



Member, U.S. Olympic Committee

## 2008 Annual Report



## About Us

USA Canoe/Kayak is a non-profit membership organization based in Charlotte, NC, promoting canoe and kayak racing in the United States. A member of the United States Olympic Committee, USA Canoe/Kayak is the national governing body for the Olympics sports of Flatwater Sprint and Whitewater Slalom and an official U.S. federation of the International Canoe Federation. Other paddling sports sanctioned by USA Canoe/Kayak include Marathon, Freestyle (Rodeo), Wildwater, Polo, Canoe Sailing, Outrigger, and Dragon Boat.



### Mission Statement

Recruit, retain and develop competitive canoe and kayak athletes, coaches and officials to be the best in the world.



### Vision Statement

Through strong organizational members and partnerships, USA Canoe/Kayak will recruit into the base of canoe and kayak athletes, coaches and officials.

Through development programs and competitive opportunities, USA Canoe/Kayak will retain talented athletes, coaches and officials.

Through targeted development planning and execution, USA Canoe/Kayak will develop internationally competitive athletes, coaches and officials.

## Letter From the Director

Greetings,

The past year was hugely successful for USA Canoe/Kayak. We had record turnouts at both of our Olympic Team Trials events. The 2008 Flatwater Sprint Olympic Team Trials at the Chesapeake Boathouse in Oklahoma City, OK was described as “the best US Sprint event ever” and drew a crowd of over 12,000 spectators. The 2008 Whitewater Slalom Olympic Team Trials was held at the US National Whitewater Center in Charlotte, NC in conjunction with the Pan American Slalom Championships as the Continental Qualification event. This event attracted over 18,000 spectators and was featured in a segment on the MSNBC series on Olympic trials.

The Beijing Olympic Games was amazing and was an unforgettable experience for everyone involved. The USA Canoe/Kayak team did not perform as well as hoped, with only two single kayak sprint athletes qualifying and a sixth-place best finish in slalom. We are looking forward to the possibility of the US hosting the Games of the XXXI Olympiad and working in cooperation with Chicago2016 on developing a fantastic venue plan for Sprint and Slalom events.

The past year was also highlighted by the expansion of our promising relationship with Oklahoma City. This included two outstanding Sprint events: the Olympic Team Trials and Sprint Nationals. Due to the success of the events held at this venue, the Chesapeake Boathouse has received the designation as a National Training Site. This also led to a new, multi-year sponsorship with Oklahoma City based Chesapeake Energy, which aided in the announcement of a new boathouse and helped finished the tower construction. Oklahoma City civic leaders also visited the US National Whitewater Center in Charlotte to study prospects for adding a whitewater facility to the Oklahoma City Regatta Park project.

These events all helped USA Canoe/Kayak to achieve our best financial results in many years. This is shown by the fact that we saw the highest revenue in the last two quads. Additionally, we operated in the black for the first time in three years.

We have also been successful in expanding our paddlesports base in a variety of ways. USA Canoe/Kayak participated in the first-ever ICF international competition for disabled paddlers. Dragon Boating also received official recognition as a sport sanctioned by USA Canoe/Kayak.

In order to support our growth, we completed a thorough review of our bylaws and governance structure. The Governance Review Task Force proposed a complete revision of the by-laws, which were adopted in January 2009. A completely new Board of Directors was put in place that includes independent, appointed members who will take office in early 2009.

Looking back, we had a great year in 2008 and hope to continue and build on this success through 2009.

**David Yarbrough**  
Executive Director  
USA Canoe/Kayak



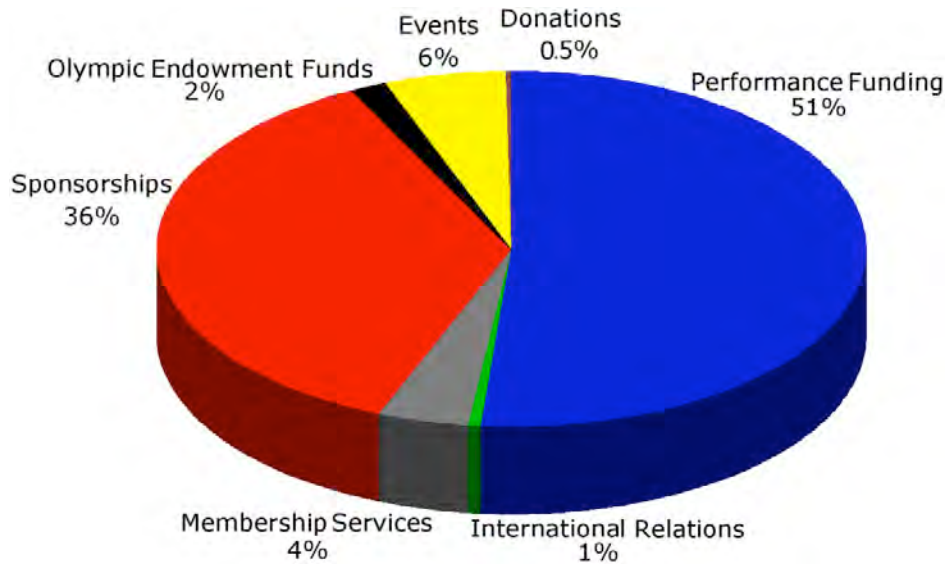


# Financial Report

## 2008 Revenue Breakdown\*

USOC Grants:  
 Performance Funding  
 International Relations

NGB Earned:  
 Donations  
 Events  
 Olympic Endowment Funds  
 Sponsorships  
 Membership Services



## 2008 Expenses Breakdown\*



\* These charts are based on the adjusted cash basis used for budgeting and control. They will differ somewhat from the results reported in our audited 2008 Financial Statements due to differences in accounting principles. These statements and our IRS Form 990 filing for 2008 will be available for review at [www.USACK.org](http://www.USACK.org) as soon as our audit is completed.

