



Dear @@first_name@@,

To accompany your morning cup of coffee, the ACA National Office is serving up the latest paddlesports news! To find the content that matters to you most, use the guide below.

- Forward Strokes will tell you about local and national policy updates affecting paddlers and ways that you can get involved in protecting the waters that you love to paddle.
- Making Waves brings you up to date on special interest stories within the ACA.
- Bringing Home the Gold is the place to keep up with athletes, competition results, and upcoming events, no matter what your discipline.
- Safety Talk delivers education and instruction updates, and Instructor of the Month announcements.



America's Outdoor Recreation Act (AORA) is a policy package designed to improve outdoor recreation on America's public lands and waters. This month, Senator Manchin (D-WV) and Senator Barrasso (R-WY) reintroduced this bill to the senate. **Above all, this package of policy benefits us as paddlers by improving and modernizing the permitting process.** See [America Outdoors' briefing](#) to learn about specific changes being proposed to the permitting system, and to see who else is supporting this package. To [show your support](#), Outdoor Alliance has made it easy to send your representatives a letter asking them to move forward with this bill.

This policy package offers:

- updates to improve the outdoor recreation economy
- more recreation opportunities
- protections to ensure sustainable recreation

Hispanics for our Environment Hillsborough River Clean-Up is being hosted next Saturday, April 8 by ACA PAC, Tampa Bay Kayak Anglers (TBKA). In addition to cleaning up the Hillsborough River and shoreline, this event will focus on bringing together the local Hispanic community. If you are local and would like to participate, use this [registration form](#).

If you are organizing your own river clean-up and would like the ACA to help publicize your event, use the [Calendar Submission Request](#) form to have your event added to our [Stewardship Events Calendar](#).



The City of Woodinville is seeking funding from King County Parks for a paddlecraft boat ramp at Wilmot Gateway Park to create safe access to the Sammamish River and protect the riverbank. Shoutout to Megan Kelly, ACA Washington State Director, for signing on to the letter of support for this project. Letters of support are one of the many ways that ACA members can help create real and positive change in their communities. If you would like support on a local issue affecting paddlers, please reach out to a member of the [Regional Activity Council](#)!



During the panel discussion, “Intersectional Identities” the ACA had the opportunity to speak with Elisha McArthur, Tatiana Cox Lopez, Valerie Beichner, April Peterson, and Anna Levesque about how to show up authentically as a woman, a leader in business, and a paddler.

Watch the [recorded conversation](#) to learn about topics including:

- representation
- inclusive language
- marketing and outreach to women and people of color
- being a single-mother and raft guide
- tactics to combat prejudice
- earning the right to wear pink

These incredible women are trailblazers in making paddlesports more accessible and have so much to teach us from their experiences. Showing up and being ourselves isn't easy. Check out the recorded conversation to learn how these women have navigated their own

intersectional identities and carved out spaces for others to come as they are and find joy in paddling.



[“What is the ACA?”](#) was written by ACA North Carolina State Director, William Holman, about the roots of the ACA, what we do, and what paddlers get out of an ACA membership. Take a moment and check out what William has to say about the ACA and his focus for his term as North Carolina State Director.



Freestyle Team Trials were held March 11-12 at Good Wave in Columbus, Georgia. Squirtboat Trials were held virtually by video submission. The Freestyle National Team Announcement will be released within the next few weeks as soon as the final Women’s C1 Team Members have been selected! These athletes will be representing the United States in international competitions including the 2023 ICF Canoe Freestyle World Championships in Columbus, Georgia this October. Congratulations to all athletes who competed! Follow [USA Freestyle Kayaking](#) on Facebook for regular updates!



Hunter Katich, member of the 2023 Men's K1 National Team paddling into the Good Wave in Columbus, Georgia during the Freestyle Kayaking Team Trials. Photo by: JC Hulings Photography

Sprint Team Trials will take place on Lake Natoma in Folsom, California April 13-15. With the Paris 2024 Olympics on the horizon and the Los Angeles 2028 Olympics in sight, the objective of the Sprint National Team Selection is to select the fastest athletes within each age group and prepare them for these high-profile events. Best of luck to the athletes racing next month, the ACA is proud to support you. The Sprint National Team Announcement will take place following the 2023 Sprint Team Trials.

Slalom Team Trials are fast approaching. RIVERSPORT in Oklahoma City will be hosting the 2023 USA Junior, U23, and Senior Canoe Slalom National Team Selections April 14-16. From the [2023 Slalom Selection Procedures](#), "the purpose of naming the National Team is to identify top-performing athletes who can be internationally successful and raise the level of competition in the USA. Being a member of the National Team is an honor and privilege earned by an athlete's hard work and effort towards being the best in the World." Good luck to all the athletes competing and stay tuned to find out who will be representing the USA in the 2023 race season!



ACA Instructor of the Month is Jordan Taylor (he/they) for freeing paddlers to come as they are. Read Jordan's full [Instructor of the Month Feature Article](#) to find out:

- why Jordan's unique approach to instruction is so effective
- why it is so important that we are good stewards of the waters that we love to paddle

- where to go to take a paddling class with Jordan



Level 1 & 2 Instructor Contest is back! This year the Regional Activity Council (RAC) is extending the dates that you can submit your courses to be entered into the contest. The goal of this initiative is to encourage our instructors to safely welcome new and prospective paddlers to the community by teaching a few more Level 1 & 2 courses this season. For more information about this contest please see the [Level 1 & 2 Instructor Contest Announcement](#).

A graphic for the Level 1 & 2 Instructor Contest. It features a background image of a person in a blue kayak on a river. Overlaid on the image is a black box with white text. The text reads: 'LEVEL 1 & 2 INSTRUCTOR CONTEST', 'Dec. 1, 2022 - Oct. 1, 2023', '\$500 GRAND PRIZE IN EACH CATEGORY', and 'each entry gets you more chances to win!'.

LEVEL 1 & 2

**INSTRUCTOR
CONTEST**

Dec. 1, 2022 - Oct. 1, 2023

\$500 GRAND PRIZE IN EACH CATEGORY

each entry gets you more chances to win!

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,

Kaycee Maas, Communications Coordinator

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