



Serving paddlers since 1880



This November we are especially grateful for all the incredible paddlers who volunteer their time, expertise, and passion in an effort to make the world a better place to paddle. While between paddling trips, we hope you are able to enjoy the latest edition of the ACA's Monthly Membership Newsletter!



ACA Annual Meeting & Annual Awards



[Watch the ACA Annual Meeting recording.](#)

The ACA National Office held the 2024 ACA Annual Meeting virtually on Sunday, November 24. In addition to providing updates from this past year and insights into our plans and goals for 2025, we announced the recipients of the 2024 ACA Annual Awards. This series of prestigious international awards are presented to individuals and organizations who have illustrated exemplary leadership, service, and dedication to various aspects of paddlesports. Please join us in congratulating this year's award recipients!

- Excellence in Instruction Award: Rob Carmichael
- Sanctioned Event of the Year Award: ACA Rafting Rendezvous
- Green Paddle for Waterway Conservation Award: Wild Science Explorers' Nez Perce Natural History and Paddling Project
- Joe Pina Volunteer of the Year Award: Anna Levesque & Trey Rouss
- J. Henry Rushton Award for Organizational Excellence: Paddlesports Trade Coalition
- Havens Leadership Award: Risa Shimoda
- The Outstanding State Director Award: Anthea Raymond
- ACA President's Award: Hurricane Helene First Responders
- Legends of Paddling Award: Deb Voltorno

[Learn More about the Annual Award Recipients](#)

### ExpertVoice Discounts for ACA Members

As an ACA member, you have access to discounts on hundreds of outdoor brands through ExpertVoice! Through December 15, you can also use your discounts on gifts for friends and family. Login or sign-up with ExpertVoice today to access your expert-only prices.

[Start Shopping](#)



### New Data Shows Outdoor Recreation is a Powerful Driver of the U.S. Economy



A new report released this month from the [U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis \(BEA\)](#) shows outdoor recreation in the U.S. generated \$1.2 trillion in economic output (2.3% of GDP) and 5 million jobs, with human-powered recreation scaling in greater percentages than motorized-recreation. The report reveals that outdoor recreation is a major contributor to the U.S. economy and federal support is crucial to protect public lands and waters from being loved to death.

“The EXPLORE Act, already passed by the U.S. House of Representatives in April 2024, would help ensure that public lands and recreational spaces remain accessible and well-maintained, with updates in antiquated management policies, boosting the outdoor economy without new costs to taxpayers. As the outdoor recreation economy grows, so does the need for continued investment in public lands and infrastructure. Without updates and improvements, many recreation areas risk falling behind demand,” commented the [Outdoor Recreation Roundtable](#) in response to the released BEA report.

The EXPLORE Act is at the top of our list for what needs to be passed during the lame duck. This recreation package, a companion to America’s Outdoor Recreation Act, is a package of policy that will improve outdoor recreation on public lands and waters. It needs your support now.



### **Washington Kayak Club Fall Cedar River International Slalom Event**

This November 2-3, over 60 participants of ages ranging from 14-70 years old raced in the Washington Kayak Club (WKC) Fall Cedar River International Slalom event on the Cedar River in Washington state. Racers came from all over the all over Washington, Oregon, Montana, and British Colombia to compete in K1, K2, C1, OC1, OC2, and packraft events. More paddlers joined on Saturday to participate in slalom clinics being held as part of the weekend's event.

This was the best attended Cedar River Slalom in history and marks a major comeback for slalom in the pacific northwest. A special thank you to the many volunteers, WKC website managers, Course Designer (Jacob Selander) and the course construction and race organization crew (Karl Guntheroth, Bob Duffner and Dawn Meekhof). Another shoutout to all the individuals who raced or went with the flow by helping throughout the weekend to ensure that the 60+ racers could do two runs each and still be done in less than 5 hours!

The Spring Cedar River International Slalom event will take place on April 5-6, 2025. Paddlers in the PNW can take advantage of the permanent slalom gates on the Cedar River. Group paddling opportunities and clinics are available through the [Washington Kayak Club](#) throughout the year.



*Photo courtesy of Sam Westover at Sanderling Photography*

## **2024 ICF SUP World Championships**

Over 500 athletes from 52 National Federations traveled to Nathan Benderson Park in Sarasota, FL this month to race in the 2024 ICF SUP World Championships. The U.S. National Team had great performances and were joined by another 70+ enthusiastic American stand up paddleboarders who raced in this incredible, international competition. Please join us in celebrating the U.S. athletes below on their podium finishes!

### Sprint Open Women 100m

- Katniss Paris 🥇
- Sey Chelle 🥈

### Technical Junior Women 1000m

- Soryn Preston 🥇

### Sprint Masters 50+ Men 100m

- Casey Packet 🥇

### Technical Master 50+ Men 1000m

- Steve Miller 🥈
- Casey Packet 🥇

[Read More](#)



## Instructor of the Month: Jess Lewis

Congratulations to Jess Lewis, ACA's November Instructor of the Month! Jess brings her lifetime of river expertise to the Arkansas River in Colorado and beyond. From growing up on rivers with her raft guide parents to carving her own path in Chile's professional paddling community, Jess has made the river her home. She is passionate about empowering women and non-male-identifying paddlers, helping them discover their grit and strength through programs like her acclaimed "Boaters Anonymous." Jess is also an advocate for the ACA's new internationally recognized guide certification, opening doors for paddlers worldwide. Thank you Jess for your many contributions to the rafting community!



*Instructor of the Month, Jess Lewis*

[Read More](#)

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

## Kids Go Paddling

The ACA has released a great paddling resource for kids—an objectively cute booklet on how to be a safe and efficient paddler. This booklet focuses on five main topics relevant in paddlesports safety, called the L.I.F.E.R. Principle.



The booklet also features an introduction to the forward stroke, sweep strokes, and the draw stroke in addition to various paddlecrafts that youth may encounter—canoes, kayaks, stand up paddleboards, and rafts! Throughout the 28 pages, there are games to check for understanding of key principles and topics while keeping the youth and families engaged. With this resource, we can help create a more conscious paddling community and help further safe paddling practices.

This book is currently on sale for on \$3.50 USD and is available in both English and Spanish.

[Purchase "Kids Go Paddling"](#)

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

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