## Canoe Slalom



### What is Canoe Slalom?

In Canoe Slalom, athletes have to navigate their canoe or kayak through gates as they work their way through 300m of whitewater rapids in the fastest time possible. Hitting one of the hanging gates or missing one completely results in time penalties, which are added to the paddler's time at the end of his or her run. A 2-second penalty is given for a touched gate, and if the gate is missed completely there is a 50-second penalty. There are approximately 18-24 hanging gates for each course. The gates are color-coded to indicate which direction the paddler must pass through. Green gates are negotiated heading downstream while red gates require the paddler to reverse direction and pass through them heading upstream. Athletes compete in three classes: Kayak (K1), Single Canoe (C1) and Double Canoe (C2). Women compete in kayak (K1W). The event first made its Olympic debut during the 1972 Olympic Games in Munich, Germany and did not reappear until the 1992 Games in Barcelona, Spain.

## Canoe Slalom (cont.)

### 2008 Senior National Team

K1:  
Brett Heyl  
Scott Parsons  
Scott Mann

K1W:  
Zuzana Vanha  
Heather Corrie  
Caroline Queen

C1:  
Jeff Larimer  
Benn Fraker  
Tad Dennis

C2:  
Scott McClusky / Austin Crane  
Rick Powell / Casy Eichfeld



### 2008 Junior National Team

K1:  
Michal Smolen  
Luke Palko-Schraa  
Stein Beals

K1W:  
Caroline Queen  
Jessica Subido

C1:  
Zach Lokken  
Tyler Hinton

## Canoe Sprint



### What is Canoe Sprint?

In Canoe Sprint, paddlers race in separate lanes on a straight course in calm water. The International Canoe Federation (ICF) recognizes three different distances: 200m, 500m and 1000m. In kayak events paddlers are seated in their boats and use a double-blade paddle. Both men and women race in kayak events; single (K1), double (K2) and four-person (K4). In canoe events, paddlers kneel and use a single-blade paddle. Canoe events can be single (C1) or double (C2). Canoe Sprint was added as a full medal sport in 1936 at the Berlin Olympic Games.

On January 17<sup>th</sup>, 2006 the \$3.5 million Chesapeake Boathouse opened on the newly revitalized Oklahoma River in Oklahoma City. This state-of-the-art facility is not only an architectural gem; it served as the site for the 2008 Olympic Team Trials for Flatwater Sprint. This three-day event was the first time that a major national canoe/kayak event was held in Oklahoma. Around 100 athletes from across the United States competed for spots on the U.S. National Team.

## Canoe Sprint (cont.)

### 2008 Senior National Team

Patrick Dolan  
Maggie Hogan  
Morgan House  
Tim Hornsby  
Carrie Johnson  
Jordan Malloch  
Kari-Jean McKenzie  
Emily Mickle  
Jeffery Smoke  
Brandon Woods  
Rami Zur



## Canoe Polo

### What is Canoe Polo?



A team water sport, canoe or kayak polo matches are played with two teams consisting of five players. The teams try to score goals with the water polo ball in a net suspended above the water at either end of the playing “field”. Paddlers use short polo boat kayaks that increase maneuverability and equipment consists of a double-blade paddle, helmets, PFDs and facemasks for safety. Played in two halves of ten minutes each, the game is a fast-paced test of endurance and skill in the water.



## Canoe Sailing



### What is Canoe Sailing?

Canoe Sailing has a long history, with records of sailing canoes developed in Polynesia over a thousand years ago. In 1886, the American Canoe Association (ACA) and the British Royal Canoe Club (RCC) held the first international sailing regatta. Today, Canoe Sailing involves streamlined canoes that harness their power from large racing sails. Any type of canoe can be fitted to sail, whether it is a whitewater or wooden canoe. While some may think that a canoe would be too unstable for sailing, its narrow lines offer speed and maneuverability unmatched in other sailing vessels for a fraction of the cost. Many clubs hold canoe sailing regattas, and canoe sailing also remains as a recreational sport.

## Dragon Boat



### What is Dragon Boat?

Originating in China over two thousand years ago, the popularity of Dragon Boat racing has expanded across the globe. The International Dragon Boat Federation is the governing body for the sport and oversees events in over 60 countries.

