started sharing similar stories with me, I knew we were on to something.

ACA: What was it like writing this book? Did you travel around the country to collect these stories?

Schultz: It was the most fun project I've even worked on! I'm almost sad we've finished. I got to interview, paddle, and photograph people I'd been following on Instagram or Facebook, and they were all super genuine, kind, and fun.



Maria Schultz and co-author Lisa Marvashti in NYC.

Yes, I travelled a lot last year to meet as many people from the book as possible. I was in Florida, Nevada, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Richmond, and NYC. Out of the 12 people we interviewed, I was able to meet 9 of the human-dog duos. The other 3 were too far for me to get to – but I have every intention of trying to meet them at some point in the future!

ACA: What was the most memorable part of the journey of writing this book?

Schultz: So many memories – where to start! When we went to NYC, we got up super early to take the train in. When we arrived at Penn station we had to deal with massive crowds, trying to find our way around, catch a cab, get coffee to wake up, and the whole morning was a jumbled blur. We were running really late because of a few setbacks. When we arrived at the Brooklyn Boat club to meet Kimberly and Jens, we were first greeted by their dogs, Millie and Gertie. As I bent down to say hello to Gertie, a front amputee, she put her one front paw over my shoulder and gave me the warmest dog hug ever. She made me feel really welcome in that big scary city – it made the whole morning worth it!

I think what inspired me the most was getting to paddle with these people and their dogs in so many different places, but seeing the same close bond between the people and their dogs on the water. From the NYC skyline, to the Colorado River, to a small lake in rural PA, I was in a different physical place, but I saw the same thing: a closeness, a quiet peaceful understanding between every dog and every paddler when they were together on the water. It was truly remarkable.

ACA: What advice do you have for dog-owners who want to try to SUP with their PUPs, but they don't know where to start?

Schultz: Grab a copy of my first book *How to SUP With Your PUP*, and take a beginner lesson. Find a local instructor and learn how to be safe on the water. Whether it's kayaking, canoeing, or SUPing, it's important to get comfortable with your vessel before taking your dog out. If you're hesitant or scared your dog will pick up on it and you might not have a great experience. Take your time, and go at your pace and your dog's pace.

You can purchase [Paddle Tails](#), and [How to SUP With Your PUP](#), in the ACA eStore.



Maria with Riley and Kona, and Christina Altman with Ajja, in Florida

SAVE THE DATES

Instructor Update & Symposium

Level 1 & Level 2 - Kayak, Canoe, & SUP

September 9th - 11th, 2016

Rock Hill, South Carolina



2016 National **PADDLESPORTS** Conference

Sausalito, California
November 11-13

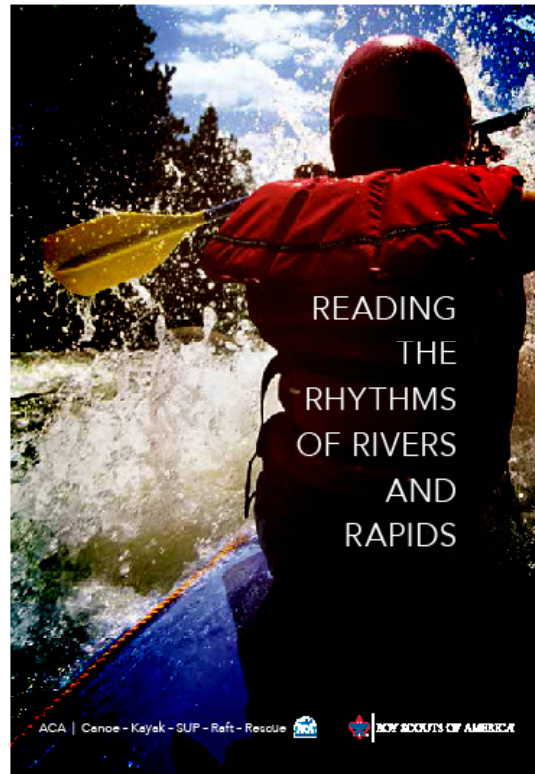


SEATREK
KAYAK & STANDUP PADDLEBOARD CENTER

New Video from BSA & ACA

Over the past two years, the ACA has partnered with the Aquatics Taskforce of the Boy Scouts of America (BSA) to produce a video under a United States Coast Guard non-profit grant, National Safe Boating Campaign: Targeted Outreach – Moving Water.

The goal of this grant project was to combine existing knowledge based resources, along with video and animation techniques to create a single video to address drownings and near misses in moving water environments. This product should help to reduce the number of recreational boating casualties and meet the overall performance goals of the 2012 – 2016 Strategic Plan of the National Recreational Boating Safety Program.



We partnered with both volunteers and professional staff from the BSA, as well as a range of ACA subject matter experts and SEIC Discipline Committees to produce this moving water to whitewater video: Reading the Rhythms of Rivers and Rapids.

Please visit www.americancanoe.org/BSA to learn more.

