



SEI Focus

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

February 2012

ACA Stand Up Paddleboarding Summit

Come join the ACA for this regional Stand Up Paddleboarding (SUP) Summit. The purpose of this summit is to bring together all aspects of the discipline (flatwater, coastal, surf and river users) along with manufacturers, retailers, liveries, competitors, and instructors.



To wear a leash or not wear a leash?



The SUP Summit [Agenda](#) will focus on education and instruction. There will be discussions on:

- Best Practices
- Course Curriculum Development
- Tips & Techniques
- Expansion of the sport

The [San Diego Regional SUP Summit](#) will take place at the Mission Bay Hyatt, San Diego, CA from 9:00 AM - 12:00 PM on March 4, 2012. There is **no cost or registration** to come and join us for this great discussion about Stand Up Paddleboarding. Please contact the ACA with any and all questions.

Instructor Trainer & Instructor Trainer Educator Lists/Search

Looking for a certification course or an instructor update? Contact an Instructor Trainer or Instructor Trainer Educator!

The ACA National Office Staff has been listening to our members' comments regarding our online instructor search tool, and we have taken the first steps to improving the Instructor Search function.

Complete IT and ITE lists are now available on our website in PDF format. Please see the lists here: <http://www.americancanoe.org/search/advanced2.asp>

ITs and ITEs are sorted by State/Location and by Discipline.

In addition, all international instructors and instructor trainers are now listed online.

If your information is listed incorrectly please email sei@americancanoe.org.

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ACA Safety, Education & Instruction Council Meeting

All Instructors and Instructor Trainers invited to attend! Come meet the ACA office staff, learn how curriculum and standard issues are addressed, help shape the future of paddlesports education in the U.S.

Date: Friday, March 9

Time: 8:30am-5:00pm

Location: Fredericksburg, VA

Venue: ACA National Office

Please RSVP to SEI Coordinator, Kelsey Bracewell (kbracewell@americancanoe.org) as seating is limited.

Additional information about the SEIC can be found at: <http://www.americancanoe.org/?page=SEIC>

Advanced Canoeing Course

Once again, the ACA Office has teamed up with Instructor Trainers Ed Daugherty and Fritz Orr to offer a Level 5: Advanced Whitewater Canoe Instructor Certification Workshop.

Dates: May 4-6

Location: French Broad River - Hot Springs, NC

Cost: \$175.00

[Register Here!](#)



ACA Journal of Paddlesports Education

One of the common debates across the spectrum of kayak instruction is: What is important? Teaching participants the roll first, second, or completely separately? Is there even time for teaching rolling in introductory classes?

While each paddling school or instructor chooses their own sequence and what non-essential instructional items to include based upon their own business model, mission or participant demographics, there are a few items important to be mindful of when planning an instructional progression for your class and how some non-essential items can influence them.

From Rusty Cooper's "[Teaching to Roll, or Rolling to Teach? Minimizing Stress in Paddling Classes](#)"

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The ACA Journal of Paddlesports Education is a great way for ACA instructors, trainers and educators to share their vast wealth of knowledge and experience in paddlesports education and for all instructors to exchange ideas on the wide array of topics that influence teaching in paddlesports.



Garrick Taylor says “*What a comprehensive article! A treasure trove of ideas for those who teach paddling or are considering working on certification,*” after reading [Robin Pope’s](#) article “[Teaching Tips for Kayaking- A Work in Progress.](#)”

Whether you are learning how to paddle, wanting to brush up on new ideas, comment and exchange feedback with other paddlers the ACA Journal of Paddlesport Education is a great online place to do so. So take a moment and visit, take a look around, you never know what you might find. <http://acajpe.org>

2011 Audit Completion

The SEI Department has completed the 2011 Instructor Audit – all recertification cards have been sent.

If your ACA Instructor Certification was set to expire on 12/31/2011, you met the recertification requirements, and you have not received a new certification card (or have any other instruction-related questions) please contact SEI Coordinator, Kelsey Bracewell at kbracewell@americancanoe.org

2012 Audit

The 2012 ACA Instructor Audit is already underway!

This is a friendly reminder to report your courses and instructor updates if your ACA Instructor Certification is set to expire on 12/31/2012.

Visit the [Instructor, Trainer & Educator Forms](#) page on the web.

Not sure when your certification expires? Contact the SEI Department at sei@americancanoe.org

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Rocky Mountain Surf Festival – C4 Waterman Stand Up Paddleboarding Championship

The ACA is proud to announce that it will be a partner for the [2012 Rocky Mountain Surf Festival](#) and the [C4 Waterman](#) Whitewater SUP Championship. The 2012 Rocky Mountain Surf Festival will once again be held at the world famous Glenwood Springs Whitewater Park in Colorado.

