



# Journal of Paddlesport Education

A professional forum highlighting **Safety Education & Instruction**  
for ACA Instructors, Clubs & Affiliates

November 2013

Welcome to the  
**Journal of  
Paddlesport  
Education.**

Best of the best in  
Swiftwater Rescue, our  
SWR Conference  
Presenters:

Les Bechtel  
Slim Ray  
Charlie Walbridge  
Jim Coffey  
Mike Mather  
Justin Padgett  
Aaron Peeler  
Walter Felton  
Will Leverette  
Robin Pope  
Sam Fowlkes  
Virgil Chambers  
Pam Dillon  
Dave Kessmann  
Fritz Orr  
Tom Burroughs



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## **The First ACA Swiftwater Rescue Conference a great success!**

Held on October 25-27th on the Tuckaseegee River in Dillsboro, North Carolina, the premier experts in Safety & Rescue came together to deliver the first ever Swiftwater Rescue Conference aimed at both paddlers and rescue professionals, alike.

On-water sessions consisted of:

- Boat Unpinning and Advanced Rope Systems
- Medical Issues for SWR Rescuers
- Advanced Swimming and Wading Techniques & The Art of the Throwbag
- Mechanical Advantage Systems and Entrapment Rescue Techniques

Other topics included:

- Where is SWR and how did we get here?
- The History of River Rescue
- Lessons Learned from Expert Witness Work in Swiftwater Rescue

Did you miss the SWR Conference this year? Do not worry—we will host it again in 2015!



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## SWR Conference

### T-Shirts

Did you miss out on the limited edition ACA Swiftwater Rescue T-Shirts? Do not worry, we have some extras!

Head on over to the ACA eStore to get yours today! (All the SWR experts are doing it!)



## Kokatat Instructor of the Month

October: Vernon Graham of Boiling Springs, PA

**Kōkatat<sup>®</sup>**  
made in arcata, ca

Vernon began his paddling journey with a canoe trip to the Boundary Waters in 1971, and seriously began paddling whitewater canoes and kayaks in the early 1990s. Vernon describes himself as a boat-aholic, having everything from sea kayaks and tripping canoes, to whitewater kayaks and canoes. His favorite boat is the Ocoee – as it has the best balance of turning, tracking, speed, stability, and ease of rolling of any boat that he has owned. Alongside his work with the Canoe Club of Greater Harrisburg (an ACA PAC), Vernon has achieved ACA Instructor Certification in both whitewater canoeing and kayaking, and attributes much of his success to his local friends and fellow paddlers who have provided him with the environment, encouragement, and support to constantly improve his skills.

Vernon's favorite trips have been canoeing the Grand Canyon (twice), two trips to Costa Rica with Costa Rica Rios, and a 2013 summer trip down the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. Vernon has said, "I think my favorite moments are when I've managed to pull off a canoe roll in the middle of places I really, really didn't want to swim - like the Upper Youghiogheny, and the Upper Pacuare." Vernon has had the opportunity to instruct for a local summer camp program for blind children and has also recently been teaching a crash course in whitewater kayaking to the Boiling Springs High School Outdoor Club.



To read more about our past instructors of the month, or to nominate a great instructor, please see the [Kokatat Instructor of the Month Page](#).

**The ACA would like to extend a big THANKS to [Kokatat Watersports Wear](#) for sponsoring our Instructor of the Month Program!**



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## SEI RESOURCES



Interesting news from the map world. The National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) announced that effective April 13, 2014 they will no longer print paper nautical charts.

Instead, they will be offering free PDF files of the traditional charts.

For more info:  
[oceanservice.noaa.gov](http://oceanservice.noaa.gov)  
Announcement FAQ:  
[nauticalcharts.noaa.gov](http://nauticalcharts.noaa.gov)



## Kokatat Instructor of the Month

November: Ivan Bartha of Saint Cloud, MN

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Growing up in Michigan, Ivan started on the water pretty early. Some of his first canoe trips were with a summer camp he attended and eventually influenced his current career. Today, Ivan enjoys being on the water regardless of what or where he is paddling. Ivan paddled a good portion of his life without any formal instruction, but read every book & magazine he could get his hands on. It was not until he went to school at Northern Michigan University that Ivan took his first ACA course with Dr. Jean Kinnear in 1993. While Ivan likes a good adventure as much as anyone, his favorite paddling is in the Midwest because of the spectrum of paddling available. Since becoming an ACA instructor, Ivan has taken advantage of many opportunities to help new paddlers get a good start, promote paddlesports, and help keep people safe out on the water. Ivan says, "In reality, I have been lucky as a professional outdoor educator which is largely due to the people who have taken the time to help me be a better paddler and instructor. There is no way I can take any credit without thanking the IT's & ITE's who have taken me on as a student, assistant or co-instructor." Most recently being involved with Team River Runner Minneapolis has been an opportunity for Ivan to continue to serve and work with the service members who want to get back out on the water. "It has been a great ride and I am eternally grateful for all the opportunities the ACA has provided me over the years!"



