



Welcome back to the ACA's Monthly Newsletter!

July, 2022



ACA Board of Directors nominations for 2022-2023: Please submit nominations by August 20, 2022 for the available board seats listed below:

- 1 Independent Director
- 3 At-Large Directors
- 1 Elite Athlete Director designated for Slalom
- 1 Elite Athlete Director designated for Sprint

Board members serve two-year terms and can be re-elected. Those interested in the Independent Director position should review ACA's [Independence Requirements](#). Voting will open on October 30, 2022 and results will be announced to the membership by December 1, 2022. Additional information is available by [clicking on this link](#).

Please submit nominations by August 20, 2022 to feedback@americancanoe.org.

Camp Sebago and the Crazy Scupper Races: Camp Sebago is open through October 15! If you are yet to visit, the ACA has a beautiful camp on Lake Sebago near Sloatsburg, New York, only 32 miles north of New York City. Click [here](#) for more information on what Camp Sebago has to offer and to see the list of upcoming events, including the Labor Day weekend Crazy Scupper Race!

Ann Barry, ACA's Regions and Affiliated Clubs (RAC) Northeast Chair told us about some of the family fun that takes place at Lake Sebago every year. Each Fourth of July and Labor Day weekend, Camp Sebago hosts the Crazy Scupper Races for children of all ages. Races for kids are a long tradition at the camp and are almost as much fun for spectators as they are for the participants. The morning of the race, scuppers (what the camp likes to call smallish sit on tops) are retrieved from under cabins, ferried over from various docks, and stacked on the main aluminum dock. Families start appearing with children ready to get on the water. Some, as young as five, get their own boats, and if they are lucky, the very small ones might get to share a scupper with their big brother or sister. For some of the kids, it is their first time in a boat, others are more experienced. "Total cost – volunteer time and a large box of popsicles."



Ready for his first scupper race at the ACA Camp at Lake Sebago.



Paddlesports Leadership Academy: ACA Instructors Gerry Seavo James, Anna Levesque, and Lizzy Gardner partnered to host the very first Paddlesports Leadership Academy featuring the ACA Community Paddlesports Leader curriculum. Thanks to the dedication and thoughtful planning of the three hosts, this course was a resounding success. The ACA is excited to continue their work to create another path to become a leader in paddlesports. The aim of this new curriculum is to teach paddlers to build their communities and to foster equitable access to river experiences. To read the press release written by Lizzy Gardner for the Tennessee RiverLine, click [here](#).

The Future of Paddlesports Fueled by Partnerships: This summer, Florida-based ACA Instructors Wayne Douchkoff, Jake FitzRoy, and Tim Grimes facilitated a Level 2 Kayaking Skills Course and an Essentials of Kayak Touring Trip Leader Course with participants from Outdoor Afro, ImPowered Minds, and Florida A&M University (FAMU). With the support of the Florida Youth Conservation Centers Network (FYCCN)'s Suncoast Youth Conservation Center, participants and leaders alike reviewed the courses as being exceptionally fun, challenging, and educational. Several of the participants were long-time paddlers excited to be receiving their first formal training. To read about the people and organizations whose collaboration made this course such a positive experience click [here](#). Find us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) to watch a heartwarming video testimony from some of the participants.



Level 2 Kayaking Skills Course Day

L-R Wayne Douchkoff, Chris Manning, Kaysara Mandry, Stacy Franklin, Hillary Van Dyke, Adrienne Galluo, Jake FitzRoy, and Ashley Watson.

Instructor of the Month: This July, we honor Lyle Phetteplace as our newest Instructor of the Month! Lyle takes the hard parts of life and uses them to create joy and purpose. He stands out for his ability to teach others to do the same. For Lyle and many of us, paddling is more than recreation – it gives us purpose, a community to lean on, and a deep and indescribable feeling of joy and accomplishment. Lyle is an ACA Instructor Trainer for Whitewater Kayaking and Swiftwater Rescue, and he runs the Colorado River School, a Denver-based nonprofit organization that provides transformative growth through whitewater kayaking and outdoor recreation, education, and adventure.

