



**Alberta
Whitewater
Association**

**Report to the 2018
Canoe Kayak Canada**

1. Alberta by the Numbers (2018)

full club members	980
individual event members	~ 400
educational activity members	~2,000
member clubs in province	17
sanctioned events hosted in province	19
active Slalom coaches	9 2
active Freestyle coaches	2
active Wildwater coaches	0
active Canoe Polo coaches	6
certified WW instructors	428
active volunteers	150
clubs currently running Slalom development or HP programs	7 2 clubs + ASCK
clubs currently running Canoe Polo development or HP programs	3 clubs +ACPA
clubs currently running Freestyle development or HP programs	4 2 clubs +AFKA

Naming:

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

AFKA = Alberta Freestyle Kayak Association
PA=Paddle Alberta

2. Highlights of 2018

- Elections: full slate of officers for 2 year terms led by President, Kurtis Broda
- Harvie Passage whitewater park in Calgary opened in 2018 with enhanced wave/holes, teaching channel, and slalom training course. Great reviews of in-water features. Next step will be to get roadway, parking and onsite boat storage,
- New online membership registration system expanding
- The AWA's Schools in Pools program went to 13 swimming pools, trained 67 lifeguards as Pool Instructors and taught 1,400 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

- [Hosting a multi-discipline Nationals including Slalom, Downriver, Freestyle, Slalom Cross](#)
- [Hosted Alberta Summer Games with Slalom, Polo and Downriver in Grande Prairie](#)
- The AWA's Special Events Trailer supported 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, club members fees were kept at \$1 to promote clubs and non-club member fees were raised to \$5
- The 3 Rivers Whitewater Rendezvous in Pincher Creek kicked off Alberta's spring paddling season on the May long weekend hosting 350 paddlers with great weather and really good water levels. Problems with Alberta Parks prevented AFKA from running the Carbondale Creek Race and the event was moved to the Castle Canyon bridge.
- The Brierlies freestyle and slalom race were cancelled due to low registration.
- The Grande Cache Whitewater Rendezvous continues to attract a loyal following of 25 paddlers.
- Women's Whitewater Weekend attracted 35 women for a weekend of paddling together
- The Sundre Paddlefest was moved to a new venue on the Panther River and was a big hit for the 45 people that attended.
- Alberta's big paddling party - Kanfest - hosted 220 paddlers and lots of friends.
- The AWA hired 4 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.
- 2 other clubs hired their own staff for their summer programs

4. Competitive Disciplines

SLALOM

- Mike Holroyd remains 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 [dropped after the 2018 season](#). The Winter Training Program [has 12 youth based in Canmore, Calgary and Innisfail](#).
- [4](#) Alberta based athletes made various National Teams.
- [194](#) people participated in slalom events or programs.
- [Installed a test section of gates at Harvie Passage](#)
- Alberta [hosted](#) the National Whitewater Championships (Slalom, Wildwater, [Freestyle and Slalom Cross](#)) in Alberta at the Kananaskis.
- 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-creek race was held in Invermere, BC, hosted by ASCK and saw a 50% increase in participation (120+) from 2017 and the prize money is steadily rising as new sponsors come onboard.
- ASCK ran an NCCP Comp-Intro and Comp-Dev Slalom course in April
- Fundraised \$190,000 for a permanent slalom infrastructure at Harvie Passage.

FREESTYLE

- AFKA ran a creek race at 3 Rivers Rendezvous with a substantial cash payout for the [male and female](#) medalists
- There was a freestyle [event](#) at Brierlies [but the festival was cancelled](#),
- [Leif and Natalie Anderson ran a](#) summer series of freestyle clinics across the province.
- [Peirce Huser ran 2 clinics at the Sundre Paddfest](#)
- [The Freestyle competition at Nationals was well attended and saw a lot of big names compete.](#)

ALBERTA SUMMER GAMES

- AWA, ACPA and ASCK cooperated to run the Alberta Summer Games in Grande Prairie, Alberta. Events included Canoe Polo, Slalom and a Downriver race hosted by the Wapiti Kayak Club.

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 3 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.
- [The AWA ran an L3/I3 course in early May this year and 10 individuals participated. This is a departure from our normal way of allowing LF's to organize NCCP courses. We will repeat this again in 2019 while still allowing our LF's to run their own courses.](#)
- Alberta's internationally qualified slalom officials (IJCSL) supported our domestic events and went to international races. Duncan Daniels attended [the](#) World [Championships](#).

6. Organizational Effectiveness

- CANOE POLO
 - ACPA has new members on the board that represent a wide scope of their membership.
- SLALOM
 - ASCK board represents a range of their membership.
 - Mike Holroyd continues to be employed as the Head Coach for Alberta's slalom program
- CLUBS
 - Recruiting enough qualified staff proved to be a problem again 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 contracted to serve as the AWA's Executive Director
 - Alberta Sport promoted the AWA to a Tier 2 sport. This designation will give the AWA a \$5,000 boost in funding each year over the next 3 years. Remaining as a Tier 2 sport requires the AWA to increase active memberships, programs and finances through this funding cycle.
 - The Makadiff group gave the AWA an extra \$20,000 this year to continue the Schools in Pools Kayak for Life program. The program went to 15 community swimming pools

across Alberta, hired coordinator for position, trained 67 lifeguards to teach kayaking and taught 2000 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 15 communities for this next year [and \\$5,000 in support for the project.](#)

7. Facility Development

Kananaskis

- Alberta Parks has approved \$2.2 Million in land based facilities for the Lower Kananaskis region. This includes upgrades for the Canoe Meadows campground and the Widowmaker Day Use area. A new Individual Camping area will be established in the lower meadow making it possible for people to book a site for their family or friends for one or more days.
- 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 were 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.
- Trees that fell on the race course in the winter of 2017-18 damaged a section of the slalom course and could not be repaired in 2018. We plan to have that section repaired in 2019.
- This was the last year of our current Facility Operating Agreement with Alberta Parks for Canoe Meadows. The AWA has reapplied for another 5 year FOA to manage the Canoe Meadows Campground. Given our history of making the facility more paddler friendly and creating more bookings throughout the year with better services we are hopeful that our relationship will continue into the future.

Calgary - Harvie Passage

- Harvie Passage reopened in July, 2018. The artificial whitewater park in Calgary that was extensively damaged in the 2013 flood has been 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 is better for introductory lessons and for training. A slalom gate system in the small channel [was set up in 2018, with more infrastructure to be installed through the winter.](#)
- 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.
- The paddling community is

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 2017 but Alberta Parks did not allow the new gate system to be installed this year With some luck that decision may be reversed in 2019.