



@@first_name@@,

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** offers an update on dam removal project on the Klamath River.
- **Making Waves** shares an approaching deadline to enter the Summer Solstice Sticker Design Contest and a special thank you to members who have joined or renewed at a higher tier of membership.
- **Bringing Home the Gold** includes how to watch the upcoming Competition Council Livestream, a club highlight of Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team, information on the 2024 SUP World Championship, and the return of the Regional Slalom Development Initiative.
- **Safety Talk** announces February's Instructor of the Month and an opportunity to learn more about the Paddlesports Safety Facilitator, an amazing program with an intimidating name.



An Update on the Klamath River Dam Removal

On February 16, [American Rivers](#) provided an update of the historic dam removal project on the Klamath River. “The Copco 1, JC Boyle, and Iron Gate dams have fully completed the drawdown process which refers to the draining of each dams’ reservoir. Draining the reservoirs is a critical step on the path to deconstructing the remaining three Klamath River dams that are slated for removal later this year.”

Before draining the reservoir and allowing the river to return to its historical path, the Klamath River Renewal Corporation conducted extensive testing of the sediment accumulated behind the dams. The sediment was revealed to be predominantly dead algae and is not a concern for human health.

There is no faster or more effective way to bring a river back to life than removing a dam. Dam removal is a proven tool to revitalize ecosystems and cultural values, and improve public safety and community wellbeing.

[Learn More](#)



Last Chance to Enter the Summer Solstice Sticker Design Contest

Don't miss your chance to win a \$150 NRS gift card and to have your design printed onto the stickers that we will be handed out during in person events organized as part of the Summer Solstice Celebration! **February 22**, is the final day to submit your design! The winning design will be chosen by popular vote. The voting window will be open for one month from February 26 – March 26.

[Contest Details & Entry Form](#)

A Special Thank You to Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Green Level Members

The ACA would like to say a special thank you to all our Bronze, Silver, Gold, and Green level members for your generosity. Joining or renewing at an elevated tier of membership allows the ACA to invest more in our instructional programs, our competition events, and our community, public policy, and stewardship initiatives. This enhanced support allows the ACA to better support paddlers and the waters that we love to paddle. On behalf of the ACA board and staff, thank you for your commitment to paddlesports, we are here to serve you. Keep an eye out for an exclusive mailing next month!

[Learn More About Elevated Membership Tiers](#)

BRINGING HOME THE GOLD

Competition Highlights

ACA Competition Council Livestream: Understanding How Competition Fits in the ACA

Wednesday, February 28 at 7 PM EST, join members of ACA Competition Council as they discuss how recreational paddlers can transition into paddling competitively, considerations when selecting equipment, and how to find the right coach, club, and community.

Paddlers Tune-In - LIVE - FEB 28 - 7:00 PM EST



The graphic features a black and white photograph of a man wearing a cap and sunglasses, smiling and giving a thumbs up. In the foreground, there is a large, light-colored triangular shape containing the ACA Paddlesports logo. The logo consists of a stylized figure in a kayak above the letters 'ACA' and the word 'PADDLESPTS' below it. Below the logo, the text 'COMPETITION COUNCIL' is written in a bold, sans-serif font, followed by 'Get your Questions Answered by ACA Leaders' in a smaller font.

ACA
PADDLESPTS

COMPETITION COUNCIL
Get your Questions Answered by ACA Leaders

Join on Facebook

Join on YouTube

NEW! ACA Competition Club Feature: Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team

Each month, the ACA will be featuring one of our incredible competition clubs. We hope that through these features, our membership will be able to find opportunities for community and competition in a variety of disciplines!

Our first feature highlights, ten-time Sprint National Champions, the Gig Harbor Canoe & Kayak Racing Team (GHCKRT)! Based in Gig Harbor, Washington, GHCKRT provides opportunities for local youth and adults to compete regionally, nationally, internationally, and ultimately at the Olympic level in canoe/kayak racing. Thank you, Coach Sadie, for the update on GHCKRT and some of their great new initiatives and programs!