This one of a kind Polynesian themed extravaganza will feature surfing contests, music, food and product vendors, costumes, a hula contest, limbo events, a Goof Board competition, a floating parade of rafts punching the monster wave/hole and the world's best river stand up paddlers displaying their paddling prowess on the snowmelt swollen Colorado River. The weekend includes nonstop action on both sides of the river. Festivalgoers migrate back and forth across the bridge from kid friendly activities held at the park's stadium seating to the event beer garden, sponsors' and food vendor's tents and the event HQ and surf judging zone.



The Rocky Mountain Surf Festival will feature competition for:

- Downriver SUP
- SUPcross
- SUP Surf Contest
- River Surf Championship



The Rocky Mountain Surf Festival will also host the ACA Regional SUP Summit.

For more information on the 2012 Rocky Mountain Surf Festival visit the following websites. The RMSF video can be found on the [ACA YouTube Channel](#), <http://www.rockymountainsurffestival.com/> or find the [RMSF on Facebook](#)

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Buffalo Bayou Regatta



The ACA is excited to be a sponsor for the [40th Buffalo Bayou Regatta](#). The Buffalo Bayou Regatta is Texas' largest canoe, kayak and paddleboard race. Houstonians of all ages are encouraged to participate in the 15-mile ACA-sanctioned race along the scenic Buffalo Bayou, whether you are entering competitively, or paddling for pleasure, the Regatta is the event for you and your family.

Those not wanting to paddle can catch the outdoor fun and cheer on the racers. Free live music, awards ceremony, and food and drinks will be available for sale at the finish line at downtown's Sesquicentennial Park.

For more information visit
<http://www.buffalobayou.org/regattabayou.html>



Southwest Kayak Rentals

The ACA is fortunate to welcome [Southwest Kayak Rentals](#) as an [ACA Affiliate Organization](#). Southwest Kayak Rentals is located in Seabrook, TX on the north shore of Clear Lake, just 30 minutes south of Houston.

Southwest Kayak Rentals offers:

- Rentals
- Instruction
- Guided Tours
 - Galveston's Trails
 - Armand Bayou

Southwest Kayak Rentals has supported the Lake, Bayand Bayous since 1988 and can support groups up to 30.

To learn more about Southwest Kayak Rentals visit <http://www.houstonrowing.com/>

Or contact: Captain John Coggin at 281-532-1518 or at bayarearowing@aol.com.

Southwest Kayak Rentals
USRC Rowing Club

bayarearowing@aol.com Seabrook, Tx
281-532-1518

A Non-profit alliance promoting rowing for all ages.

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ACA Pro Schools

Cutter Aquatics

Location: Colleyville, TX

Contact: barb@cutteraquatics.com

Phone: 817-354-6853



Cutter aquatics has been delivering water safety education programs and teaching paddling skills in Texas since 1996. Cutter Aquatics offers an encouraging atmosphere and helps candidates for ACA Instructor and Instructor Trainer certifications build both their programing skills and personal coaching strengths. Cutter Aquatics also offers trademark guided trips – adventure vacations close to home and around the world. Their current focus is on developing ACA certified kayaking and canoeing instructors and instructor trainers.

CKAPCO - Canoe Kayak and Paddle Company

Location: Vienna, VA

Contact: mikearonoff@aol.com



CKAPCO is proud to be the first ACA Pro School! CKAPCO offers ACA Instructor and Instructor Trainer certifications for kayaks and canoes, as well as skill development classes for beginners through advanced paddlers. CKAPCO also offers ACA and BCU Skill and Safety Assessments. They also have full and half day trips just for the fun of going out on the water! Top end boats and gear provided. CKAPCO has locations in both the Washington DC and Baltimore metro areas.

Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission

East Coast Canoe & Kayak Festival

Location: Charleston, SC

Contact: customerservice@ccprc.com

Phone: 843-795-4FUN (4386)



Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission (CCPRC) offers a variety of Canoeing, Stand Up Paddleboard and Kayaking skills classes, and trips. This includes educational outings for beginner to expert paddlers. With day-trips, weekend skills classes, and certification courses, their ACA certified paddling instructors and trainers have a focus on safety and fun. Learn the skills to make your paddling experience an enjoyable one. Serving over 25,000 individuals of all ages and abilities annually, their Outdoor Adventure Program is the first of its

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kind to be accredited by the Association for Experiential Education. CCPRC also brings you the East Coast Canoe & Kayak Festival every April.

