



# NEWSLETTER

## Hello 2026!

A new year means a fresh paddling season filled with possibility. Across the ACA, 2026 is already shaping up to be a year of progress, partnership, and meaningful work to improve the experience of paddlers everywhere.

From expanding access and strengthening safety education to supporting competition, clubs, and instructors, the ACA is committed to building a stronger, more connected paddling community on and off the water.

We're glad you're part of the journey and we can't wait to see where this season takes us.



## 2026 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships are coming to OKC

Tickets are on sale now for the 2026 ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships, coming to [RIVERSPORT OKC](#), July 20–25.

More than 300 athletes from 50 nations will race for world titles in Canoe Slalom (C1), Kayak Slalom (K1), and Kayak Cross on the very course that will host the LA 2028 Olympic Games. This is your chance to see the world’s best compete right here in America’s heartland.

“We could not be more excited for a home World Championships at RIVERSPORT, on the LA28 Course,” said Jed Hinkley, ACA Competition Director. The next three years are going to be such an exciting time for our athletes and our sport, and we are so thankful for our relationship with RIVERSPORT and the Oklahoma City.”

Get your tickets today!

## LA28 Olympic Ticket Draw Open Now!

Excited to see canoe and kayak events at the LA 2028 Olympic Games? The ticket process starts sooner than you might think. Fans must register for the

Olympic ticket draw January 14–March 18, 2026 for a chance to purchase tickets to Canoe Slalom (July 14–22) and Canoe Sprint (July 25–29).

Paralympic Paracanoe tickets will be available separately beginning in 2027.

Get all the key dates, details, and tips in our ticketing guide.



**Boundary Waters Protections at Risk**

The House has passed a resolution that could overturn the 20-year mining ban protecting the Boundary Waters watershed from toxic copper mining. The measure now heads to the Senate, and paddlers' voices are urgently needed. It is essential that we speak up now not only for this pristine Wilderness Area, but also to stop Congress from setting a dangerous precedent of using the Congressional Review Act to undo conservation efforts.

Learn more and take action by contacting your lawmakers.

## New Following Waters Episodes Out Now

Three new episodes of *Following Waters* with ACA Policy Director Brett Mayer dropped this month, featuring powerful conversations from across the paddling world.

### **Bill Endicott: Fascination for the Process**

Legendary U.S. Canoe/Kayak Slalom Team coach Bill Endicott shares the philosophy that helped guide American athletes to Olympic and international success. Instead of chasing podiums, Bill focused on building belief, patience, and clarity of purpose — a mindset that shaped generations of athletes and leaders in the sport.

### **Hattie Johnson: The Legal Right to Float in Colorado**

Brett talks with American Whitewater's Hattie Johnson about one of the most important river access issues in the country right now. They break down the history and current challenges surrounding the legal right to float in Colorado, what it means for paddlers nationwide, and how the community can stay informed and involved.

### **Isaac Hull: Growing Up with the River**

Whitewater kayaker Isaac Hull reflects on being sponsored at just ten years old and growing up in the sport. He shares how early exposure shaped his identity, risk tolerance, and long-term relationship with kayaking — plus stories from some memorable drops along the way.

Listen wherever you get your podcasts and catch the latest from Following Waters.

## Splash Proof Advice: Knives 101

Ever wonder why paddlers carry knives? Hint, it's not for spreading sandy peanut butter on your morning bagel.

ACA Staff Member and Instructor Ben Morton shared his expert advice on why paddlers carry them, where they carry them, and how they can prepare to use them should the need arise in a short video published on our social media accounts.

For more splash proof advice, follow us on Facebook and Instagram!

Watch on Facebook

Watch on Instagram



**Congratulations to ACA Instructors of the Month: 2025 Mexico Drowning Prevention Clinic Instructors**

17 ACA Instructors. 150 community members trained. One powerful mission: drowning prevention.

In Jalcomulco, Veracruz, instructors from Mexico, the U.S., and Canada came together to deliver a free workshop during the annual Safety & Rescue Rendezvous — sharing life-saving skills with river guides, first responders, and local families.

These 17 instructors are being recognized as ACA Instructors of the Month for January 2026, the first award of the new year!

Congratulations to:

- Dr. Chris Davis
- Dave Bumgarner
- Lynsey Nunes
- Marcus Vanata
- Ben Mudd
- Arturo Pensado
- Gervasio Rodríguez
- Mario Geron
- Paco Rodríguez
- Jaime Canseco
- Aury Carrillo
- Manu Lucia
- Jim Coffey
- Kedin Álvarez
- José Milán
- Jhonatan Cendejas
- Aisha Jalil

This is what the ACA community looks like in action! Congratulations to you all!

[Read more about the Drowning Prevention Clinic](#)

Thank you for reading our monthly newsletter! We're excited for the season ahead and look forward to seeing you on the water in 2026!

Sincerely,

Kaycee Maas, Communications Manager



[Unsubscribe](#)

CAUTION: This email originated outside of your organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.