



**1. Alberta by the Numbers (2015)**

member clubs in province	18
club members	884
individual members	243
youth programs	
active instructor members	214
active volunteers	126

**Naming:**

ACPA = Alberta Canoe Polo Association

AFKA = Alberta Freestyle Kayak Association

ASCK = Alberta Slalom Canoe Kayak

PA=Paddle Alberta

**2. Highlights of 2015**

- After the devastating floods in 2013 that destroyed Alberta's whitewater training sites we have completed the restoration of the Kananaskis River and the slalom training system. It is better than ever and we now have 2 full length slalom courses and 3 great freestyle waves.

**3. Healthy Club System (i.e. club events and programs)**

- The AWA is nurturing some new relationships with 4 new clubs around the province but has also seen 1 club fold their tent this year.
- The Bow Valley Kayak Club ran a very successful disabled kayak program for the 4<sup>th</sup> year this summer in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Adaptive Sports Centre.
- The 3 Rivers Whitewater Rendezvous in Pincher Creek kicked off Alberta's spring paddling season on the May long weekend hosting 308 paddlers in spite of poor weather and low water.
- The Grande Cache Whitewater Rendezvous continues to attract a loyal following of 25 paddlers and has now opened its agenda to be more inclusive of beginner paddlers.
- The Sundre Paddlefest had to move locations this year and attendance was down to 63 participants in our instructional sessions and river runs.
- Alberta's big paddling party - Kanfest - hosted 200+ paddlers and lots of friends.
- The AWA worked with the other paddling groups to hire 7 summer coaches/instructors in the clubs. Most of the staff were eligible to get support from Canada Summer Jobs for their employment. Staff were recruited from Adventure Tourism programs in BC and Ontario, former athletes and active racers.

**4. Competitive Disciplines**

**SLALOM**

- Mike Holroyd remains employed by ASCK to be the High Performance Coach in Alberta. Based in Calgary it provides an opportunity for athletes to train and complete post-secondary studies.

- The number of HP athletes in Alberta remains at a very low level.
- 9 Alberta Athletes made various National Teams competing in 4 World Cups, the Jr, U23 & Senior World Championships, and the PanAm Games (where Ben Hayward and Haley Daniels won medals)
- Alberta competed at the National Whitewater Championships (Slalom and Wildwater) in Chilliwack and won the Brian Creer cup in BC, the first time that Alberta has won the Cup away from home water.
- Two Alberta Cups, one club level slalom, two pool slaloms and the Provincial Championships were held through the year.
- The slalom program is looking to support a new group of junior and cadet athletes. Development initiatives include outreach to clubs and a more camp-based coaching delivery.
  - Five weeklong training camps were held in AB, BC, and California
  - the Head Coach and Assistant Coach ran a number of summer outreach days to clubs
- A creek slalom race was held in Invermere, BC supported by ASCK that was very well received with strong interest from the plastic boat crowd.
- Michael Holroyd and James Cartwright ran a pilot for the NCCP Comp Dev Slalom course
- Shaw TV televised an Alberta Cup race and the Provincial Championship slalom race this year.

#### CANOE POLO

- The Canoe Polo program is very strong with active participation from 8 clubs and a strong national team focus.
- Edmonton hosted the PanAm Championships and Canada won the gold medals in Men's and Women's events.
- Six High Performance events were hosted in Alberta, the top provincial event being the yearly Cup of the North International Open Tournament.
- Hosted in Alberta also were 4 National Team skills camps and a Christmas skills camp.
- Alberta was well represented at the Canadian Nationals, with nearly 30 players from Alberta travelling there to compete in all divisions.
- Mario Perez Lopez, a Spanish National team player was recruited to develop the canoe polo program in Calgary and has been working with our southern Alberta players to bring them up to the competitive level with Edmonton and Grande Prairie.

#### FREESTYLE

- Freestyle is not very strong at this time in Alberta but it is working on plans to build a Freestyle program including a junior development program as well as competitions .
- The only Freestyle event was at Provincials this year.
- The Brierlies event was cancelled due to lack of water.

#### 5. Leadership (i.e. coaching, officials, volunteers)

- Alberta's NCCP Learning Facilitators ran a number of Instructor certification courses this year at all levels across the province.
- The AWA supported Evaluation Days at 2 Festivals this year that allowed NCCP trained instructors/leaders an opportunity to lead/teach a ½ day at the Festival and be certified by an NCCP Evaluator at no cost to the participant. This was viewed as a win-win-win for the NCCP candidates who got an extra ½ day without paying more for their courses, the Festivals who got free instructors for their events, the paddlers who were being led or instructed at a very reduced rate, and by the Evaluators who were able to utilize their skills and share best practices.
- Alberta hosted the pilots for the NCCP Coach Intro and Coach Dev Slalom courses.

- Alberta's internationally qualified slalom officials (IJCSL) supported our domestic events and went to international races. Dan Groeneveld went to London for the World Championships and Duncan Daniels attended the Olympic test event in Rio. Duncan Daniels and Dan Groeneveld were also in Minden for PanAm Games.

## 6. Organizational Effectiveness

- CANOE POLO
  - The ACPA board has a well functioning board that represent a wide scope of their membership.
- SLALOM
  - ASCK has become more proficient with their timing system and can now use the ICF required Canoe 123 system for any event.
- CLUBS
  - Recruiting enough qualified staff proved to be a problem this year and next year will likely be worse as many of our experienced coaches and instructors in Alberta are moving ahead with careers that will take them away from paddling.
- AWA
  - The Alberta Sport Connection is reviewing the province's sport system and we are hopeful that we might be able to improve our status and get more grant funding.
  - The AWA applied for 2 year - \$150,000/yr Boating Safety grant with Transport Canada

## 7. Facility Development

- The AWA has now completed a \$650,000 rebuild of the Kananaskis River and the slalom gate system. Improvements included:
  - changing the race course into 2 full length slalom courses
  - 90 gates permanently hung on the river at Canoe Meadows.
  - full length Riverwalk at Canoe Meadows, 4 -7 meters wide for spectator access, hosting events and future maintenance.
  - Restoration of the playboating features with spectator beaches at the major sites.
  - A new Surfers wave for surfboards and long boats.

We will do some minor improvements this spring to be ready for Jr National Team Trials.

- The artificial whitewater park in Calgary that was extensively damaged in the flood is being rebuilt by the Province at a cost of \$10+ Million. The playboating features in the main channel should be more user friendly . A new channel is being designed for everyone to use that should be better for introductory lessons and for training. Harvie Passage should reopen in 2017.
- The Boulder Run whitewater park in Pincher Creek (host to the 1992 Nationals) was planned for reconstruction in August, 2015 but has been delayed until May of 2016. We hope to have the gates back in place by mid-summer. Plans include a shorter whitewater reach with more playboating features.
- The AWA is in the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of managing the Canoe Meadows Campground. We have made the facility more paddler friendly and more available for paddling groups with better services.