To read more about our past instructors of the month, or to nominate a great instructor, please see the [Kokatat Instructor of the Month Page](#).

*Thank you Kokatat!* 3



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## New ACA Liability Waivers!



Along with the usual membership renewal options, the ACA Waiver & Release of Liability form now allows for new or renewing members to indicate their choice of Rapid Media Magazine subscriptions.

Starting in January 2014, the old 2012 ACA Waivers will no longer be accepted by the ACA National Office.

Paper waivers not for you? Try our new online waivers!

## An ACA Success Story

The ACA National Office recently received an inspiring email from one of our SUP Instructors, Becky Harger. Becky was the August 2012 Kokatat Instructor of the Month, and has been doing great things in the name of paddlesport education. Here is her story:



“ I am proud to say that I recently broke the 600th student mark. My goal now is to reach 1000. It is so rewarding to make people happy. People from all over the world. Some go home with a better stroke. Some go home empowered. Getting ACA certified has been one of the best things that I have done with my life. My organization has added an Eco-tour on SUP boards and has been accepted as a legal operating business in the Gulf Island National Seashores. We have also added Inner Voyage, which is meditation on a SUP board at sunset. We have also taught recovery groups. People in detox seem to focus and reduce stress while paddling. Stand Up Paddling is a tool to help Vets with post traumatic syndrome. Stand Up Paddling is more than a sport.... It is an avenue to help people in many ways. Thank you ACA. Thank you for teaching me to teach. Thank you for giving me the tools to help people.”

Becky Harger, Proud ACA Instructor

Have a great story to share? Has your life been enriched by paddling? Tell us about it!

[sei@americancanoe.org](mailto:sei@americancanoe.org)



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## SEI UPDATE

2013

### Instructor Audit

The annual instructor audit has been completed. If your ACA instructor certification expires this year on 12/31/2013, the SEI Department will be contacting you in regards to your reported teaching credits, instructor update, and general ACA membership expiration. If you have questions regarding your certification, please contact the SEI Department at [sei@americancanoe.org](mailto:sei@americancanoe.org)



## SEI Department Update

### SEIC Policy Manual Change

ITs upgrading within a discipline or ITs attempting to certify in a subsequent discipline must lead an IDW/ICE at the new level or in the new discipline under the direct supervision of a mentoring ITE. ITs are eligible to conduct this lead teach provided they are already an appropriately certified ACA Instructor at the level of the lead teach, and have taught and properly reported at least two skills courses at the desired level in lieu of the two year minimum requirement (Chapter 3.B.2.a.).

Find the SEIC Policy Manual in its entirety, [here](#).

### Save the Date!

The next SEIC Meeting will be held on February 21st in Columbus, GA.

Find more information, [here](#).

**SEIC MEETING**

### ACA Instructors!

### Join the ACA's Promotive.com Team!

Promotive.com is an online marketplace for outdoor industry professionals who have significant sales influence in their personal and professional communities. Thanks to ACA's knowledge and influence in the paddling community, ACA INSTRUCTORS are invited to become a member of the ACA - Promotive.com team! The ACA team has access to discounts on over 300 outdoor brands including Yakima, Big Agnes, Marmot, Old Town, Necky Kayaks, Gregory, and so many more! Benefits include:

- Up to 70% off retail prices
- Membership to the team is free
- New products and brands are added every day

Visit our team page at [www.promotive.com/aca](http://www.promotive.com/aca)



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## SHARE YOUR PHOTOS



## Become a Subaru VIP

The American Canoe Association is proud to count Subaru of America among its corporate sponsors.

Subaru is the official vehicle of the ACA.

As part of Subaru's support for the association, ACA members are eligible to participate in the Subaru VIP Partners Program. VIP Partners participants can save up to \$3,300\* off the manufacturer's suggested retail price (depending on model and equipment selected) on the purchase or lease of any new Subaru from participating dealers. This discount is available to all eligible ACA members. No haggling is required.

Now that's a member benefit!

In addition to providing discounts to ACA members, Subaru is partnering with *your* ACA to support the ACA's stewardship and conservation programs. When an ACA member purchases a vehicle through the VIP Partners Program, Subaru makes a contribution to support ACA's stewardship work, providing the organization with much-needed resources for protecting our nation's waterways.

To learn more about the VIP Program visit: [www.americancanoe.org/VIP](http://www.americancanoe.org/VIP)



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## Submit an Article

Want to submit an article  
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Learn more at

[www.americancanoe.org/  
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ation](http://www.americancanoe.org/JournalofPaddlesportEducation)

Submit articles to

[www.americancanoe.org/  
JPE/submission](http://www.americancanoe.org/JPE/submission)



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