Important update for ACA Instructor Trainers

Currently certified ACA Instructors seeking to begin or continue the Instructor Trainer (IT) Application process should check out a ***new resource on the ACA website***:

[How to Become an IT](#)

This webpage outlines the revised process, provides registration and application forms, and answers a lot of basic questions about the role and responsibilities of becoming an ACA Instructor Trainer.

Have more questions? Contact the SEI Department at sei@americancanoe.org.

Be ready for the unexpected.

Wear It!

- ✓ Check weather forecast
- ✓ Life jacket
- ✓ Paddle
- ✓ Fun trip
- ✓ **Return home to loved ones**



This message brought to you by
the National Safe Boating Council.
safeboatingcampaign.com



ADAPTIVE



Adaptive Paddling in California

The first ever California-based Adaptive Paddling Workshop took place March 5-6, 2016 at the UCLA Marina Aquatic Center and the campus North Pool. ACA Adaptive Chair Joe Moore led the two-day workshop, which introduced nine new instructors and organizers to issues and techniques for working with disabled paddlers on the water.

Five new paddlers with disabilities joined the class for the second day of the workshop, working with the students to engineer adaptations of traditional kayaks. The day concluded with a water session at UCLA's North Pool, featuring Joe Moore's demo of the "fainting diva" technique that can help paddlers roll from a front to back float.

The event was co-sponsored by UCLA, the ACA-California Executive Council and Adaptive Expeditions.

Since 1990, the ACA has led the adaptive recreation industry, training instructors and



program providers in the best practices of inclusive paddlesports.

Supporting and enhancing the decades strong ACA National Paddlesport Instruction Program, the Adaptive Paddling Program teaches the skills and knowledge needed to outfit equipment and modify teaching styles to allow people of all abilities to participate in paddlesport activities as safely, as comfortably, and with the same performance potential as all others.

Learn more about the ACA's [Adaptive Paddling Program](#) today, and find an upcoming [Adaptive Paddling Workshop \(APW\)](#) near you!



Adaptive Equipment: ANGLE OAR



The patented [Angle Oar](#) opens up new possibilities for people who didn't think they had the strength or endurance to kayak due to injury, ability, health condition or age. It's also great for any recreational kayaker who wants to enjoy the fun of kayaking without the workout it sometimes entails. The angled paddle allows anyone with a missing hand or limb to easily paddle a kayak and is great for other people with limited strength or flexion. Kayak anglers also love the Angle Oar because they can now hold the rod with one hand and paddle with the other.

Angle Oar comes with a support post and several types of mounting options, all of which support the weight of the paddle. Using a simple rotary movement of the forearm(s) – much like pedaling a bike with your hand(s) – you can glide through the water with minimal effort. Angle Oar eliminates the back and torso rotation, as well as joint and shoulder stress, that occur with a regular paddle.

Whether you own or rent, the mounts work with most kayaks - both sit-in and sit-on top. You can also use the Angle Oar like a traditional straight paddle, either in or out of the mount, making it versatile for different members of a family or group.

Please visit the Adaptive Paddling section of the [ACA eStore](#) for information about Angle Oar and other adaptive equipment.

Revised Essential Eligibility Criteria

We've made some changes!



The ACA recently made changes to its Essential Eligibility Criteria (EEC) in an effort to increase the accessibility of all ACA paddle-sport education programs.

Please visit www.americancanoe.org/EEC for more information.

If you have any questions about the ACA's essential eligibility criteria, please contact the [Safety Education & Instruction Department](#).



Upcoming Adaptive Paddling Workshops (APWs)

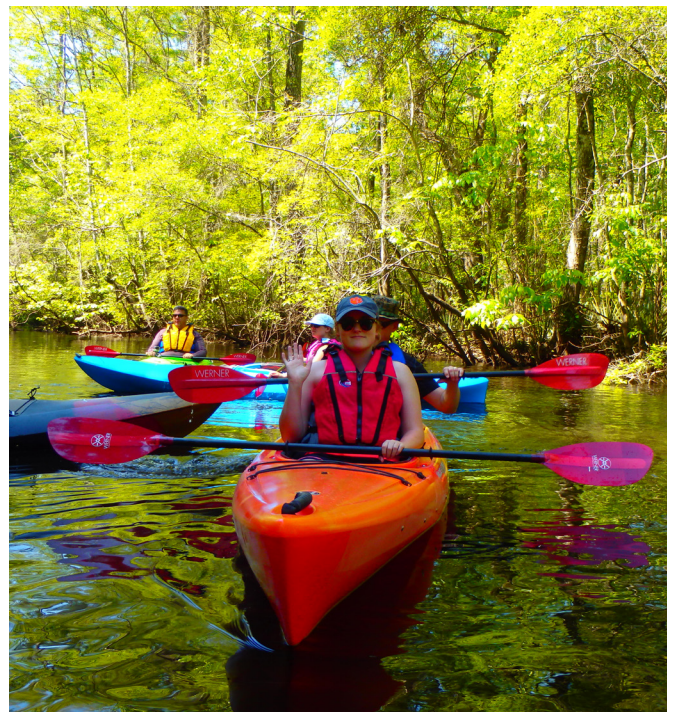
5/20/2016 Hosted by: Adaptive Expeditions
Location: Tampa, Florida
[More info](#)

6/3/2016 Hosted by: Seabirds International
Location: Irving, New York
[More info](#)

6/9/2016 Hosted by: Northeast Passage
Location: Durham, New Hampshire
[More info](#)

6/18/2016 Hosted by: Dynamic Paddlers
Location: Akron, Ohio
[More info](#)

Visit the [Adaptive Event Calendar](#)
to stay up to date on APWs
happening near you!



