



Welcome to the ACA's Monthly Newsletter!

December 2022



Results of BOD Election and Bylaws Vote: The ACA Board of Directors congratulates and welcomes newly elected Board members:

- Hunter Branstetter – At Large Director
- Beverly Cosslett – At Large Director
- Dr. Robert Kauffman – Independent Director
- Thom Crockett – Sprint Athlete Representative
- Zachary “Bug” Lokken – Slalom Athlete Representative
- Jack Wallace – Paracanoe Athlete Representative

We would also like to advise our members that the proposed Bylaws were approved. Specifically, over 500 votes were cast and more than 70% of those votes were affirmative. The election results were independently validated by two ACA staff members. The Secretary of the Board of Directors provided oversight of the validation process.

Thank you to everyone who was involved in this process. We are grateful for your involvement and concern for the ACA.

Access to Paddling Magazine: Did you know that as an ACA Member you have access to Paddling Magazine? If you like to do your reading with a physical copy, you can opt to have the print edition delivered to your doorstep. Prefer to save the paper? You can also access the magazine digitally and read stories anywhere, online or offline by downloading the Paddling Magazine app. If you haven't already, make sure you are subscribed by clicking

[here](#). Next, be sure to check out the spread on page 90-91 to see ACA updates from the 2022 LEAD Initiative events, the Community Paddlesports Leader Program, and the ACA National Awards!

Thank you to our Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Green Paddle Members: The ACA Board or Directors and Staff would like to thank our Bronze Paddle, Silver Paddle, Gold Paddle, and Green Paddle Members. By joining at higher levels, these help the ACA continue our mission of providing paddlesports leadership, structure, and instructional resources to promote our sport's many health and social benefit. These members and their support have gone a long way towards helping the ACA better support our members and the greater paddling community.

ACA members who choose to join at higher levels also receive tangible benefits such as ACA merchandise, competition license fees, and SEIC dues. To learn more about the tiers of membership offered to ACA members, please click [here](#).

Bronze Paddle			Silver Paddle	Gold Paddle
Russell Adams London Aguon Mark Anderson Mark Andrews Jefferson Atkins Sue Bakula Henry Barkhausen Byron Beers Branchley Beers Valerie Beichner Olivier Bermingham Marcel Bieg Kenneth Bolton Kally Bowen Benjamin Brandao Hunter Branstetter Suzanne Britt Frank Britt John Browning Gillian Burns Jason Burton Daniel Carroll Howard Chen Matthew Chrestman Tom Christensen Craig Clevenger Logan Cooper William Corson Timothy Cotts Rodney Davis Tanya Desselle Lisa Deziel Tracy Dixon Nadia Dmytriw Robert Eggert Moirra Farrell Matthew Ferguson Tim Finkenbinder Jaime Fiske Sybille Fleischmann Derek Funk Mike Garrett	Timothy Gleason Sean Grady David Grigsby Zackery Hair William Hall Helen Hays Karl Heilemann Ming Kwan McQueen Ho Nicholas Hunter Lourdes Ibarra Robert Ivy Chuck Johneson Todd Johnstone-Wright Cecor Kelther Joel Kitterli Ben Koch Tammy Kuss Johanna Kwasniewski Nick Lilley Geoffrey Luckett David Lumian Stuart Mace Keely Maroney Jared McClure Henry McGuire William McKinney Ben McLaughlin Marjorie McRoberts Dennis Milbrath Lila Moore Alan Nielsen Robert Nissenbaum Jerod Nowicki Josh Oberleas Mitch O'Brien Michael Olsen Jared Pappert Wendy Parker Bonnie Perry Anton Andres Riverta Alvarez Trey Rouss Melissa Rauter	Todd Scheuer Robert Schumacker Rick Sepulveda Joseph Shauger Walter Shepard Mia Shiffrin Michael Shugg Claire Simon Brandon Slate Candice Sorensen Alex Spencer Dave Sperry Gregory Stanton Robert Stark Jennifer Stockwell Mike Stone Naomi Sullivan Whitney Sunderland Ben Swanson Camm Swift Matthew Taylor Scott Thomas Hunter Thompson James Thompson Elizabeth Tobey Jeff Turner Tou Vang Nadja von Rhein Caitlin Walters Matthew Walz Jennifer Wells William Whale Jack Wickham John Wiegert Danny Williams Mark Wilson McLane Wood	Daniel Abraham Peter Coho John Dent Carla Gann Paul Gazerro Kristin Hampton-Speake Michael McCoy Justin Pronga Andrew Ryan Gabriel Santana Sally Wetzler	Robin Pope
				Green Paddle
				Mark Anderson Yuqing Wang
			<i>Your support means the world to us, thank you!</i>	

A New Whitewater Park is Coming to Danville, Virginia: A project to begin restoration on the historic White Mill building in Danville, Virginia has been approved, and this is great news for paddlers. This property sits on the Dan River and plans have been made to build a whitewater park that will transform the canal into a recreational whitewater boating destination. Scott Shipley, a well-known whitewater kayaker and Olympic athlete, and his company S20 Designs and Engineering has been hired by the city to design and engineer the whitewater facility. According to the City of Danville, in addition to its recreational purposes, this facility will serve as a regional swiftwater rescue facility and will operate year-round using the natural flow of the Dan River.

