



Serving paddlers since 1880



While between paddling trips, we hope you are able to enjoy the latest ACA Monthly Membership Newsletter! This edition includes updates leading up to the Paris 2024 Paralympics, competition highlights, member features, and regional updates for ACA Instructors.



Paris 2024 Paralympics - Paracanoe

Tomorrow, August 28, Jillian Elwart and Blake Haxton will join 4,400 athletes from 184 delegations in the heart of Paris for the 2024 Paralympic Opening Ceremony! Both athletes will then have a few days to train at the Vaires-sur-Marne Nautical Stadium before their first races on Friday, September 6.

Fans in the U.S. can watch paracanoe races and cheer on Jillian and Blake through NBC Sports and Peacock, where every event of the Summer Paralympics will be broadcast live! Jillian will make her Paralympic debut at 4:30am ET/10:30am CET on Friday September 6 for the Women's Va'a Single 200m - VL3 Heat. For Blake, this will be his third Paralympic Games. Blake competed first as a rower at the Rio 2016 Paralympics. In 2021, Blake distinguished himself in paracanoe with a second-place finish at the Tokyo 2020 Paralympics in the Men's VL2 200m event. His first race is scheduled to take place at 5:45am ET/11:45am CET on Friday, September 6 for the Men's Va'a Single 200m - VL2 Heat.

For details on Jillian and Blake's Paralympic Qualification and how to watch paracanoe in the Paris 2024 Paralympics, click the button below!



2024 USA Paracanoe Paralympic Team members Blake Haxton (left) and Jillian Elwart (right)

[Read More](#)

Paris 2024 Olympics – Canoe Slalom

U.S. Canoe Slalom Olympic Team members Evy Leibfarth and Casey Eichfeld raced in the Paris 2024 Olympics this summer. This was not the first Olympics for either athlete, but it was a unique Games for both. For Evy who made her Olympic debut at the Tokyo 2020 Olympics, this was her first time competing in front of such an electric crowd. With a live DJ and 12,000 spectators cheering on the canoe slalom racers, this was a truly special experience for Evy who raced in her last Olympic Games in front of empty stands due to the pandemic. Paris 2024 was Casey Eichfeld's fourth Olympic Games, but his first as a father with his wife and daughter cheering him on from the stands.

A special shout out to Evy Leibfarth who earned the first U.S. Women's Slalom Olympic Medal in 20 years with her breakout performance in the WC1 event! For a full recap of the U.S. team's canoe slalom racing at the Paris 2024 games, click the button below.



PARIS, FRANCE - JULY 31: Gold medalist Jessica Fox of Team Australia (center), Silver medalist Elena Lilik of Team Germany (left) and Bronze medalist Evy Leibfarth of Team United States (right) pose on the podium during the Women's Canoe Slalom Single medal ceremony after the Canoe Slalom Women's Canoe Single Final on day five of the Olympic Games Paris 2024 at Vaires-Sur-Marne Nautical Stadium on July 31, 2024 in Paris, France. (Photo by Francois Nel/Getty Images)

[Read More](#)

Paris 2024 Olympics – Canoe Sprint

Earlier this month, Nevin Harrison added an Olympic silver medal to her collection and Jonas Ecker and Aaron Small became the first USA Men's Kayak Double to race in an Olympic A-Final in 24 years. The Women's Canoe Single 200m race ended with a photo finish for first and second place, with all three medalists breaking the previous world record. Katie Vincent of Canada finished just one-one hundredth of a second ahead of Nevin Harrison. The USA Canoe Sprint Olympic Team had incredible performances at the Paris 2024 Olympics and the ACA is so proud of this wonderful team. Look out LA28, this is only the beginning!



PARIS, FRANCE - AUGUST 10: Gold medalist Katie Vincent of Team Canada (center), Silver medalist Nevin Harrison of Team United States (left) and Bronze medalist Yarisleidis Cirilo Duboys of Team Cuba (right) pose on the podium during the Women's Canoe Single 200m medal ceremony after the Women's Canoe Single 200m Final on day fifteen of the Olympic Games Paris 2024 at Vaires-Sur-Marne Nautical Stadium on August 10, 2024 in Paris, France. (Photo by Charles McQuillan/Getty Images)

[Read More](#)

2024 Wildwater Canoeing World Championships

August 14-18, the USA Wildwater National Team traveled to Sabero, Spain to compete in the 2024 Wildwater Canoeing World Championships. The USA Wildwater National Team had a strong group of paddlers participating in both individual and team events. A special shout out to Sandrine Deglin for her first-place finish in the Masters WK1 Classic event!