News Near You



STATE-BY-STATE

News delivered directly from [ACA State Directors](#) across the USA

Arizona

It is getting HOT in the Grand Canyon state! Stay cool and hydrated, and check out our event page for local outfitters, clinics, and courses! www.americancanoe.org/arizona Have you checked out our ACA Outfitter, Riverbound Sports? Teri and Corey are some fantastic folks, and can get you squared away with all things SUP and Kayak! www.riverboundsports.com

Contact: Danielle Keil

AZStateDirector@americancanoe.net



Jessica Del Valle and Omar Ramos of ACA Puerto Rico

Arkansas

The Arkansas Canoe Club, the state's largest paddling club and a longtime ACA Paddle America club, is helping with the development of another whitewater kayak park, this time in Fayetteville Arkansas. The park is going to be replacing an old and outdated dam that currently blocks fish passage on the West Fork of the White River. Situated just several miles from the University of Arkansas, this will be

the second park of it's kind in NW Arkansas, the first being in Siloam Springs, on the Illinois River, which has become very important to the local boating scene and home to numerous events by the Arkansas Canoe Club including ACA events like last summer's "Learn to Paddle" event, which gave numerous not-yet-paddlers the chance to try out whitewater canoes and kayaks under the tutelage of



Danielle Keil's pup Max likes to help out when he can at ACA Arizona events.

numerous ACA instructors with safety being provided by the area's ACA SWR instructors.
Contact: Tom Burroughs
AKStateDirector@americancanoe.net

California

This month, ACA CA offers a poem.
The Ritual of River Paddlers - a haiku:
After a great day,
Look to sky or friends. Say 'thanks'.
Then chug bootie beer.

Contact: Alexander Morris
CaStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Florida

Summer is upon us, and many outfitters are gearing up for summer camps. Are you an ACA instructor who'd like to participate in youth paddling workshops this summer? Please contact Peggy Phillips for opportunities available in your area - 239-220-8694.

Contact: Peggy Phillips
FlStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Idaho

Spring has sprung here in Idaho, which means that our rivers are filling up, permits are being distributed to lucky paddlers, and the summer season of canoeing, angling, SUPing, and whitewater is right around the corner. Idaho paddlers: have you considered a swiftwater rescue course? The ACA offers courses through a number of different outfitters, the details of which are available on the ACA website. Now is also the time to think about giving back to our rivers through spring cleanup efforts underway in Boise and N. Idaho. Stay safe this spring and see you on the water! If you're interested in getting involved in Idaho American Canoe Association efforts, please email me at the address below.

Contact: Elliot Jacobs
IdStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Illinois

ACA instructors will be helping to provide instruction at the McHenry County Conservation District's annual Paddle in the Park from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. May 14. The event will take place on Lake Atwood in The Hollows Conservation Area, Crystal Lake, Ill.

Contact: Lenore Sebota
IlStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Louisiana

From Breaux Bridge, Louisiana, Conni Castille reports on significant progress on The Bayou Teche Paddle Trail. The first trailhead is almost completed, in the center of town. This includes public restrooms and a floating canoe and kayak dock. Kayak lockers will follow shortly. For additional information please visit <http://techeproject.org/bayou-teche-paddle-trail/>. Supported by Louisiana State Parks, St. Martin Parish Tourism, and the City of Breaux Bridge.

Contact: Ben Sandmel
LaStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Michigan

Over 2000 people attended the 21st Annual Quietwater Symposium held in East Lansing, MI. Plan to check out this indoor symposium next year – the first Saturday in March. Upcoming dates/events to watch for: 27th Annual West Michigan Coastal Kayaking Symposium Memorial Day weekend – this is a great family-friendly beginner/intermediate kayaking event (www.wmcka.org). Launch Party June 4, 2016 at Trestle Park in Prudenville, MI to celebrate Phase One of the new Houghton Lake Blue Water Trail (www.visithoughtonlake.com).

Contact: Lynn Dominguez
MiStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Mississippi

GatorBaitRace.com Kids Kayak Race on May 21 at Lakeshore Park. Across the Barnett Reservoir, ACA MS will be hosting an "Open House" tent in conjunction with the Madison County Dragonboat Regatta at Old Trace Park. Come mingle with your state leadership & learn about statewide efforts to increase participation. Catch two fabulous events on the same day! <https://www.madisoncountychamber.com/regatta/>

Contact: Brian Ramsey

MsStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Missouri

The Missouri Whitewater Association is having their annual whitewater clinic April 16-17. The Mississippi River Water Trail Association is having their annual Paddlefest. The St. Louis Canoe & Kayak Club will have their annual safety skills clinic June 18. For more information on these events please contact me at the email address below.

