



Serving paddlers since 1880



Happy holidays! Cheers to another great year of making the world a better place to paddle. While off the water, please enjoy the latest edition of the ACA's Monthly Membership Newsletter!



Help Get EXPLORE Across the Finish Line Before the Year's End

The EXPLORE Act addresses long overdue management challenges and creates specific policy changes that will improve the ability of the paddling community to access high-quality outdoor experiences. There are only a few weeks left in this Congress and time is running out to pass the EXPLORE Act.

Help us ensure that EXPLORE stays at the top of Congress's crowded priority list by writing to your lawmakers today. Even if you have written to them before, your voice matters more than ever. This holiday season, give back to the place that you love to paddle—urge your lawmakers to pass the EXPLORE Act before the year's end!

[Take Action](#)

The ACA is Helping Rally Paddlers for State and Local Advocacy: Nolichucky Update

In the wake of Hurricane Helene, railroad construction on the river in Tennessee and North Carolina drew concerns from paddlers who were concerned that the contractors were exceeding environmental compliance requirements. Local paddlers raised the alarm about increased potential for future flooding, environmental damage, and risks to the whitewater paddling industry that is a major economic driver for these rural Appalachian communities. American Whitewater was engaged to help with federal Action Alerts and even assembling

support through American Rivers and Southern Environmental Law Center to file suit against the federal agencies responsible for oversight.

The ACA Southeast team was able to join forces to deploy complementary Action Alerts that allowed paddlers to get the word out to key state officials in Tennessee and North Carolina. Within 36 hours of this initial outreach, the state of Tennessee set up a website for paddlers to communicate evidence of issues and key agencies began investigations. As a result of our collective efforts, a Notice of Violation was issued to the company by the State of Tennessee along with a Cease-and-Desist order co-signed by both the Wilmington and Nashville Districts of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. This situation will continue to merit investigation and oversight, but we also want to acknowledge that grassroots advocates are rarely successful in getting a Notice of Violation of this kind, much less getting it quickly enough to mitigate the harm being done! The ACA will continue to support local paddlers in their concerns about issues arising in the wake of Hurricane Helene along the Nolichucky as well as other rivers.



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2024 L.L.Bean Club Fostered Community Grant Report

Since 2002, the ACA has partnered with L.L.Bean to help local paddling clubs and organizations build their communities and improve their waterways. Through funds provided by L.L.Bean, the ACA has provided nearly \$250,000 to over 225 different community paddling initiatives since its inception.

Through the Club Fostered Community (CFC) grant program, funding is used to amplify diversity and inclusion efforts of existing groups/projects through education, stewardship, competition, recreation, and waterway exploration events. With the continued support of L.L.Bean, the ACA will continue to support paddling clubs and grassroots organizations around the country in their efforts to make this world a better place to paddle for everyone. This year, the ACA funded 9 organizations and the following projects:

- Canyon River Instruction: Nari Nauka Women's Raft Guide School

- Community Boating Center: EcoAdventure STEM Summer Camp
- Georgia Canoe Association: Beaver Crew Program
- 'Ohana Wa'a Lualima: Inclusive Canoe Race
- Pride Day on the River
- Tampa Bay Kayak Anglers: La Raza Explorers
- Team River Runner: All Inclusive Affinity Paddling Clinic
- Team River Runner-Miami: West Palm Beach Paddlers
- Wild Science Explorers: Nez Perce Natural History and Paddling Project

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Gift an ACA Membership

This holiday season, give the gift of paddling, community, and a year's worth of discounts. In short, give the gift of an ACA membership! While supporting the ACA's public policy & stewardship efforts, community initiatives, and education & instruction programs, a gift membership unlocks:

- Subaru VIP Haggle-Free Pricing
- Deep discounts on over 650 outdoor brands through ExpertVoice
- A premium digital subscription to your choice of one of Rapid Media's two great publications, *Paddling Magazine* or *Kayak Angler Magazine*
- Advocacy assistance for local paddling issues
- Insurance for on-water events
- Access to Camp Sebago and Sugar Island

[Gift a Membership](#)



2024 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships

The 2024 ICF Canoe Polo World Championships in Deqing, China, offered an unforgettable experience for the USA Canoe Polo National Team, despite a series of challenges that tested their resilience. From exhilarating matches to unexpected setbacks, the tournament was a rollercoaster for the young American team, who made their mark on the global stage.

“We had a great experience overall!” said Zak Aroui, USA Canoe Polo National Team #2. “Especially since this was the youngest team the U.S. has ever sent to Worlds. We see this as an opportunity to grow and come back stronger next time.”



USA's Zak Aroui competing at the 2024 Canoe Polo World Championships in Deqing, China.

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Instructor of the Month: Bob Myron

We are proud to recognize Bob Myron as our Instructor of the Month! With over 30 years of experience as an ACA Instructor, Bob has dedicated his life to sharing the joy and skills of paddlesports with countless individuals. His journey, rich with learning and growth, exemplifies the passion and commitment that inspire others to connect with the water.

Bob's teaching career is filled with moments that highlight his dedication and empathy. One of the most pivotal lessons he learned as an Instructor Trainer (IT) is the profound impact an ACA certification course can have on participants. Recognizing the importance of thoughtful and encouraging exit interviews, Bob ensures that each candidate feels supported, understands their strengths, and knows how to achieve their goals—even if they fall short of certification on their first attempt.

This approach fosters a positive and inspiring experience, encouraging individuals to continue their paddling journey. Bob's skill in conducting exit interviews emphasizes the importance of clear communication, constructive feedback, and fostering resilience, leaving participants motivated to grow and succeed.



Instructor of the Month, Bob Myron

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Do you know a great ACA instructor who should be recognized for their contributions to their paddling community? [Nominate them as future Instructor of the Month!](#)

Instructor Certification Expiration Date & Renewal Requirements

Keep your ACA instructor certification current by making sure you have met the minimum maintenance requirements. Find out everything you need to keep your instructor certification up to date and more resources for ACA Instructors and Trainers by clicking the link below.

[Read 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,

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