



1. Alberta by the Numbers (2013)

full members	908
individual event members	313
member clubs in province	16
sanctioned events hosted in province	21
active Slalom coaches	6
active Freestyle coaches	6
active Wildwater coaches	0
active Canoe Polo coaches	7
certified WW instructors	212
active volunteers	150
clubs currently running Canoe Slalom development or HP programs	3 + ASCK

Naming:

ACPA = Alberta Canoe Polo Association

AFKA = Alberta Freestyle Kayak Association

ASCK = Alberta Slalom Canoe Kayak

PA=Paddle Alberta

2. Highlights of 2013 (i.e. 200 words max.)

- The big news this year was the devastating floods in Southern Alberta that destroyed Alberta's whitewater training sites including the Kananaskis, Harvie Passage and Deerfoot Meadows in Calgary and Boulder Run in Pincher Creek. The good news is that we will be rebuilding and we believe that we will be able to restore our training sites to be better than before.
- Alberta hosted the first National Whitewater Championships that included freestyle, for the first time, with the slalom and wildwater events this summer at the Kananaskis. This included the first paddler in recent years from the Yukon and 15 sprint paddlers from Manitoba.
- The Calgary pilot of the Schools in pools project was launched and has gained attention from school teachers and swimming pools in the city and in southern Alberta. Targeted for elementary school children there was wide interest amongst all teachers up to Grade 12.
- A new website was developed and launched in 2013 for the AWA and ASCK.
- The AWA is finalizing the terms of a Lease agreement to take over management of the Canoe Meadows campground on the Kananaskis River for 2014.

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

- The AWA is nurturing some new relationships with 4 clubs around the province but has also seen 4 clubs fold their tents this year.
- The Bow Valley Kayak Club ran a very successful disabled kayak program for the 2nd year this summer in partnership with the Rocky Mountain Adaptive Sports Centre and CKC support.
- The 3 Rivers Whitewater Rendezvous in Pincher Creek kicked off Alberta's spring paddling season on the May long weekend hosting 305 paddlers this year.
- The Grande Cache Whitewater Rendezvous continues to attract a loyal following of 50 paddlers and has now opened its agenda to be more inclusive of beginner paddlers.
- The Sundre Paddlefest included instructional sessions, river runs, a freestyle comp and a slalom race and was up in attendance to 80 this year.
- Alberta's big paddling party - Kanfest hosted 200+ paddlers and lots of friends even on the flood damaged Kananaskis River.
- Due to budget cuts, the Alberta Sport, Recreation, Parks and Wildlife Foundation suspended some granting programs that a number of clubs have benefited from in the past.

4. Competitive Disciplines (i.e. competitions, programs)

SLALOM

- The post Olympic year saw the number of HP athletes down to its lowest level in 10 years.
- 9 athletes made various National Teams competing in 4 World Cups, the Jr, U23 & Senior World Championships, Pre-World Championships, SickLine Creek World Championships and the PanAm Championships (where Jessica Groeneveld was PanAm Champion.)
- Alberta hosted the National Whitewater Championships (Slalom, Freestyle and Wildwater) at the Kananaskis River. Alberta won the Brian Creer cup for the first time since 2001.
- Three Alberta Cups, two club level slaloms and two pool slaloms 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.
 - Seven weeklong training camps were held in AB, BC, ON and TX.
 - 27 summer outreach days to clubs by the Head Coach and Assistant Coach.

CANOE POLO

- The Canoe Polo program is very strong with active participation from 11 clubs and a strong national team focus.
- Six High Performance events were hosted in Alberta, the top 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 very well represented at the Canadian Nationals in Welland, Ontario, with nearly 30 players from Alberta travelling there to compete in all divisions.
- Alberta CP players were also very active on the International scene with our top players competing in the
 - World Games in Cali, Colombia,
 - the PanAm Cup in California where our Women's Team won Gold by winning all 3 games of the series, and
 - the Master Games in Torino, Italy where Alberta's EWP Crunch won their 3rd Gold Medal in the Recreational Over 45 division.

FREESTYLE

- Freestyle is not very strong at this time in Alberta but with a new Board being formulated it is hoped that the Freestyle program including a junior development program as well as competitions can be re-launched.

- Two Freestyle Throwdowns were held with a third cancelled due to the floods.

CREEK RACING

- Creek racing is starting to build and some cross-training with the Slalom Team is paying dividends for Alberta's elite person in this discipline.

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.
- In 2013 ACPA held 3 Club Canoe Polo Referee clinics in order to deepen our available pool of officials, and we plan to scale that up for 2014 with more clinics and a manual with photographic references to the fouls and signals, planned to be released prior to the 2014 Alberta Summer Games.
- The internationally qualified slalom officials (IJCSL) supported our domestic events. Three individuals also represented Canada at international events. Duncan Daniels was at Jr Worlds, and Bruce Waldie & Dan Groeneveld were in Mexico for PanAm Championships. Several IJCSL officials from Alberta have applied to fill judging roles at 2014 ICF sanctioned events.

6. Organizational Effectiveness (i.e. strengthening internal resources)

- CANOE POLO
 - The ACPA board was increased from 3 to 7 to ensure that they have individuals on the board who will represent a wider scope of their membership.
- SLALOM
 - ASCK upgraded their timing system and can now use the ICF required Canoe 123 system.
 - One ASCK board member attended a race in WISP to observe the use of the SIWIDATA System prior to the ASCK upgrade.
- AWA and CLUBS
 - Four of Alberta's clubs have now contracted the management and delivery of their club kayaking programs to private companies. This has been done to alleviate the demand upon volunteers and to guarantee a consistent quality standard in their programs.
 - 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.

7. Facility Development (i.e. whitewater park projects)

- The June flooding in southern Alberta destroyed 4 of Alberta's 5 permanent slalom sites just weeks before Nationals and during our peak training season. Athletes were left to scramble to put up temporary gates and find alternative venues for training. We were able to salvage the Nationals getting a few river fixes completed in time and getting a gate system in place for the rest of the season. Lots of work to be done to rebuild our rivers for 2014.
- The good news is that the Government has stated that they will support us to redevelop our lost assets either through Disaster Recovery funding or provincial grants. This is likely to mean that we will be able to rebuild the facilities so that they are more useful for all disciplines going forward and be better for hosting top level competitions and training in the future.
- The AWA will be signing a Facility Operating Agreement with Alberta Parks this year to take over management and operation of the Canoe Meadows Campground in April, 2014. This will make the facility more paddler friendly and more available for individual camping with better services into the future.