Contact: Dave Haessig

MoStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Nebraska

ACA's Public Policy Chief, Louis Metzger, wrote a letter of support to Nebraska's Department of Natural Resources in support of the In-stream Flow Applications for the Niobrara River. The Niobrara River is Nebraska's only Wild and Scenic River in the State and home to a unique eco-system and an unique paddling opportunity in the United States.

Contact: Jordan Messerer

NeStateDirector@americancanoe.net

New Jersey

NJ ACA is pleased to be cosponsoring the [Windward Warrior SUP race](#) and Paddlesports Show on Sunday, June 19 at Windward Beach

Park, Brick, NJ from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.

The Paddlesport event is free to attendees. For outfitters and businesses there is a \$150 fee for a table, and for clubs and nonprofits there is no charge. There are two SUP races: the Elite at \$75 starting at 9 a.m. and the Fun at \$55 starting at 11 a.m. To register for the races go to: paddleguru.com/races/WindwardWarrior/register.

Contact: Kerry Pflugh

NJStateDirector@americancanoe.net

New York

The calendar says spring in NY, even if the weather is a bit confused! We are all happy to get out on the water in some sunshine and looking forward to a great paddling season. NY has it all - pristine coastal paddling, ideal locations for SUP and recreational paddling, kayak fishing and of course, world-class whitewater. Join us May 20-22 in Lyons Falls, NY for the first annual ACA NY Paddler's Rendezvous! This year, we are holding our event in conjunction with the Black-Moose Kayak Event. Lyons Falls offers the perfect location for all paddlers and great camping and lodging opportunities with fun for the whole family! Check out the ACA-NY and Black-Moose Kayak Event Facebook pages for details and updates.

Contact: Liane Amaral

NyStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Oklahoma

Paddlers around the state of Oklahoma are eagerly awaiting RIVERSPORT Rapids, Oklahoma City's new \$45.2 million whitewater rafting and kayaking center which is set to open May 7, 2016. One of only three man-made whitewater venues in the nation, RIVERSPORT Rapids uses six pumps to recirculate treated water through two channels, creating class II-IV rapids. Flow can be adjusted to offer various levels of rafting and kayaking experiences.

The recreational channel will make rafting accessible to just about everyone. Trained raft guides will brief rafters on safety and technique, and will steer each raft trip down the channel. The competitive channel offers high-octane Class IV rapids on an Olympic-style course and will challenge elite athletes from around the world for both training and competition.

Contact: Aasim Saleh

OkStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Pennsylvania

Whitewater kayaking is going strong. Kayak races are being held on class V sections of whitewater to honor boaters who are no longer with us. Paddling clubs are getting out on class III with new boaters and the rafting companies are training new staff. The river season is starting.

Contact: Steve Barber

PaStateDirector@americancanoe.net

Puerto Rico

ACA-PR is currently engaged in the discussion of a SUP project approved in the PR Senate and now in the House of Representatives. We are waiting on the public hearing dates. ACA-PR also participated in the event Paddle 4 Autism in Patillas, PR. Families and children were introduced to paddling through this initiative. The Stewardship program continues to have a positive impact on our kids and environment! 1000 + pounds of trash had been removed from waterways and we continue to educate children and adults about the importance of leaving no trace, while respecting and enjoying nature.

Contact: Omar Ramos

PRStateDirector@americancanoe.net

South Carolina

The South Carolina Executive Council is cur-



ACA-PR having fun on a lunch break.

rently prepping to support the East Coast Sea Kayak Symposium in Charleston, SC and Traditional Paddlers Retreat on Lake Greenwood. Also, we have helped to provide guidance in the development of parks surrounding Twelve Mile River.

Contact: Ethan Talley, Kyle Thomas

SCStateDirector@americancanoe.net

As a national organization, it can be difficult to know about all the paddling issues in every state. That's where the [ACA State Director Program](#) comes in! This volunteer program is designed to close the gap between paddlers on the ground (and water) and the ACA.

If you want to get involved, [reach out](#) to your local ACA State Director, and start improving stewardship, education, and competition in your state today.

For additional information on the ACA State Director Program, please contact Amy Ellis at aellis@americancanoe.org.

MEMBERSHIP



ACA Member Benefit!



A pair of black Hobie Polarized sunglasses with blue-tinted lenses is resting on a wooden dock. The sunglasses have "HOBIE" printed on the side of the frame. A teal circular logo is overlaid on the image, featuring the word "Hobie" in a white script font, "POLARIZED" in a white sans-serif font below it, and "DANA POINT, CA | SINCE 1950" in a smaller white sans-serif font at the bottom of the circle. The background shows a blurred view of water and a dock.

