

THE
JPE

JOURNAL OF PADDLESPORTS EDUCATION

FOLLOW US TO THE PUT-IN



RAPHAEL KUNER

INSTRUCTOR OF THE MONTH



KEEP CALM & PADDLE ON!

ADAPTIVE PADDLING SUMMIT

NEW YEAR, NEW GEAR

EXPEDITION SUPING – PUERTO RICO

MARCH 2014

Contents

4 Kokatat Instructor of the Month



6 “As Painless as Possible”

By Robin Pope

9 New Motions Approved by SEIC



10 Adaptive Paddling

Summit

15 Reeling in the River: Kayak Fishing Insurance



Submit
An article

Want to submit an article and be featured in the ACA Journal of Paddlesport Education?

Learn more at [www.americancanoe.org/
JournalofPaddlesportEducation](http://www.americancanoe.org/JournalofPaddlesportEducation)

Submit articles to www.americancanoe.org/JPE/submission



SUBARU

[Become a Subaru VIP](#)

March 2014

8 Proschool Highlight:
Charleston County Parks & Rec Commission

14 Paddle Expedition Pioneer Mike Simpson attempts to Circumnavigate Puerto Rico

11 Subaru VIP Program:
Up to \$3,000 discount on a new Subaru!

18 Instructor Prodeals

19 Your SEI Staff Contact Info



CHARLESTON COUNTY PARK & RECREATION COMMISSION

Where Fun Comes Naturally!



Kokatat Instructor of the Month

March: Raphael Kuner of Grenzach, Germany

Kōkatat[®]
made in arcata, ca

Raphael is one of ACA's most active Instructor Trainers, and is one of the most influential ACA representatives in Europe! Hailing from Grenzach-Wyhlen, Germany, Raff (as his friends call him) began paddling canoes 25 years ago. Raff was born in the middle of the Black Forest in Germany in the summer of '69—and while it took him 20 years to find his passion in paddlesports—once he started paddling, he never stopped, and he never looked back. Raff began seeking ACA certification in 2002, when formalized paddling education was not widely available in Europe. Raff was determined to find the highest quality canoeing instruction available, and in his own words, “Then I found ACA, and the rest is history!”

Raff made his first trip to Canada almost 15 years ago, and had the opportunity to spend 10 days in Algonquin National Park. Imagine a clear September afternoon, not a cloud in the sky, new and exciting scenery, just you & your canoe—Raff was amazed. Raff said, “As an Instructor, my life changed when I ventured outside of Europe to meet all the fantastic paddlers and instructors in North America. I remember my first trip to North Carolina for a canoeing certification course at the Tuckaseegee and at the French Broad Rivers. Two full weeks of paddling and, of course, fun. During the course we spent some time at the French Broad River Festival; seeing the strength of the local paddling community, full of excitement, friendship, and incredible paddlers—it was great!”

Raff's favorite event was attending his first ACA Paddlesports Conference in 2012 in Charleston, SC. “That was another step for me as an Instructor and Instructor Trainer. The ACA was no longer an organization without face, it became an organization of friends and great paddlers. It motivated me to keep on doing what I do and love—teaching paddlesports. No matter if I sit, kneel, or stand upright.”

Congratulations Raff!

To nominate a great instructor, please see the [Kokatat Instructor of the Month Page](#).



[Become a Subaru VIP](#)

SUBARU

March 2014



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

Kokatat[®]
made in arcata, ca



[Become a Subaru VIP](#)

ACA Instructional Paperwork – Making it as Painless as Possible.

By Robin Pope, ACA Instructor Trainer Educator

Given a choice between doing paperwork or going paddling, most of the people reading this are going to choose paddling. However, if you're an instructor, it's important to file the registration, reporting, and insurance forms for your instructional classes. Properly completing these forms can mean that your courses are nationally advertised, that you receive appropriate credit for teaching, and that you're protected through ACA insurance. When it's time to renew your instructor certification, or when you apply to become an Instructor Trainer, correctly completed paperwork will make your life a lot easier. Incomplete, inaccurate, or unfiled reports can prevent you from being recertified and from earning higher certification levels. On a bigger picture, proper course reporting helps give the ACA leverage when representing paddlers before regulatory and law enforcement groups. The ACA also uses course reporting and student numbers to obtain grant funding to further develop paddling programs, at home and internationally. Taking the time to complete paperwork will help you, the ACA, and the larger paddling community. This article will help instructors understand how to appropriately complete paperwork in the easiest way possible.