[Geneva Kayak Center](#)

Location: Chicago, IL

Contact: rrushton@genevakayak.com

Phone: 630-882-9211



Geneva Kayak Center proudly serves the entire Chicago area with the finest in boats and accessories as well as local kayak tours and instruction. Their goal is to promote the sport of kayaking to the greater Chicago area and the Midwest. They also offer Adventure Paddling Trips for all skill levels, from beginner to advanced. These go to amazing locations in the Midwest, Alaska, Greece, Mexico and the UK. Whether you want to enjoy an afternoon on the river or are preparing for a two-week expedition, Geneva Kayak Center believes the sport of kayaking should be fun, and can be enjoyed by all.

[NaturPur](#)

Location: Austria

Contact: gerhard.grimm@naturpur.co.at

Phone: +43 664 2245890

Fax: +43 2273 2192



Situated in Austria, near Vienna, NaturPur offers skill development classes for beginner through advanced paddlers. They also have training and certification for ACA Instructors and Trainers in Coastal Kayaking or Canoeing. From a fun afternoon in the Danube National Park, to an educational course or a multiday trip, NaturPur is the right partner for you. They also will provide state of the art equipment, like Wenonah canoes

[Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures](#)

Location: Westport, MA

Contact: westport@ospreyseakayak.com

Osprey Sea Kayak Adventures provides comprehensive instruction, assessment and Instructor certification in both Coastal Kayaking & Surf Kayaking. They also have excellent paddle board instruction, guided tours, environmental education & team building programs. They offer kayak & paddleboard rentals & sales, and unique adventure trips along coastal Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and the Caribbean.



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Outdoor Adventure Center

Location: Seattle (Redmond), WA

Contact: info@outdooradventurecenter.com

Toll Free: 800-282-4043



Outdoor Adventure Center is THE PLACE to get connected to your latest adventure information. Their desire is to inform, connect, and equip you with paddling, biking, hiking, climbing, and snowboarding for the Northwest. Their greatest asset is the depth of their organization. The Outdoor Adventure Center is three companies in one, a family owned organization: Outdoor Adventures outfitting and instruction company, Outdoor Synergy - Northwest Kayaks kayak design and construction, and the Outdoor Adventure Center adventure shop.

Potomac Paddlesports

Location: Potomac, MD

Contact: info@potomacpaddlesports.com

Phone: 301-881-BOAT (2628)



Potomac Paddlesports is honored to have piloted what has become the ACA Pro School Program and to have been recognized by the ACA for "Making the world a better place to paddle." As the only paddlesports program to be both an ACA Pro School and BCU Endorsed Center, Potomac Paddlesports offers incomparably high-quality whitewater and sea kayak coaching, with special emphasis on the development of beginners and instructors. Paddle with them on the Potomac River or Chesapeake Bay and surf their retail store online.

RaffTaff

Location: 79639 Grenzach-Wyhlen, Germany

Contact: kontakt@rafftaff.de

Phone: 0049-7624-980460



RAFFTAFF, located in the south-west corner of Germany, provides open-canoe, sea kayak, swiftwater rescue and SUP skills courses and assessments. ACA Instructor Trainer Raphael Kuner offers instructor certifications as well as instruction and skills assessments. RaffTaff is one of the rare places in Europe to get ACA SUP instructor certification. They also have the only ACA Swiftwater Rescue instructor in Europe, making them the only European Proschool to get ACA Rescue instruction. Besides this, their canoe camp is right in the middle of the Back Forest and their homebase is located at the River Rhine.

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[The River Connection](#)

Location: Hyde Park, NY

Contact: Marshall Seddon: 845-229-0595



The River Connection focuses on having a broad range of experience and specialized training with their instructional team: ACA certified kayak instructors; naturalists; geologists and artists. Each member provides a unique and perceptive view of the waters that surround the Hudson Valley. They are proud to specialize in getting everyone on the water and conducts the only ACA certified Whitewater Program and Adaptive Kayaking program for people with disabilities in the region.

[University of Minnesota Duluth - Recreational Sports Outdoor Program](#)

Location: Duluth, MN

Contact: Randy Carlson rcarlso6@d.umn.edu



The UMD Recreational Sports Outdoor Program is dedicated to promoting healthy, active lifestyles and connections to the natural world through personal and professional experiences.

Important Dates – For more events & courses visit the [ACA Event Calendar!](#)

2012

February 1 – SEIC Policy Revision 11.1.2011 goes into effect

March 4 – ACA SUP Summit (San Diego, CA)

March 9 – [SEIC Meeting](#) (Fredericksburg, VA)

March 31 – April 1 – [ACA Collegiate Race Series National Championship](#) (Tuckaseegee River, NC)

November 2-4 – [National Paddlesports Conference](#) (Charleston, SC)

Paddle Safe & Paddle Often!



Trey



Kelsey



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