



Welcome back to the ACA's Monthly Newsletter!

October 2022



2022 Annual Membership Meeting: The ACA's Annual Membership Meeting will be hosted this Sunday, October 30 at 2:00-4:30 PM Eastern Time. On behalf of the board and staff, we are excited to share stories and successes from this past year, as well as turn our eyes to the future for strategic growth and connectivity for the paddling community. For those of you who have been following the 2022 Recreational Instructor Contest, the winners will be announced along with the recipients of the Annual Awards. More information including the agenda and the Zoom Meeting link can be found [here](#). We hope to see you there!

Updates from the LEAD Initiative: This month we concluded our final two LEAD Initiative events of the year in Los Angeles, California and Des Moines, Iowa. This program was designed to provide paddling and leadership training to people of color to make paddling more accessible within their communities. These events were made possible through generous funding from the Richard King Mellon Foundation, and our partners at Iowa Rivers Revival, Outward Bound's Diverse Outdoor Leader's Institute (DOLI), and REI.

We were blown away by the passion, openness, and bravery of each participant; thank you all for sharing this experience with us. We are so grateful for your time and trust. ACA DEI Coordinator, Lily Otu worked tirelessly to make sure all the pieces fell into place to allow these events run smoothly. Thank you so much for the hard work that you put into this event and the others before it! We would also like to thank our fantastic instructors from California and Iowa: Lizzy Gardner, Gennifer Gatan, Jeremy Oyen, Trey Rouss, and Mike Wang whose humility and commitment to the participants made these programs especially impactful.

Now begins the time of reflection. We learned so much from this experience and feel so fortunate to have been able to play a part in supporting a more inclusive paddling community. The work isn't done yet! Be sure to follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for updates, news, and stories as we continue to foster the LEAD Initiative and promote diversity, equity, and inclusion in paddlesports.



Family photo from the last day of the LEAD Initiative event in Des Moines, Iowa.

L-R: Adrienne Burke, Wendy Smith, Christina Mays, Lizzy Gardner, Adrienne Gallup, Mario Cruz, Justyn Lewis, Chris Manning, Norema Perry, Trey Rouss, Tatiana Cox-Lopez

Photo by: [Gil Hidalgo](#)

Thank you, Robin Pope for your service to the ACA: This fall season is particularly special because it is the last meeting in which Robin Pope will serve as the Chair of ACA's Board of Directors. Robin has spent decades volunteering, teaching, leading, and setting the example of humility, thoughtfulness, and investment into ACA's mission and vision for the future. "The ACA is a stronger association today because of Robin's integrity, dedication, hard work, and leadership as a long-time Instructor Trainer, SEIC Member and Board President. His years of service are so appreciated and his presence on the board will be dearly missed." - Fritz Orr, ACA Instructor Trainer.

Operation Renew Prosthetics: Bill Endicott, who once coached Eric Jackson and the USA Slalom Team, has created a program called Operation Renew Prosthetics (ORP), to help provide prosthetics to Ukrainian soldier amputees. In 1988, when Bill was the coach of the US Olympic Slalom Canoe team, he led a kayaking exchange to the Soviet

Union. During that trip, he met Russian and Ukrainian athletes and coaches who he has stayed in touch with ever since. Bill wrote a letter to the ACA membership to share how canoeists and kayakers have come together to make a positive impact on those whose everyday lives have been dramatically altered by the Russian invasion of Ukraine. This letter along with how you can contribute can be found [here](#).



Instructor of the Month: Julie Carey has been selected as October's ACA Instructor of the Month for her dedication to educating her community on how to safely enjoy their local waterways. She is a certified L2 River Kayaking instructor and is part of a volunteer team that teaches members of the Coast Guard Auxiliary paddle skills as part of the Auxiliary's new AUXPAD programs. Julie can also be found at the Ozark National Scenic Riverways assisting with the free paddle clinics and eco-floats hosted by the National Park Service and Ozark Riverways Foundation. To encourage and support women in the environmental and STEM fields, Julie also works with regional paddling and watershed conservation organizations like James River Basin Partnership and Friends of the Kaw. Go Julie! To see Julie's complete Instructor of the Month profile and read what makes her such an awesome instructor, 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!



ACA's Instructor of the Month, Julie Carey out for a paddle!

Instructor Certification Renewal Reminder: Attention ACA certified instructors! The end-of-the-year certification audit is upon us! Do you know when your certification is set to expire? Do you know if you have met the renewal requirements? To be sure, please log into your CMS profile and take a look at your certification(s) and corresponding expiration dates. If you have not yet met the requirements but actively wish to keep and use your certification, please fill out [this administrative request form](#).



2022 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup: On October 3-9, Columbus, Georgia hosted the ICF Freestyle World Cup. The Final took place October 7-9. The USA took home 11 of the 21 medals in the final events. Siblings Dane and Emily Jackson took the gold in the Men's and Women's Kayak Surface, respectively. Congratulations to all athletes who competed, the competition was a blast to watch! To read more, watch the highlights, and see the results, please click [here](#).



Dane Jackson competing in the 2022 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Cup in the Men's K-1 Event.

Photo by: www.robgierschphotography.com/

2022 Slalom & Wildwater Nationals: This year, the Slalom and Wildwater Nationals were held in Charlotte, NC on October 8-9. Well done to all the athletes, we are already excited for next season!

Stewardship & Public Policy

Camp Hale-Continental Divide Designated as a National Monument: ACA Executive Director, Beth Spilman has signed a letter from the Outdoor Alliance team to President Biden on behalf of the American Canoe Association. This letter was written to express our thanks for the recent designation of the Camp Hale-Continental Divide National Monument. Giving areas like this permanent protection is a celebration of conservation and outdoor recreation. These acknowledgments are crucial for ensuring that management planning embraces the varied forms of recreation through which Americans experience and become stewards of the protected objects—including the recreation history—of the Camp Hale-Continental Divide area. The hard work of the Outdoor Alliance team has paid off! Thanks to all who have dedicated their time and effort to protecting the spaces that we love to paddle.

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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