When it's time to renew your instructor certification, or when you apply to become an Instructor Trainer, correctly completed paperwork will make your life a lot easier. Incomplete, inaccurate, or unfiled reports can prevent you from being recertified and from earning higher certification levels. On a bigger picture, proper course reporting helps give the ACA leverage when representing paddlers before regulatory and law enforcement groups. The ACA also uses course reporting and student numbers to obtain grant funding to further develop paddling programs, at home and internationally. Taking the time to complete paperwork will help you, the ACA, and the larger paddling community. This article will help instructors understand how to appropriately complete paperwork in the easiest way possible.

“CORRECTLY COMPLETED PAPERWORK WILL MAKE YOUR LIFE A LOT EASIER.”

There are three types of ACA instructors: instructors, instructor trainers (ITs) and instructor trainer educators (ITEs). There are three types of ACA courses: skill, assessment, and certification classes. Skills classes include instruction, but do not include a test for student's to demonstrate knowledge and ownership of the skills and instructional material. Assessment courses include both instruction and a test that shows a student has mastered the material. Certification courses certify a paddler to teach skills and assessment classes. Instructors teach skills and assessment classes. ITs are experienced instructors who also teach instructor certification courses. ITEs are experienced ITs who mentor new ITs. Each instructor group has associated paperwork. The paperwork for skill and assessment courses can be very easy to complete. The paperwork completed by ITs and ITEs is more in depth. Reporting for each type of class and instructor is reviewed in the coming pages. More information also can be found by reviewing the “For Certified Instructors” section of the ACA website.



Instructors

There are roughly 7,000 currently certified ACA instructors, teaching in more than 20 countries across the globe. Most instructors teach a few classes a year, although some teach dozens a year. No matter how often an ACA instructor teaches, they need to be able to:

- Register a skill or assessment course before it occurs
- Obtain course insurance
- Report a skill or assessment course once it is complete

All of these tasks are easy to do, and should take only a few minutes. To begin, go to the ACA website, www.americancanoe.org and log on. Then, look at the control bar on the left of the homepage. Hover over “Education and Instruction” and then move to “For Certified Instructors.” From there, click on the “Forms” section.

You should be at a page titled ‘[Forms for Instructors, ITs and ITEs.](#)’ From this page, you can access the forms for any type of paperwork required for ACA instruction.

To register a skills or assessment course, scroll down the forms page to find Course Registration Forms. These can be completed on line, or using a word or PDF document. Word and PDF files can be emailed, faxed or snail mailed to the ACA office. Course registration allows advertising on the ACA website, and is free of charge. **If you don’t want advertising on the ACA website and don’t want insurance, you do not need to register your class.**

When an instructor registers a class, they also can obtain insurance for a nominal fee. To do so, they need to request insurance on the course registration form and also send in a copy of their current CPR and first aid certification cards. Fees for insurance include a \$20 sanctioning fee, a \$25 rush fee if the request is made less than 10 days in advance, and \$20 for each additional insured person or group.

“IF YOU DON’T WANT ADVERTISING ON THE ACA WEBSITE AND DON’T WANT INSURANCE, YOU DO NOT NEED TO REGISTER YOUR CLASS.”



Article continues on p. 15



SUBARU

[Become a Subaru VIP](#)

March 2014



[Charleston County Park & Recreation Commission](#)

[East Coast Paddlesports & Outdoor 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, including educational outings for beginner to expert paddlers. From day-trips, weekend skills classes, to certification courses, our ACA certified paddling instructors and trainers focus on safety and fun. Learn the essentials needed to make your paddling experience an enjoyable one from our friendly and knowledgeable instructors. Serving over 25,000 individuals of all ages and abilities annually, our Outdoor Adventure Program is the first of its kind to be accredited by the Association for Experiential Education. CCPRC also brings you the East Coast Paddlesport & Outdoor Festival every April.