RECEIVE **20% OFF** YOUR HOBIES
USING CODE **ACA2016**



ACA members,
visit www.hobiepolarized.com and enter promo code
"ACA2016" to receive 20% off your purchase!

ACA Outfitter, Livery & Guide Spotlight



Ohio's Reel Kayak Adventures (ORKA)

[Ohio's Reel Kayak Adventures LLC](#) specializes in guided kayak fishing trips for walleye, steelhead, bass and crappie, on Lake Erie, Ohio lakes, reservoirs and some Rivers.

It is our goal to help you become a better kayak fisher. We specialize in trolling tactics for walleye, steelhead and salmon but can also help you with tactics for bass and crappie. We can get you a kayak if you don't already have your own. We work with nearby outfitters for Hobie and Wilderness Systems kayaks.

For all trips you will need to bring your own food, drinks, appropriate clothing based on

the weather, and an Ohio fishing license and fishing gear. For trolling trips we have trolling rods, reels and tackle for you to use, depending on group size.

For questions or reservations, please contact Ohio's Reel Kayak Adventures LLC at ohios-reelkayakadventures@gmail.com or call 419-303-1887.

Find an ACA outfitter near you using the convenient [search tool](#) on our website!



wernerpaddles.com



American Rivers
Rivers Connect Us



**HEALTHY
WATERS**



When you purchase a Werner Paddle you are helping to support our non-profit partners through Werner's Healthy Waters program. Healthy Waters, helping to protect the places we all paddle.



Member Photo of the Month



“This photo was taken at “Thread the Needle” at the Hiwassee River in Reliance, TN. There is a small island in the middle of the river with a rock just upstream of the island. The goal is to thread your boat between the rock and the island with the fast current trying to push you either right or left. There is a small seam in the water and if you hit it then it is easy but if you are 6” right or left of the seam you get washed out. It’s a fun challenge that makes a Class II-III river even more fun. Photo credit to Matt Plunkett and credit also to Woody Woodall (President of Tennessee Scenic Rivers Association (TSRA)) for showing us how to ‘Thread the Needle’ and teaching us so much about whitewater canoeing over the years.”

-Justin Campbell, ACA Member from Lexington, Kentucky

Want to see your photo here? Submit your photos to ACA Communications Coordinator, Catharine Lloyd at clloyd@americancanoe.org for a chance to be featured.

WEAR YOUR
LIFEJACKET
TO WORK DAY 2016



FRIDAY MAY 20, 2016

HELP GET THE WORD OUT ABOUT LIFE JACKETS!

Join your colleagues, peers, and friends around the world in demonstrating how easy it is to wear a life jacket - even at work!

Just prior to National Safe Boating Week and the seventh-annual "Ready, Set, Wear It!" event on May 20, we are asking you to take a photo of yourself wearing your life jacket at work!

Don't forget to post your photo to Facebook.com/ReadySetWearIt or tweet @ReadySetWearIt using #wearit, or email outreach@safeboatingcouncil.org so others can see that you "Wear It!" at work.



Hokule'a is Weaving a Lei of Hope for the Planet

By Sam Low, author of author of "Hawaiki Rising – Hokule'a, Nainoa Thompson and the Hawaiian Renaissance." Low has made three voyages aboard Hokule'a and is arranging his visit to Martha's Vineyard. You may contact him at: Samfilm2@gmail.com.

Hokule'a is a replica of the vessels used by Polynesians to settle the Pacific Ocean, one-third of our planet, a thousand years before the arrival of Europeans. Launched in 1975, she has sailed 150,000 miles, following the routes taken by these intrepid Polynesian explorers, navigated always as they would have done - without instruments or charts - by relying instead on signs of direction in the stars, waves and flight of birds. From March through August of 2016, she will visit various East Coast ports on a voyage around the world to "malama honua," care for Planet Earth.



her voyage will be like a living lei surrounding the Planet and bringing hope to all of us."

On March 23rd, 2016, Hokule'a arrived at Key West, Florida. Almost two years ago, she left her homeport in Honolulu to voyage around the world. In her wake, she is weaving a "Lei of Hope" by visiting and bringing attention to places where scientists, activists and ordinary people are working to find positive solutions to our global environmental problems. One of her most ardent supporters is Dr. Sylvia Earle, famous oceanographer and environmentalist.

"When I was a young scientist, we thought that the ocean was too big to fail," says Dr. Earle. "Now we know that because of what we human beings are doing to the planet, not only is the ocean in trouble but so are we. As Hokule'a circles the world, I love the idea that

To draw attention to solving our grave environmental problems, Dr. Earle has mapped many "hope spots" – places where solutions to problems like global warming are being discovered. One of these, recently visited by Hokule'a, is at the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park Authority in Townsville, Australia. Here, scientists are working to understand the importance of coral to the health of our oceans and the potential harm they may receive as the earth warms. One solution they have discovered is to breed corals to withstand both warmer temperatures and the acidification of the earth's oceans.

