



# NEWSLETTER

## **Spring is drawing nearer and with it, the days grow longer!**

We hope you are as excited for the approaching paddling season as we are. Last month we added hundreds of paddling courses to the ACA Event Calendar and are gearing up for some of the first competitions of the new year. Find a course or event near you to get the most out of this season!

[View the ACA Event Calendar](#)



## **2026 USA Slalom National Team Trials & World Ranking Races**

Next month, two ICF Canoe Slalom World Ranking Races are coming to the United States! Join us at Montgomery Whitewater (March 13–15) and RIVERSPORT OKC (March 27–29) as top athletes compete on the world stage.

These events will also serve as USA National Team Trials for canoe slalom and kayak cross. Come cheer on the athletes, experience the energy firsthand, and get inspired to level up your own precision and speed!



## Winter Paralympics

The Milano Cortina 2026 Olympic Games have concluded, and now our focus shifts to the 2026 Winter Paralympics and then to the LA28 Games!

We are especially excited to cheer on paracanoe athlete Jack Wallace as he represents Team USA in sled hockey. The U.S. Sled Hockey Team's first game will take place on Saturday, March 7 at 11:05 AM ET against Italy.

[View the Milano Cortina 2026 Paralympic Competition Schedule](#)



## Instructor of the Month: Jeff Atkins

The ACA is proud to recognize Jeff Atkins as our February Instructor of the Month! Jeff's paddling journey began with a simple goal: to fish more. "I started paddling to fish more, but I realized that I loved paddling to the destination as much as I loved the actual fishing." What started as a way to reach better fishing spots grew into a passion for touring, expedition paddling, and ultimately teaching others.

Today, Jeff is a leader within the ACA's Paddlesports Angling Program, helping anglers build strong foundational paddling skills, increase safety awareness, and gain confidence on the water. Through this program, the ACA is reaching more kayak anglers than ever before, creating pathways for education, certification, and safer days on the water.

Please join us in congratulating Jeff on his dedication to kayak fishing education and for helping grow this important community within the ACA!

[Read Jeff Atkin's Instructor of the Month Feature](#)

# International Whitewater Hall of Fame Induction Ceremony to Take Place May 2

The World River Centre invites the international paddling community to the Canadian Canoe Museum in Peterborough, Ontario, Canada May 2, 2026 to attend the induction of the newest members of the International Whitewater Hall of Fame (IWHoF): Explorer Roger Parsons (Canada), Champions Dana Chladek (USA) and Danielle Woodward (Australia), and Advocates Hugh Canard (New Zealand) and George Wendt (USA).

"These inspiring individuals remind us how lives can be changed, barriers broken, and our precious rivers can be shared, honored, and protected," says World River Centre President Risa Shimoda. "We are thrilled to share their stories and honor them at the Canadian Canoe Museum, the world's most extensive display of human-powered watercraft.

[Register for IWHoF Induction Ceremony](#)

## Get the Most Out of ACA's New Event Waivers

On Thursday, February 26, we hosted a live walkthrough for club leaders on how to see who has signed liability waivers and navigate key reporting features. If you were unable to attend or would like to revisit any of the content covered, the recording is now available in the [Help Videos for Navigating ACA's Membership Platform](#) playlist on the @ACAPaddlesports YouTube channel.

Additional information can be found in the [ACA Help Center](#)!

[Watch the Recording](#)

Thank you for reading our monthly newsletter! We are so happy to have you as part of this community and look forward to making 2026 our best year yet!

Sincerely,  
Kaycee Maas, Communications Manager



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