In case you missed it, the SEIC Standards Committee and the ACA Board of Directors met last month in Columbus, GA for their bi-annual meeting.

SEIC Policy & Curriculum Updates from this latest SEIC Meeting

The SUP Committee's motion to introduce the 'Quickstart your SUP' curriculum was approved. Hey, all you SUP Instructors—[check it out!](#)

The Rafting Committee made great strides this meeting by having their levels 2-4 [instructor criteria](#), [assessments](#), and [skills course outlines](#) approved for both oar and paddle rafting. We'll be seeing some big movement in the ACA rafting scene real soon!

The Adaptive Paddling Committee introduced the first ever endorsement criteria for instructors who hold the Adaptive Paddling Endorsement. This is important news for all those ACA instructors who have the adaptive paddling endorsement—take a look, [here!](#)

The Coastal Kayak Committee had two new motions approved that have an effect on the Level 3: Coastal Kayaking Skills Assessment and the current requirements for [Level 5: Advanced Open Water Coastal Kayaking](#) instructor candidates.

Want to have your voice heard? Come to the next [SEIC Meeting](#) in Grand Rapids, Michigan!

The ACA Adaptive Paddling Summit will be a national event that will address key topics related to paddlesports for individuals of all abilities. The ACA provides a range of recreational opportunities and has been established as one of the premier standards of paddlesports safety and education. As part of the ACA's leadership role in the paddlesports community, we have initiated this Summit to provide a resource for paddlers of all abilities.

Questions should be directed to ACA Education & Outreach Coordinator [Joe Moore](#).

Find out more at www.americancanoe.org/adaptivepaddlingsummit

Save the Date—September 15-17, 2014!

Registration information will be available in June.

ACA Adaptive Paddling Summit

Grand Rapids, Michigan
September 15- 17, 2014



[Become a Subaru VIP](#)

SUBARU

March 2014

10

SUBARU IS THE OFFICIAL VEHICLE OF THE ACA



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.



ACA State Director Program

Are you interested in volunteering for the ACA in your state?

Check the ACA website in mid-March for detailed information on our new State Director Program!

USCG Empanelled Standards/Rubrics Experts Team Launches National Validation Survey

A team of experts assembled with U.S. Coast Guard (USCG) grant funding seeks national content validation of HUMAN (manually propelled) boat operation standards/rubrics that will be freely available to the boating public. This is your opportunity to impact the development of recreational paddling and rowing (canoes, kayaks, rowboats, paddleboards, etc.) standards/rubrics that can be voluntarily used by educators when developing boating courses. You may participate by completing this [on-line survey](#).



Rawanduz River Expedition

[Nature Iraq](#)'s Waterkeepers Iraq Program and the [Nature Iraq Foundation](#) with the [American Canoe Association](#) and [Majestic Heights Outdoor Adventures](#), a Kurdistan Iraq-based eco-tourism company, are pleased to announce the Rawanduz River Expedition, a new initiative to protect rivers in Iraq, and the kick-off of a 60-day crowdfunding campaign to make this expedition possible.



Support the expedition via this [link](#).