Among other places where progress is being made, Hokule'a's crew visited:

- The Reef Guardian Schools Program, encompassing 310 schools and more than 127,000 students and 8218 teachers throughout the Great Barrier Reef who are all committed to being stewards of the reef.

- American Samoa, where the Pacific Remote Islands National Marine Monument has recently been created to protect coral reefs in perpetuity from commercial fishing and deep-water mining.

- Serengan Island, in Bali, home to a traditional fishing village where a turtle conservation program and community gardens have been established.

- The Green School in Bali, named “The Greenest School on Earth in 2012” for its program to provide students with a natural, holistic and student-centered education according to their three simple guides: “be local; let your environment be your guide; and envisage how your grandchildren will be affected by your actions.”

- Kopernik, also in Bali, an organization dedicated to help impoverished rural communities by making inexpensive technology easily available to them.

- The Small Islands Developing States conference in American Samoa where they met representatives from around the world and spoke about the Malama Honua voyage and studied

such topics as green energy, environmental leadership, and food security. Here, United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon sailed aboard Hokule’a and pledged his support for her mission.

- False Bay, one of six areas in South Africa designated a Mission Blue “Hope Spot” where Craig Foster, an award winning documentary filmmaker, is working to preserve one of the most ecologically rich coastlines in the world.



- iSimangaliso Wetland Park, South Africa, a UNESCO World Heritage site comprising 820,400 acres of diverse ecosystems where Zulu tribal elders accompanied the crew on a tour of the park and invited them to share in their culture.

- Reef Conservation Mauritius, a local marine environmental NGO working to protect endangered coral reefs by educating local residents and businesses, and establishing a snorkeling trail to encourage ecotourism and stewardship of the reef.

Hokule’a’s voyage, Dr. Earle says, “is bringing attention to all those who are inspired by the positive message that we can achieve great things if we do what we can – and we do it together.”

Hokule’a is scheduled to visit Yorktown, Virginia April 24 – May 8; Tangier Island, May 9; Old Town, Alexandria May 15; Washington DC,

May 18 -22 and New York June 5-18. On June 8, she will commemorate World Oceans Day with United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon.

“I am honored to be a part of Hokule’a’s Worldwide Voyage,” said the Secretary General when he sailed aboard Hokule’a. “I am inspired by its global mission. As you tour the globe, I will work and rally more leaders to our common cause of ushering in a more sustainable future, and a life of dignity for all.”

After that she will proceed up the East Coast with ports of call in Connecticut, Massachusetts, New Hampshire and Maine.

The ACA is proud to be a partner in this endeavor.

To follow Hokule’a’s voyage please visit:
www.americancanoe.org/Hokulea



COMPETITION



CANOE · KAYAK · SUP · RAFT · RESCUE

- EDUCATION
- STEWARDSHIP
- COMPETITION
- INSURANCE
- EXPLORATION

www.americancanoe.org

Ready, Set, Mark Your Calendars!

Don't miss these upcoming races...
(click race name for more info)

May 20, 2016

**[The Golden Games](#)
Golden Colorado**

May 28, 2016

**[South Dakota Kayak Challenge](#)
Yankton, South Dakota**

June 4, 2016

**[Great Rappahannock Whitewater Canoe Race](#)
Fredericksburg, Virginia**

June 11, 2016

**[Canoe Poling National Championships](#)
Unionville, Connecticut**

June 11, 2016

**[Great Iowa River Race](#)
Iowa City, Iowa**

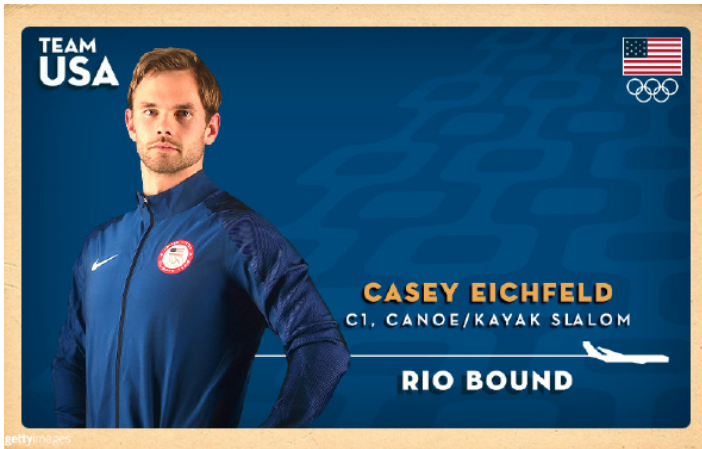
June 19, 2016

**[Windward Warrior SUP Race](#)
Brick, New Jersey**

[CLICK HERE](#) to see the full ACA competition event calendar

USA Canoe/Kayak Update

By Aaron Mann, Director of Communications, USA Canoe/Kayak



With howling winds and cooler than expected temperatures, thousands of spectators lined the banks of the U.S. National Whitewater Center as athletes from across the nation took to the water for the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team Trials for Canoe/Kayak Slalom (April 8-9). By competition's end, two athletes would solidify their positions on the 2016 U.S. Olympic Team.

