



1. Alberta by the Numbers (2017)

full club members	~ 800
individual event members	~ 400
educational activity members	~2,000
member clubs in province	17
sanctioned events hosted in province	13
active Slalom coaches	3
active Freestyle coaches	2
active Wildwater coaches	0
active Canoe Polo coaches	6
certified WW instructors	325+
active volunteers	150+
clubs currently running Canoe Slalom development or HP programs	2 clubs + ASCK

Naming:

ACPA = Alberta Canoe Polo Association
ASCK = Alberta Slalom Canoe Kayak

AFKA = Alberta Freestyle Kayak Association
PA=Paddle Alberta

2. Highlights of 2017

- Elections: full slate of officers for 2 year terms led by President, Kurtis Broda
- Legal issue with Alberta Environment for 2015 Kananaskis riverwork resolved via mediation in 2017 (Note: this is the second time we went to mediation, the first was regarding 2014 construction work)
 - \$20,00 fine reduced by 75%
 - Kananaskis whitewater park improvements have been delayed indefinitely
- Harvie Passage whitewater park in Calgary rebuild on track for opening in 2018 with enhanced wave/holes, teaching channel, and slalom training course (ASCK fundraised ~\$200k).
- New online membership registration system expanding
- The AWA's Schools in Pools program went to 15 swimming pools, trained 75 lifeguards as Pool Instructors and taught 1,222 people to kayak. Each pool got to use the AWA's 20 boats and gear for 3 weeks at no cost. Local lifeguards taught kayaking to school classes and community groups
- The AWA created a Special Events Trailer to support whitewater festivals and races around the province. It is equipped with a commercial bbq, propane stoves, generator, PA system, potable water tanks, pop-up shelters, coffee makers, coolers and chafers, pots/pans/utensils, and assorted kitchen equipment.

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

- New registration system. All online, membership fees dropped to \$1 to promote new membership
- The 3 Rivers Whitewater Rendezvous in Pincher Creek kicked off Alberta's spring paddling season on the May long weekend hosting 280 paddlers with great weather and 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.
- Women's Whitewater Weekend attracted 24 women for a weekend of paddling together
- The Sundre Paddlefest was cancelled this year due to low enrollment
- Alberta's big paddling party - Kanfest - hosted 200+ paddlers and lots of friends.
- The AWA hired 2 summer coaches/instructors with the clubs. The AWA staff were eligible to get support from Canada Summer Jobs for their employment. Staff were recruited from former athletes and adventure college programs.
- 3 other clubs hired their own staff for their summer programs
- The AWA with grant support purchased a 16' trailer and outfitted the trailer with a full kitchen system and potable water supply to support special events. This will make it easier to run festivals and races for 50 – 250 people.

4. Competitive Disciplines

SLALOM

- Mike Holroyd is the Head Coach for ASCK. Based in Calgary it provides an opportunity for athletes to train and complete post-secondary studies.
- The number of HP athletes in Alberta is steady with a couple of athletes on breaks. A handful of other athletes are also in the Winter Training Program or do drop-ins.
- 8 Alberta based athletes made various National Teams.
- 169 people participated in slalom events or programs.
- Alberta competed at the National Whitewater Championships (Slalom and Wildwater) in Ottawa.
- Three Alberta Cups, one club level slalom, one pool slalom and the Provincial Championships were held through the year.
- ASCK hosted or participated in 94 days of camps or events in addition to normal training sessions.
- The Toby Creek slalom race was held in Invermere, BC, hosted by ASCK and saw a 50% increase in participation (80+) from 2016 and the prize money is steadily rising as new sponsors come onboard.
- ASCK ran an NCCP Comp-Intro and Comp-Dev Slalom course in November
- Hosted the National Team Trials at the Kananaskis in May.
- Fundraised \$190,000 for a permanent slalom infrastructure at Harvie Passage.

FREESTYLE

- AFKA ran a creek race at 3 Rivers Whitewater Rendezvous
- Freestyle Competition and co-host of Brierlies festival
- Freestyle clinic on Kananaskis
- Freestyle clinics with Leif and Natalie Anderson on Oldman/Kananaskis/Brierlies/Grande Cache

ALBERTA SUMMER GAMES

- AWA, ACPA and ASCK are laying out plans for the Alberta Summer Games in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Events will include Canoe Polo, Slalom and a Downriver race hosted by the Wapiti Kayak Club.