As part of the annual East Coast Paddlesports & Outdoor Festival, Charleston County Parks & Recreation Commission is hosting a special course for ACA Instructors:

The Coaching Process with Todd Johnstone-Wright

April 8-9, \$150

[Register](#)

Coaching Process is designed to expose instructors, instructor trainers, and instructor trainer educators in all disciplines to core coaching competencies and behaviors that enhance long term paddler development by increasing efficiency, student motivation and an individual's access to learning. While the CP course is based on current educational theory and best practice, at its core it's a fun, hands on, collaborative experience designed to harness the talents of each participant. The CP course will cover the following coaching competencies:

- Differentiated Instruction
- Observation and Analysis
- Purposeful Practice
- Session Planning
- The Role of Feedback
- Developing Performance Assessments.
- Long Term Paddler Development

CCPRC will also be offering select **instructor updates** in conjunction with 'The Coaching Process:'

L2: Essentials of Canoe Touring—\$50 ([register](#))

L1-4: Coastal Kayaking—\$50 ([register](#))

Adaptive Paddling Workshop—\$250 ([register](#))

Prerequisites: This coaching course is appropriate for American Canoe Association (ACA) Level 1-5 Instructors, Instructor Trainers and Instructor Trainer Educators in any discipline.

Mike Simpson

With support from
BICSUP
 bicsup.com 

Puerto Rico SUP Circumnavigation

10 Days
 50 Hours of Paddling
 273 Miles

START / END
 SAN JUAN, PR

Follow Mike on BIC SUP's Facebook Page
 for Daily Updates and SpotTracker for up to the Hour Tracking! 



ACA instructor and SUP expedition pioneer, Mike Simpson just finished paddling around Puerto Rico where he circumnavigated the Caribbean island on his stand up paddleboard. Best known for his epic 2,000+ mile self-supported paddleboard expedition from Florida to Maine, Mike's latest adventure is something he's been planning for over a year. Preparation for his trip included solo journeys down the Hudson River in New York (200+ miles) as well as the entire length of the Connecticut River, 400+ miles from the Canadian border to the ocean in Old Saybrook, Connecticut.

Mike hopes to raise awareness for ocean pollution during his journey, something he became passionate about after encountering an incredible amount of garbage during his eastern seaboard journey. "I'd heard the stories about large amounts of garbage in the ocean, but until I saw it first-hand along the entire eastern seaboard I really had no idea how serious it was. Plastic bottles are so convenient, but it's important for people to realize that convenience comes at a cost. I just ask that people seriously consider using reusable bottles whenever possible instead of disposable bottles."





Attention Kayak Anglers!

If you are a kayaking group or organization with a fishing component, your group may be eligible to participate in the ACA Insurance program either as a Paddle America Club or an Affiliate Organization.

[Learn more today!](#)

If you have any questions, please contact the [ACA Insurance Coordinator](#).

ACA Instructional Paperwork – Making it as Painless as Possible. Continued from p. 7

Easy course reporting can be done by choosing the online, word or PDF course reporting form from the [forms](#) page. If insurance is used, and the students are ACA members, there is no charge for those students to be covered by ACA's insurance. If the students are not ACA members, they can join as full members at the class, or purchase a \$5 event membership which will cover them for the duration of the class. Either way, if you ACA insurance for your class, you need to mail or email a report form (including a roster) and all completed liability waivers. You also should keep copies of the roster and waivers for your personal records. If you'd like to issue [participation cards](#) to the students, you can purchase those from the ACA website in the eStore. Finally, it's a good idea for instructors to collect course evaluations from their students. Evaluations provide feedback so you can improve your teaching, and also help document what students thought about your class in case there are problems or questions later on.



[Become a Subaru VIP](#)

SUBARU

March 2014

15

Instructors should report every class they teach, every time they teach. If you teach an informal class during a river trip, you should report it. If you teach a formal week long session, you should report it. You should report every instructional contact you have. Reporting makes your life easier when it comes time to renew your certification, and if you work towards higher instructor certifications. Reporting also more accurately demonstrates the ACA's reach into the paddling community. That reach makes a big difference when ACA advocates on Capitol Hill, and when applying for grant funding. When we can show that we, the ACA's instructor corps, reach a lot of paddlers, regulators are more willing to listen to ACA's perspective. The class you report might be the one that makes the difference.



Instructors have two options to report classes – an easy one and a really easy one. Course reporting also is discussed in an ACA-made YouTube video, [here](#). Really easy course reporting is done with an EZ Skills Course report form, found in the Skills Course section of the forms page. It can be completed [online](#) or can be completed on a smartphone. This option is not available for assessment courses or skills courses that were covered by ACA insurance.

