



Serving paddlers since 1880



Summer is in full swing and the Paris 2024 Olympics are just around the corner! Between paddling trips, we hope you are able to enjoy the latest edition of the ACA's Monthly Membership Newsletter!



Paris 2024 Olympics

We are less than 10 days out from the Paris 2024 Olympic Opening Ceremony that will take place July 26 on the Seine River!

Paddlers are in for a treat as there will be a canoe/kayak event each day of the Olympic Games! Slalom kicks off on Saturday, July 27 when Casey Eichfeld will race in the men's canoe single heats and Evy will compete in the women's kayak single heats. Slalom events will continue through Monday, August 5 concluding with the women's and men's kayak cross finals.

Sprint events begin on Tuesday, August 6. Jonas Ecker and Aaron Small will race together on August 6 in the men's kayak double 500m heats. Nevin Harrison will have her first race on Thursday, August 8 for the women's canoe single 200m heats. The final day of sprint racing will be on Saturday, August 10 and the Paris 2024 closing ceremony will take place the next day on Sunday, August 11!

Don't miss any paddling highlights — follow @acapaddlesports on [Instagram](#) and [Facebook](#)!



Olympic Canoe/Kayak Schedule

Keep the Flame Alive Podcast Episode: "Paddling at the Olympics with Team USA"

At the Team USA Media Summit, Keep the Flame Alive podcast hosts, Jill Jaracz and Alison Brown, spoke with Evy Leibfarth, Nevin Harrison, and rower Michelle Sechser. All three athletes competed at Tokyo 2020 and have qualified for Paris 2024. Listen to the new podcast episode, "Paddling at the Olympics with Team USA" on Apple Podcasts, Spotify, YouTube Music, Amazon Music, or directly from the Keep the Flame Alive website!

[Learn More](#)

ACA Competition Club Feature: Nantahala Racing Club

The Nantahala Racing Club (NRC) offers programs and races to support beginner to elite-level canoe slalom, kayak cross, and wildwater athletes. The NRC is a non-profit organization founded in 1989 to engage youth and families in whitewater sport. The NRC community (aka "Rhinos") includes athletes, volunteers, and river enthusiasts from across the nation. They believe in the intrinsic value of outdoor sport and aim to make every session on the water productive and fun for paddlers of all ages.

They believe excellence is worth pursuing and work as a team to develop and grow paddlesports in the United States. So far, NRC has sent 24 athletes to the Olympics — including Evy Leibfarth, and their Rhinos are regulars on the international World Cup and World Championships circuits.

If you are interested in learning more about slalom or have experience and are looking for a training group, they have slalom gates on the Nantahala below the Founder's Bridge at the Nantahala Outdoor Center (NOC). Stop by or join NRC on the river for a Friday evening slalom session. They hold races throughout the year with a fall race typically coinciding with NOC's Guest Appreciation Festival, the February Glacier Breaker and the Spring U.S. Open. They also host clinics and mini-training camps!



Nantahala Racing Club Athlete, Bennett George

[Learn More](#)



The RESERVE Act

Permits, lotteries, and campground reservations are becoming more common and more competitive. The RESERVE Act proposes to study how well reservation sites like recreation.gov are working and how they could be improved. Outdoor Alliance supports this bill and has shared feedback with lawmakers about important questions to include in the study and ways to make the research more efficient.

[Learn More](#)

Help Georgia Protect Their Freedom to Float!

If you paddle in Georgia, then you need to know that a Georgia House Study Committee on Navigable Streams is charged with determining which streams in Georgia should be deemed "navigable" for all manner of river recreation and which should be deemed "non-navigable." The ACA is working with American Whitewater, Georgia River Network, Georgia Canoeing Association and the Tennessee Valley Canoe Club as part of the Freedom to Float Coalition to support the right to float on any Georgia river that can float a boat (which is the law in neighboring North Carolina and South Carolina).

Please help us protect access to Georgia rivers and set a positive example for any other state that might be considering limiting access to rivers.

[Take Action \(GA State Residents\)](#)

[Take Action \(Out-of-State Residents\)](#)



National Safe Boating Week: Kayaking 101 Highlights

On May 18, in what may have been the largest ACA led safety training event in ACA history, the ACA Regional Activity Council rallied the paddlesports community across seven states to train 471 people in one day to kick off National Safe Boating Week.



[Learn More](#)



Instructor of the Month: Alan Cammack

Please join us in congratulating Alan Cammack, ACA Instructor of Month for July 2024! Alan is ACA certified in almost every whitewater discipline and enjoys teaching primarily on the Arkansas River near Salida, Colorado.

“I love paddling whitewater of all kinds, and I love teaching on the river. It’s very satisfying to both share this passion and to help someone on their own path. I feel that helping to set someone up for a lifetime of success so that they too can safely enjoy these natural river resources is the best way that I can give back and be a member of this community.” — Alan Cammack

Alan is an exemplary instructor and his ability to create fantastic learning settings in a dynamic river environment really sets him apart.



Instructor of the Month, Alan Cammack

[Read More](#)

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

ACA Pro School Feature: Taiwan Kayak Association

ACA Pro School, Taiwan Kayak Association offers half-day, one-day, and two-day kayaking courses, allowing participants to choose based on their own time and needs. With the largest and most diverse group of instructors in Taiwan, participants can find the right coach for their background and learning goals, whether it's introduction to kayaking, surfing, rock gardening, or long-distance trips.

Since their establishment in 2005, they have embraced the values of environmental protection, sustainability, public welfare, mutual respect, and team spirit. They aim to provide a safe and fun environment for everyone to experience Taiwan through kayaking. The Taiwan Kayak Association operates out of two kayak bases. One is the Ruibin base, which is only a 30-minute drive from Taipei, the largest city in Taiwan, making it a convenient location for participants to attend classes and events. The other is the Penghu base that is a prime spot for kayaking. In addition to promoting kayaking education and training, they offer a series of exciting trips for members with different abilities and interests.



[Learn More](#)

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

Sincerely,

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