"Greetings from Gig Harbor!"

This spring, we will be continuing to host athletes around the globe with athletes from Flatwater Canada training with us in March and more opportunities down the pipeline. We have been hosting technical clinics once a month with experienced athletes, Olympians, coaches and physical therapists to help broaden our athletes' minds and continue coaches' education. All of this has been part of our mission to provide resources for athletes wanting to learn more about this sport and what it means to be an athlete. Some of these sessions are recorded and can be viewed on our YouTube channel, "[Gig Harbor Paddling](#)".

As we are starting to look forward to summer, we will be expanding our operation to include more dates, more ages, and a new Spring Break Camp and a Recreational Program. Part of this expansion is partnering with the Vancouver Lake Rowing Club in Vancouver, WA to create another Sprint Canoe venue on the west coast and, eventually, we hope to develop another team there to further expand our sport."



[Learn More](#)

Registration for the 2024 SUP World Championship is Now Open!

Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota, Florida is set to host the 2024 ICF Stand Up Paddleboard World Championships November 19-24. All ICF SUP competitions are open to paddlers of all levels. Anyone with a passion for paddling is encouraged to participate.

Races scheduled to take place:

- Junior, Senior and Master level athletes will compete at Nathan Benderson Park in a Sprint Race, a Technical Race and a Long Distance Race
- Kids Race for children ages 8-14
- Inflatable/Hardboard Recreational 5K – anyone is welcome to enter and participate!

[Learn More](#)

Regional Slalom Development Initiative

The Slalom Development Sub-Committee is excited to bring back an initiative designed to grow participation in youth slalom and support our local race organizers. The Regional Teams Initiative will award a cash prize to the top athletes ages 16 years and younger in each geographic region. This prize will fund the attendance of a training camp at RIVERSPORT in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma during the Olympics!

[More Information & Initiative Guidelines](#)



Instructor of the Month

We are thrilled to announce the newest ACA Instructor of the Month, Rachel Nagle! Thank you, Rachel, for brightening the ACA community and reminding us of what there is to gain by being both a student and a teacher in paddlesports and in life.

Rachel is currently teaching for Cleveland Metroparks Outdoor Recreation as the Outdoor Recreation Manager and holds multiple instructor certifications in addition to being a SUP Instructor Trainer (IT) and a member of the SEIC SUP Committee.

“We’ll never know just how big an influence we will have on our students today, tomorrow, or a year from now. What I do know though is that now when there is rain in the forecast or a small craft advisory, I’m grabbing my SUP and creating an adventure!”



Instructor of the Month, Rachel Nagle, paddling with one of her pet porcupines!

[Read More](#)

If you know a truly awesome ACA instructor, [nominate them as future Instructor of the Month!](#)

Paddlesports Safety Facilitator

The Paddlesports Safety Facilitator (PSF) is a valuable program which is designed to equip participants with the skills and knowledge they need to get people started on a fun and safe paddling experience. The ACA staff and SEIC Board are looking at ways to refine and improve this offering for our most crucial contact point with the paddling public.

As spring is rapidly approaching, many outdoor recreation employers are seeking training for their staff. ACA Instructors, if there are summer camps, scouting groups, or paddling outfitters in your area – now is the time to introduce yourself and express the types of paddling education that you can provide! The American Camp Association accepts the PSF program for their accreditation, so now is the time to engage with this seasonal market and make relationships in your community.

[Learn More](#)

Thank you for reading our monthly newsletter! Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#) for the latest stories and updates!

Have some news to share? We encourage you to submit your content for consideration using this [Content Submission Form](#).

Sincerely,

Kaycee Maas, Communications Manager

ACA Paddlesports
P.O. Box 7996
Fredericksburg, VA 22404
americancanoe.org/news

If you wish to stop receiving mail from us, you may simply remove yourself by visiting: @@unsubscribe_url@@