Ríos to Rivers: ACA ITE Ben Morton worked with [Ríos to Rivers](#) last July helping prepare this cohort of indigenous youth who are training to become the first people to kayak the Klamath River when the dams come down in 2024! This is a wonderful project that

deserves the support of the entire paddling community. Letting rivers flow freely is a significant solution to tackle both climate and cultural diversity crises. Check out the short film, "[Paddle Tribal Waters](#)" to learn more about those involved and why this work is so important.

State Director Elections: State Director elections are coming! Keep an eye out to vote for who you want to represent your state within the ACA. Ballots will be released January 3 and voting will be open through January 27. Thank you for your interest and support of this grassroots program!



Important Notice for Certification Extensions: For instructors whose certifications are set to expire at the end of this year, the SEIC Board and ACA staff invite you to request a special administrative extension. For instructors who have already received one administrative extension, you are welcome to apply for a secondary extension in this special circumstance. To request the extension, you'll need to watch [this brief video](#) and answer three questions in [this special extension form](#).



Instructor of the Month: Serendipity led Joshua Hall to his career in paddlesports education. In 1996, Joshua made an unplanned move to Charleston, South Carolina where he took a job as a summer camp counselor for Charleston County Park and Recreation Commission's (CCPRC) Adventure and Teen Venture programs. He credits Pete Hampson and Steve Hutton as the first of many influential mentors that made paddling an integral and fulfilling aspect of his life. Just two years later, Joshua was promoted to the Youth/Camp Coordinator at CCPRC and paddlesports became a full-time carrier. Joshua still works at the CCPRC today as the Manager for the Outdoor Program.

An ACA member since 1998, Joshua has accrued multiple teaching certifications as an instructor, IT, and ITE. He has also held a seat on the ACA Board of Directors and been a chair member of the ACA's Coastal Kayak and Stand-Up Paddleboard Committees. At the heart of his teaching, Joshua believes that "outdoor pursuits are a unique and special

medium that can strengthen people in mind, body and spirit.” Thank you, Joshua, for your dedication to paddlesports and paddlesports education! To read more about Joshua and what makes him stand out, click [here](#).

If you know a truly awesome ACA instructor, follow [this link](#) to nominate them as 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!



Instructor of the Month, Joshua Hall, doing what he loves to do!

2023 Safety & Rescue Conference Survey: The ACA Safety & Rescue Committee is pleased to announce the dates for the 2023 Safety & Rescue Conference, to be hosted September 29-October 1 in Beckley, WV at the Summit Bechtel Scout Reserve near the Upper New River! For the purpose of aligning presentations and presenters to ensure this conference meets the needs of all ACA members, the committee is seeking feedback from anyone interested in the Safety & Rescue curriculum. Please take a few minutes and fill out [this brief survey](#), which will influence the content and structure of the event. Thanks so much for your time and thoughts!



ICF Virtual World Cup: Hosted by the International Canoe Federation, the first virtual world cup was held on December 17. Athletes from all around the world had the opportunity to race in three categories -junior, senior and masters 40+ - for both men and women. There were also races for men's and women's paracanoe. From recreational to Olympic athletes, anyone with KayakPro machine, and the Genesis Port Bluetooth Smart Console was able to participate. Jennifer Egan-Simmons a sprint and marathon athlete from Ireland

and our own Aaron Mann, a Slalom athlete from the United States served as commentators for the event. If you missed it, the full replay of the ICF Virtual World Cup can be viewed [here!](#)



Action Alert! The Idaho Conservation League, Idaho Rivers United, and Save the South Fork are leading the charge to protect the South Fork Salmon River in Idaho, one of the most spectacular rivers in the country. The South Fork Salmon is one of the finest big water multi-day whitewater trips in the lower 48, drawing paddlers during spring high water from around the West and around the world. It is also the traditional homelands of the Nez Perce Tribe, who have been advocating to protect their treaty-reserved rights to fish.

A proposed expansion of the Stibnite Gold Mine positioned directly in the headwaters of the East Fork South Fork of the Salmon River would destroy wetlands, raise the temperature of the river, and pollute the surrounding land and water, with serious consequences for the landscape, for outdoor recreation, for the Nez Perce tribe, for some of the best remaining habitat for salmon, and for clean water, wildlife habitat, and local communities. **Sign the petition and our partners at Outdoor Alliance will deliver your signatures to the Forest Service before January 10, 2023.**

Speak up to protect the South Fork Salmon River in Idaho from the Stibnite Mine by signing your name on the petition linked [here](#).



Natural hot springs on the South Fork of the Salmon River. Protect this beautiful river and take a minute to sign the petition above!

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