SABERO, SPAIN - AUGUST 15: Gold medalist Sandrine Deglin of the United States (center), Silver medalist Tina Parsons of Great Britain (left) and Bronze medalist Magdalen Dilai of Great Britain (right) pose on the podium after the Master - WK1 Final at the 2024 ICF Wildwater Canoeing World Championships (Photo shared by Alden Henrie)



Protect the Dolores

ACA Instructor of the Month, Brett Davis worked with the [Protect the Dolores River](#) coalition to bring awareness to the Dolores River corridor to further protect it from further development and preserve it as a natural wonder. They have been doing this through a campaign initiated by a film, “The River of Sorrows”, which can be streamed for free on Outside Magazine or viewed at the Paddling Film Festival World Tour.

Watch “The River of Sorrows”



What we are reading: “Isolation, Microaggressions, and Empowerment — My Experience as the Only Black Woman Raft Guide in the Arkansas River in Cañon City, Colorado” by Jamilah Toure

As far as Jamilah Toure knows, she is the only black woman raft guide on the Arkansas River in Cañon City, Colorado. Jamilah shares her experience with the paddling community to help give perspective to why representation is so important in outdoor spaces.

“I am what some people might call a “river rat”, a “ski bum”, a “granola girl”, or even a “hippy”, but I certainly do not look like the typical person one thinks of when those terms come up. When I accepted the offer to be a raft guide on the Arkansas River, I was consciously making a decision to spend my summers outdoors pursuing my passion for outdoor recreation and education. Unconsciously, I was embarking on a journey of empowerment and resistance against racist and prejudice institutions.” — Jamilah Toure



[Read More](#)



Instructor of the Month: Brett Davis

Congratulations to ACA Instructor of the Month, Brett Davis! This August, we are celebrating Brett, who is a whitewater kayaking and a whitewater pack rafting instructor trainer based out of Durango, Colorado. Brett was first introduced to paddling by mentors and former ACA instructor rockstars, Earl and Glenna Alderson. They convinced Brett to start kayaking while a graduate student in western Massachusetts. Eight weeks after his first time in a boat, Brett was paddling down the Grand Canyon and has been hooked ever since. He has been teaching paddling for over 20 years and is grateful to have been able to continue helping students get outside and on the water throughout the pandemic. The ACA recognizes Brett for all the work he has done throughout his career to keep whitewater kayaking accessible for all!



ACA Instructor of the Month, Brett Davis

[Read More](#)

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

Pro School Feature: ACE Adventure Resort

At ACE Adventure Resort, the instructors are passionate about the rivers they run and are equally as passionate about facilitating high quality instructional whitewater courses for those looking to expand their skill sets and knowledge base. They offer a wide range of instructional opportunities including swiftwater rescue, paddle rafting, and oar rig courses from beginner to advanced levels. Learner centered instruction in a world-renowned whitewater environment! With Gauley season just around the corner, now is the perfect time to visit ACE and check out their [Rafting Rendezvous](#) happening from September 12-14! This unique event includes equipment, lodging, and food!



Swiftwater Rescue Course hosted by ACA Pro School, ACE Adventure Resort

[Learn More](#)

ACA Regional Updates and Re-Certifications

Join us for special update and re-certification opportunities, conducted in partnership with the ACA Safety, Education & Instruction Council (SEIC). These leaders have worked hard to provide high quality, affordable, and regionally dispersed opportunities for ACA Level 1 and 2 instructors within the disciplines of canoe, kayak, and SUP.

These classes are being offered regionally in partnership with the ACA Board of Directors at a special one-time post pandemic price to help more instructors maintain instructor certifications at the entry level where national student demand is the highest. We encourage you to take advantage of this one-time opportunity to get special pricing on instructor updates and reinstatements!

Upcoming dates (Registration now open!):

- [Texas - October 12-13](#)
- [California - October 26-27](#)

[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

American Canoe Association

P.O. Box 7996

Fredericksburg, VA 22404

americancanoe.org

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