Coming into the weekend with a point-lead from his 4th place finish at the 2015 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships, two-time Olympian Casey Eichfeld (Drums, PA) knew he could lock up the men's single canoe (C1) Olympic spot by finishing at least 2nd overall in Charlotte. After finishing 2nd behind Zach "Bug" Lokken (Durango, CO) on Friday, Eichfeld put together a phenomenal run Saturday to finish 1st on the day and 1st overall. With the win, Eichfeld booked his ticket to Rio as a member of the U.S. Olympic Canoe/Kayak Team. Rounding out the overall podium were Lokken in 2nd and Tad Dennis (Charlotte, NC) in 3rd.

Also sporting a significant point lead from his bronze medal at last year's World Championships, Michal Smolen (Gastonia, NC)

blew away the competition in the men's single kayak (K1) category. With his win this weekend, Smolen was able to qualify for the U.S. Olympic Canoe/Kayak Team for the first time. Finishing behind Smolen were Richard Powell (Parkesburg, PA) and Tyler Uthus (Darnestown, MD).

In the women's single kayak (K1W) event, 2015 Pan American Games Bronze Medalist Ashley Nee (Darnestown, MD) beat Dana Mann (Alexandria, VA) by the narrowest of margins to take the lead in the Olympic selection process. By winning in Charlotte, Nee holds an advantage coming into the final U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Oklahoma City next month. Finishing 3rd was Anna Maria Ifarraguerri (McLean, VA).

The duo of Devin McEwan (Salisbury, CT) and Casey Eichfeld took the win in the men's double canoe (C2) competition, with the team of Zach "Bug" Lokken and Michal Smolen finishing second. With their victory, McEwan/Eichfeld need to finish at least 2nd at the trials in Oklahoma City to qualify for Rio.

Penobscot River Whitewater Nationals Regatta

July 6 - 10, 2016

Old Town, Bradley, Orono, Veazie and Eddington Maine



photos: C. Dudge

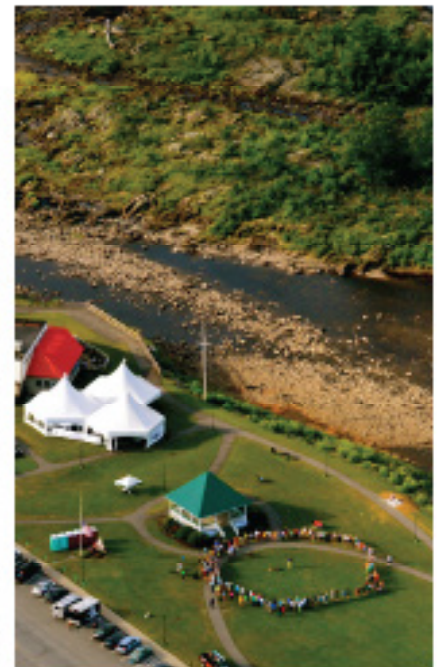


photo: R.W. Estela



Open Canoe — Kayak — SUP — Wildwater

<http://penobscotriverwhitewaternationalsregatta.com/>



CHOOSE ADVENTURE.
TRUST TRADITION.

The Penobscot Nation is again hosting the Regatta on this historically important and beautiful 9.5 mile section of river, returned to its free-flowing state following removal of the Great Works and Veazie Dams. The race course includes three Class II-III rapids, numerous rips and quick water.



Race Chair: Scott Phillips
207.852.0680
scott@waterwaysports.com

Registration: PADDLEGURU.com

DESIGN THE GATE – Win 3000 Euros

Competition to design and construct a Canoe Slalom Gate



The International Canoe Federation (ICF) is calling for designs and models for new Canoe Slalom Gates that would allow the audience and spectators to clearly understand touches by athletes. The design of the Gate should easily demonstrate when a touch is made by an athlete. The goal is to further enhance Sport presentation at our events.

The gate design can be electronic or mechanical in nature. The Gate system should be usable for all levels of Canoe Slalom competition.

The ICF will award one cash prize to the selected design for electronic gate and one cash prize for the selected design for mechanical gate, plus further help in construction for the selected projects for making a prototype.

The competition is open to fans, athletes, coaches, national federations and companies related to canoeing. **You can apply by email to info@canoeicf.com.**

The ICF will accept drawings, videos, sketches and powerpoint presentations of potential designs.

The ICF is expecting from the bidders the following information:

- Description of the concept
- Drawing – principle scheme
- Mechanical or electronic layout
- Estimated budget for fabrication

Deadline for submissions is 1st July 2016.

The ICF Canoe Slalom Technical Committee and ICF Vice President and Three times Olympic Gold Medallist Tony Estanguet will be the judges for the design competition.

Note: ICF reserves the right to select components of each entry and use the designs in whichever format it deems appropriate. Recognition will be given to those parties from which any use of novel or innovative ideas are taken.

