

# Alberta Whitewater Association



## Happy New Year !

**It's time to plan for 2008 but let's recall some of our 2007 achievements !**

1/ **Saskia van Mourik** was hired by AWA as the full time **Technical Director**. Saskia spearheaded projects including:

**Billy Harris** - #2 in the World in 2006 and Jackson Team Member. Billy was a guest TAK instructor for a series of junior and adult clinics. Billy was inspirational for paddlers, many of whom achieved breakthroughs under his leadership.

**PaddleFest** - a new event in 2007

70 paddlers, volunteers and instructors converged on Mukwah Tours on the Red Deer River, SW of Sundre, for 2 days of clinics and instruction. The event was a terrific success! Thanks to:

- Undercurrents and Aquabatics for supplying demo boats.
- Mukwah Tours for providing a base camp for the weekend.
- Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation for funding
- Sundre, Canmore, Waterwerks and Cottonwood Kayak Clubs for their hard work and enthusiastic support.

**TAK's** return to the Slave River - 10 days in August - 10 paddlers. Chip Powell, Becky Bristow and Saskia led the trip. Thanks to Fort Smith Paddling Club for the warm welcome & support received in 2007

**New Youth Development Program** – a program to develop the next generation of AWA's leading paddlers through informal and formal instruction as well as mentorship by expert paddlers.

2/ **Mike Holroyd** was hired by AWA / WSAA in May as coach for the **High Performance Slalom Program** allowing Alberta athletes the much appreciated opportunity to train at home. Thanks to:

- Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation
- Canadian Coaching Association

Thanks also to Geoff Hayward for writing both these grant applications!

3/ **Selected results from Whitewater Slalom Association of Alberta**

- Alberta racers earned 10 medals at National Championships
- 2 Albertans earned berths on the Junior National Team (CZ) - Ben Hayward won Bronze at Pre-World Championships!
- 2 Albertans competed on World Championship Team (Brazil)
- Several juniors medaled at the Junior Olympics in Colorado.
- Racers, from Development level to the World Cup level put up countless personal best results at races in Canada, USA, Europe, Brazil and Australia. That's what it's all about !!

See their impressive list of accomplishments at [www.wsaa.ca](http://www.wsaa.ca)

4/ **Bruce Waldie to officiate at the Beijing Olympics !!!**

Thanks to the ASPRW Foundation's support for Bruce to train at a race in Beijing in 2007 where he passed the required practical and written exams. Bruce also officiated at the World Slalom Championships in Brazil.

## Congratulations to all !!

Please submit achievements to [lj kayaker@shaw.ca](mailto:lj kayaker@shaw.ca) for newsletters.

Please send Club Events for posting on AWA and WSAA websites to [althea@telusplanet.net](mailto:althea@telusplanet.net) Thanks!

AWA and WSAA have appointed two well known members to part time contract positions. Welcome to:

**Althea Shaw** - Finance and Administrative Coordinator

**Lynn Jobe** - Fund Development and Promotion Coordinator

Thanks to **Mike Sandomirsky** for stepping in as AWA Administrative Director for the past couple of years. Good luck to Mike in his full time role at the Wheel Chair Sport Association!

AWA was recently awarded a DIP Grant by the ASPRW Foundation, to subsidize the purchase of **Wildwater boats**. Any Clubs interested in acquiring Wildwater boats should write to [lj kayaker@shaw.ca](mailto:lj kayaker@shaw.ca) for more information about this opportunity.

**Coach Mentorship Program** - Mike Holroyd is launching a program to support and develop Club coaches. Anyone interested in working with Mike should contact him at [mholroydcoach@gmail.com](mailto:mholroydcoach@gmail.com).

### AWA Annual General Meeting - Jan 25 & 26<sup>th</sup> Mount Royal College, Calgary

Sat 12 to 5pm: Welcome + Break Out Sessions  
- interest groups brainstorm to determine priorities for 2008 then share with group

Sat evening: t.b.a.

Sun 9 am: Continental Breakfast

Sun 9:30-12: Annual General Meeting  
(Annual Reports, New Business, Elections)

**Program updates at:** [www.albertawhitewater.ca](http://www.albertawhitewater.ca)

**Questions:** [althea@telusplanet.net](mailto:althea@telusplanet.net)

**Need a billet?** Contact [lj kayaker@shaw.ca](mailto:lj kayaker@shaw.ca) if you have a spare bed or you need a bunk in Calgary. Thanks!

"Decisions are made by those who attend the meetings."

**Hope to see you there. YOUR ideas are important to us!**

**WSAA Casino – May 4 & 5 – Calgary**

Volunteers needed. Contact Althea at [althea@telusplanet.net](mailto:althea@telusplanet.net)

**National Jr Slalom Team Trials – May 31<sup>st</sup> & June 1**

Kananaskis River at Canoe Meadows

Volunteers and officials needed.

Event Coordinator: Lorel Dederer - [loreld@telus.net](mailto:loreld@telus.net)

**Alberta Summer Games - Aug 7 to 10 - Medicine Hat**

Events: Canoe Polo, Wildwater Race and Slalom Race

For assistance with Zone Trials contact Saskia - [awatd@telus.ca](mailto:awatd@telus.ca)

- Zone Trial dates - submitted by February 22 please.

- Submit Zone Trial results + registrations by July 1

See [www.albertawhitewater.ca](http://www.albertawhitewater.ca) for detailed info. (coming soon)

The **Cup of the North** is once again being held this winter!

Feb 8-10, registration deadline: Jan 25, Kinsmen Pool, Edmonton, see [www.paddleewp.com](http://www.paddleewp.com) for more info.

2008 Event Schedule - see [www.albertawhitewater.ca](http://www.albertawhitewater.ca).