Lyle's first day kayaking was his first day of sobriety. "In short, paddling saved my life, and the transformational effect paddling has had on my life has motivated me to teach others." He believes that whitewater kayaking unlocks a large potential for growth within each person. He has often found that the challenges he faces while on the river are great metaphors for the challenges he has faced in life. The ways that paddling can equip a person to handle stress and pressure translate into a person who has a much greater capacity for handling stress, managing addiction, and curbing depression off the water as well. Paddling gives people the ability and will to heal. To read Lyle's whole Instructor of the Month profile, click [here](#).

If you know a truly awesome ACA instructor, follow [this link](#) to nominate them as a future Instructor of the Month. Not only can your favorite instructor be featured in our newsletter and on the website, but they will receive a limited-edition ACA Instructor of the Month hat!



July Instructor of the Month, Lyle Phetteplace with river dog, Ellie.

2022 Recreational Paddlers Instructor Contest - June Leaderboard: The ACA Board of Directors, Safety Education & Instruction Department, and the ACA State Directors are proud to announce the current leaders of the [2022 Recreational Paddlers Instructor Contest](#) (as of June 30, 2022). The contest was initiated to inspire and encourage ACA instructors to conduct courses and introduce more new paddlers to safe and enjoyable paddling! This is a chance for instructors to engage with their local paddling community, find or create a source of new course students, and earn some prizes along the way! To see who is currently leading in each category, click [here](#).



Women's Canoe Polo and the 2022 World Games: The 2022 World Games took place July 7-17 in Birmingham, Alabama. The games are an international, multisport event organized with the support of the International Olympic Committee. This event takes place every four years and provides a stage for athletes to compete at the highest level of their sport. This year was the first time the United States had both the Men's and Women's Canoe Polo Teams qualify to compete in the World Games, a huge accomplishment. Canoe Polo is an exciting sport that takes the technical skills of paddling and combines them with the excitement of traditional water polo.

The ACA had the privilege to speak with Olly Gotel, Level 4: Whitewater Kayaking instructor and a member of the United States Women's National Canoe Polo Team. Click [here](#) to read about the United States Women's Canoe Polo Team's experience at the World Games.

The annual Canoe Polo World Championships are fast approaching this August from the 16 – 21 in Saint Omer, France. Olly told us about how difficult it is to travel for training camps and for competitions. Many of us can relate to the difficulty of traveling with paddling equipment. Airlines are rarely accommodating of flying with boats and the cost is extraordinary. If you are able, please donate to the Women's Canoe Polo team as they travel to France to represent the United States in the 2022 Canoe Polo World Championships. To contribute to the expenses of these extraordinary athletes, click [here](#).



L-R Svetlana Platonova, Co-Captain (San Francisco); Olly Gotel, Team Manager (New York / Los Angeles); Sarah McGarrity (Boston); Emily Pozzi (Austin); Stephanie Schnorr, Captain (Vienna, Austria); Carson Chruscicki (Austin); Myrna Lewis (Austin); Tarika Thienapirak (New York / New Jersey).

Image by: David Michael

United States Takes Home 3 Medals in the Freestyle World Championships:

The ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships were held in Nottingham, United Kingdom June 27 – July 2. Team USA took home three medals at the event. Dane Jackson dominated in the finals to take gold for Men's Kayak. Abby Holcombe took gold and Makinley Kate Hargrove secured a bronze finish in the Junior Women's Kayak. Congratulations to all, especially the up-and-coming young women who are making names for themselves as the world's top freestyle kayak athletes. To read more, see the ICF press release linked [here](#).



Going Beyond the Land Acknowledgment Webinar: Save the date! Join Outdoor Alliance California and leaders from Redbud Resource Group, California Natural Resources Agency, American Whitewater, and North Fork Mono Tribal Chairman Ron Goode for a panel discussion on August 2 at 9 am PST: Going Beyond the Land Acknowledgment. Join panelists to learn about how to better collaborate with tribal communities in the conservation field, support Indigenous stewardship practices, and work together to build landscapes that are resilient to climate change. Click [here](#) to register.

Thank you for reading our monthly newsletter! You can find the latest stories and updates from the ACA at americancanoe.org/news.

Have some news to share? Please [click here](#) to submit content for consideration.

Sincerely,

ACA National Office Staff

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