INTERNATIONAL



Stand Up Paddle St. John

RETREAT & CERTIFICATION COURSE



Get SUP Certified with BIC SUP Ambassadors in the Virgin Islands!

Join ACA SUP Instructor Trainers Julie Roach & Matt Hite for a two day Level 1 course in the beautiful Caribbean island of St. John. This five day experience in the Virgin Islands will give you the opportunity to become ACA level 1 SUP Certified, participate in additional certification courses, and give you extra time to have fun and explore the remote and tropical island.

WHEN: January 14th-18th, 2017

WHERE: Private Villa in Chocolate Hole, St. John, USVI



INCLUDED: Housing, transportation, SUP board & gear, clinics & classes, ACA L1 Cert. Course

ADDITIONAL OPTIONS: ACA SUP Yoga Endorsement Course, Extend your stay at \$175/night

COST: \$750 Reservation Deposit // \$1,700 Total Per Person // \$1,350 w/o L1 Cert. Course

(407) 766-3680 // SUPADVENTURETRIPS.COM/ST-JOHN



SAVE THE DATE

[ACA Europe Symposium](#)

October 14-16, 2016

Vienna, Austria

Hosted by Gerhard Grimm



Have You Tried the PADDLE READY app yet?

[Download the app for your iPhone](#)

[Download the app for your Android](#)

“Needed this for so long!”

-Margaret Roth

“This free app has some pretty cool features that I can see coming in quite handy. You can check tides, river and surf levels for locations where you are headed, as well as find the closest access to put-ins. Perhaps the coolest feature on the Paddle Ready app is the ability to file a float plan.”

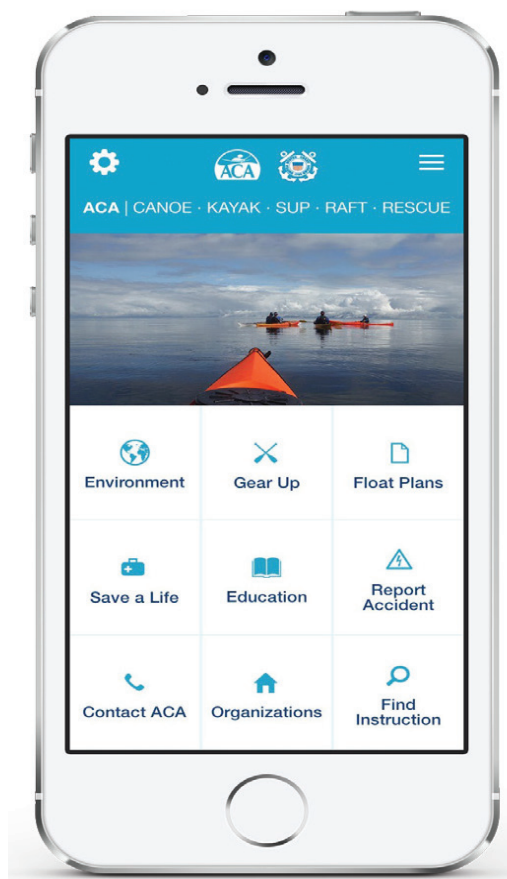
-Tee Clarkson, Richmond Times Dispatch

“I use this app multiple times throughout the week to see what’s going on at my favorite spots”

-Jay Yarborough

**“This app looks sick!
Just downloaded it and
cannot wait to use it!”**

-Alex Mauer



Surf Forecasting

Tide Forecasting

Course Reporting for ACA Instructors

Improved Float Plans

Access Points

Paddle Club Search

Improved ACA Instructor Search

Paddling History



The First ACA Europe Symposium

6 years ago, the ACA hosted its first Europe Symposium in Austria. This year, our European members are heading back to Vienna and they extend a warm invitation to any and all U.S. members. Learn more about this year's symposium at:

http://www.americancanoe.org/page/Europe_Conference

*Each issue, we'll bring you an interesting paddling photo from the ACA archives.
We hope you enjoy these little glimpses of paddling past.*

To learn more about ACA history and the early days of paddlesports, visit:

www.americancanoe.org/History

Built to take you to the place you've never been.



Remember Fun? The all-new 2015 Outback® brings it all back. Symmetrical All-Wheel Drive with X-MODE™ has the capability to take you almost anywhere. At 33 mpg*, it's the most fuel-efficient midsize crossover in America*. It's what your adventurous side has been waiting for. **Love. It's what makes a Subaru, a Subaru.**

 **SUBARU**
Confidence in Motion



Subaru is a proud partner of the American Canoe Association.
Learn more at subaru.com/partners.

*Subaru Outback 2.5i 160HP. EPA estimate. See segment. Excludes taxes, title, license, and other available or regionally required equipment. ©2014 Subaru of America, Inc. All rights reserved. Subaru and X-MODE are registered trademarks of Subaru Corporation. ACA is a registered trademark of the American Canoe Association. All other marks are the property of their respective owners. All prices are subject to change without notice. Dealer price only. MSRP. Excludes tax, license, and other available or regionally required equipment.