“IT IS IMPORTANT FOR INSTRUCTORS, TRAINERS, AND EDUCATORS TO COLLECT FEEDBACK ABOUT THEIR COURSES.”

Instructor Trainers

Registering and reporting instructor certification courses is similar to the process for skills courses. However, ITs must clearly note what level of certification is earned on the report form. Instructor candidates also deserve individual evaluation. Note that if an instructor candidate does not receive their desired level of certification, their evaluation must include a description of what they need to do to achieve that higher certification. The ACA website has evaluation forms that can be used, titled [Instructor Candidate Evaluation Form](#). Finally, it is important for instructor trainers to get feedback on their teaching and general course structure from their students. The form titled [Instructor Trainer / Certification Course Evaluation](#) should be used. It is important for IT candidates and renewing ITs to submit these course evaluations, because these are reviewed by the SEIC Standards Committee and are valuable if issues arise in the future.



Instructor Trainer Educators

ITEs complete the same paperwork as instructors for skill and assessment courses, and the same paperwork as ITs for certification classes. The only additional form they need is the ITE application or renewal, found on the [forms page](#).

What if there's an accident?

The ACA has an accident reporting form, [here](#).

The form lists information that should be collected if an injury occurs during your class. If you use ACA insurance, the form should be submitted to the ACA office as soon as possible. Even if you don't use insurance, the form provides a solid list of information that will help protect you.



"WHEN IN DOUBT, REPORT!"

Becoming an IT or ITE

When instructors apply to become an IT or ITE, the SEIC Standards Committee reviews their applications. Applications include course outlines, letters of recommendation, and examples of the paperwork that IT candidates and ITE candidates have completed. IT and ITE candidates need to be sure their paperwork is complete and accurate. Incomplete or inaccurate paperwork makes the work of the Standards Committee much more difficult, and the review process much more lengthy. Moving forward, the Standards Committee will simply return incomplete or inaccurate applications.

Importance of Paperwork

Few people enjoy doing paperwork. Paddling instructors would rather go paddling. Paperwork is, however, important for professional certification. It documents what we do, and provides a record for others. Attention to detail in paperwork helps instructors when they work towards higher level certifications. In the event of an accident, it can provide evidence that risk management was taken seriously. ACA has minimal requirements for instructional paperwork compared to other professional organizations. The requirements are in place to help students and instructors, so please take the time to do yours completely and correctly.



Robin Pope

Advanced SWR and Whitewater Kayak ITE

Past chair, SEIC Standards Committee

**Robin has served on the Standards Committee for a decade, and has reviewed dozens of IT and ITE applications.*



[Become a Subaru VIP](#)

SUBARU

March 2014

17

WHO WANTS SOME NEW GEAR?!



CHECK OUT THESE ACA INSTRUCTOR PRODEALS!



ASTRAL is happy to extend their Industry Deal to currently certified ACA instructors. Their pro-purchase program gets you 30% off of retail pricing on our PFD's, footwear, and accessories.

Save on items like the [Greenjacket](#), or the [Brewer](#)!

Contact kbracewell@americancanoe.org for your promo code!



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



Designed by whitewater rescue professionals, H2O Rescue Gear throw bags were created with four things in mind: Safety, Durability, Practicality, and Quick Accessibility.

Check out their new [safety and rescue products](#)!

Check out the ACA website for all the [Instructor Prodeals](#)!



[Become a Subaru VIP](#)

March 2014

SUBARU

The JPE is brought to you by:

Kelsey

Kelsey Bracewell
Safety, Education & Instruction Coordinator
kbracewell@americancanoe.org
540-907-4460 x 105



T.J.

T.J. Turner
Paddlesports Training Grant Coordinator
tjturner@americancanoe.org
540-907-4460 x 103



Joe

Joe Moore
Education & Outreach Coordinator
jmoore@americancanoe.org
540-907-4460



SUBARU

[Become a Subaru VIP](#)

March 2014