CANOE POLO

- Successful 2017, numerous tournaments and full executive

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 Festivals 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 NCCP Coach Intro and Coach Dev Slalom courses.
- Alberta's internationally qualified slalom officials (IJCSL) supported our domestic events and went to international races. Duncan Daniels attended the London World Cup event.

6. Organizational Effectiveness

- CANOE POLO
 - ACPA has a new board that represent a wide scope of their membership.
- SLALOM
 - ASCK has a new board that represent a wide scope of their membership.
- 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
 - Chuck Lee continues to be employed as AWA Executive Director
 - \$34,000 Makadiff grant started 15 community paddling programs in swimming pools across Alberta, hired coordinator for position, trained 75 lifeguards to teach kayaking and taught 1222 people to paddle. AWA equipment was left in the communities for 3 weeks to enable staff to teach school children and others. We already have commitments from 20 communities for this next year.
 - New accounting system being implemented. Our plan is to use Sage cloud-based service with year-end audit by accounting firm
 - Concussion policy to be finalized in 2017

7. Facility Development

Kananaskis

- Legal issues with Alberta Environment
 - Fine of \$20,000 for violating permit conditions on 2015 Kananaskis whitewater park construction, namely i) using a slate slab rock to replace a limestone block ii) Sediment control plan not followed iii) contraventions were not reported immediately iv) excess turbidity levels, the compliance manager increased the fine because they felt the AWA did not place primary importance on compliance
 - AWA appealed to Environmental Appeals board, four of the six violations were thrown out, reducing the fine down to \$5,000

- My opinion – we did violate some conditions, but we did try hard to mitigate these. The appeal decision reflected that we did take reasonable steps to meet our permit conditions
- This will make future permit applications more difficult.
- Lessons learned: i) Only what is contained in the four corners of the permit matters, informal discussions or emails have no force or effect ii) an environmental compliance officer (consultant) is needed on site to monitor and document all activities during construction, and to monitor compliance to permit conditions iii) Our environmental consultant did not provide adequate or appropriate advice iv) Projects going forward will be an order of magnitude more expensive, engineering drawings may be required for each feature (like Harvey passage)
- This investigation and subsequent appeal was a huge administrative burden which impacted our capacity through 2017.
- We were unable to put the finishing improvements on the newly rebuilt \$750,000 whitewater park in the Kananaskis. Our permit expired in 2017 so we will not be able to improve the flood resistance of the Riverwalk, make some playboating waves better or improve the whitewater character in the upper and lower race courses.
- The AWA continues to manage the Canoe Meadows Campground. We have made the facility more paddler friendly and more available for paddling groups with better services.
 - Jenn Givens our campground manager did a great job this year.
 - The AWA added a commercial bbq, propane stove and generator to the refrig & freezers in the camp kitchen
- Alberta Parks has completed a new master plan for the Lower Kananaskis region that includes upgrades for the campground and facilities based upon the recognition of the whitewater character. The plan should be finalized in early 2018 with construction of new facilities to be completed in 2019.

Calgary - Harvie Passage

- The artificial whitewater park in Calgary that was extensively damaged in the flood is being rebuilt by the Province at a cost of \$8.5 Million. The playboating features in the main channel are more user friendly. A new channel is designed for everyone to use that should be better for introductory lessons and for training. Harvie Passage should reopen in June, 2018. A slalom gate system in the small channel will be installed over the next year.
- Working with City of Calgary to develop better access to Bow River. Calgary River Users Alliance has discussed these issues with the city and has been working to resolve access issues.

Boulder Run in Pincher Creek

- The Boulder Run whitewater park in Pincher Creek (host to the 1992 Nationals) was also destroyed in the 2013 floods. It was planned for reconstruction in 2015 but was delayed until August 2016. Construction of the river features is complete. Gate post anchors were installed in August and a new gate system is planned to be installed in 2018.