The long, open canoes are often ornately decorated with a dragon head, scales and a tail. In a large dragon boat, approximately 20 paddlers sit in two rows using a single blade paddle. Small dragon boats contain around 10 paddlers, and both configurations use a drummer and coxswain. Events are held on flatwater with distances ranging from 200m to 2000m.

The drummer or caller may be considered the “heartbeat” of the dragon boat, and leads the crew throughout a race with the rhythmic beating of a drum to indicate the timing and frequency of paddling strokes. Teamwork is key to the success of a dragon boat team as it is essential that paddlers remain synchronized with their strokes. The front two paddlers, known as “pacers,” are responsible for setting the pace for the team while the sweep, located at the rear of the boat, controls direction. Each individual effort becomes unified with the rest of the team in a performance that may appear simple from the shore, yet is extremely challenging and requires many hours of training.

## Marathon



### What is Marathon?

Marathon racing involves paddling canoes or kayaks over long distances across flatwater, lakes and rivers. Races can last around three hours and during the race the athlete must carry their boat across portages. The minimum distance for international races are 20km for men and 15 km for women. Marathons can be held over several days in multiple stages, with elite races being 35 to 40 km in length. There is no maximum distance for marathon canoeing, which has given way to many races around the world that are hundreds of miles long.

## Freestyle (Rodeo)



### What is Freestyle?

Freestyle kayaking is a whitewater sport that displays the paddler's stamina and ability to maneuver. Enjoyed as a recreational sport, freestyle paddlers maneuver down a whitewater course while performing various tricks and spins. Innovations in boat design and construction have increased popularity of the sport, with competitions being held that rank paddlers according to difficulty and style of tricks.



The 2008 US Freestyle Kayaking World Cup Team showcased brilliant young paddlers who represent our future: Dustin Urban (K1 Men, 3rd Place), Emily Jackson (K1 Women, 1st Place), Jason Craig and Michael Palmer (K1 Junior Men, 2nd and 3rd Places respectively).

## Outrigger



### What is Outrigger?

Outrigger canoe racing emerged from the islands in the south Pacific and is now growing in popularity. There are multiple sizes of canoe, with seating capacity from one to six people. Sprint races are held with distances ranging from 500m to 3000m and long-distance races can cross up to 30 miles. Outrigger canoes have a pontoon, or ama, attached to the side of the canoe in order to increase stability. Once made out of carved wood, outrigger canoes have been able to increase their speed and maneuverability with lighter fiberglass hulls. Outrigger canoes often seat 6 paddlers, with the paddler sitting in seat 1 responsible for setting the pace of the paddle strokes. The paddler sitting in the last seat of the canoe is the steerer and uses a single bladed steering paddle, which has a larger, stronger blade than a standard outrigger paddle.

The length of outrigger races ranges from short sprints (500 - 2000 meters) to marathons in excess of 30 kilometers. Typically nine paddlers form a crew with six paddling the canoe and three resting. An escort boat drops the relief paddlers in the water ahead of the canoe. The relief paddlers climb into the canoe on the ama side and those being replaced roll into the water on the opposite side. The escort boat then picks up the paddlers so they can eat, drink and rest before relieving the next set of paddlers in the canoe. This replacement is done every 20-30 minutes to ensure the paddlers are performing at maximum capacity.

## Wildwater



### What is Wildwater?

In Wildwater racing events, the paddlers have to race their rudderless craft down a river, in the fastest possible time. Competition involves classic races, which can be up to half an hour in duration, and the spectator-friendly sprint races, which is usually 400m to 800m in length, where each run lasts just a few exciting minutes.

Wildwater racing is pure whitewater paddling, requiring its athletes to be powerful over the course of the race, yet also requiring strategic execution as the athlete maneuvers through natural obstacles of the river. The success of each race depends on the athlete's ability to parse the waves, holes and rocks of a natural riverbed while red-lining the body's internal motor.



## Paralympics Report

In May of 2008, USA Canoe/Kayak sent their first ever team of Paralympic athletes to Milan to race at the European Canoe Sprint Championships. The participation of these athletes in Milan is a result of a conference hosted by CanoeKayak Canada in Montreal, which was an effort to get more countries involved in the PaddleALL initiative and was a key step toward the inclusion of canoe/kayak on the Paralympic program in London 2012.

The International Canoe Federation (ICF) has started down the path to include canoe and kayak in the Paralympics by including “Paddleability” events in the 2009 International Canoe Federation Canoe Sprint World Championships on August 6-12, 2009 in Dartmouth, Nova Scotia. USA Canoe/Kayak will assemble a national team to compete in this competition.

- Athletes with physical disabilities will compete in both single and double kayaks, and double canoes.
- Competition will be on flatwater over a 200 meter buoyed course.
- The single kayak will be a lightweight craft not less than 23.6 inches wide.
- The double kayak and canoe craft and many other details will be decided at an ICF meeting in late March.

The first step for USA Canoe Kayak is to learn about the many people who already paddle, what types of craft they use, and where they fit in the draft classification system



## 2008 Beijing Olympic Games Report



President Bush with the 2008 USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom Olympic Team during the Opening Ceremonies

### Canoe Sprint Olympic Team



K1: *Carrie Johnson* (Chula Vista, CA) started her 2008 Olympic endeavor strong with a 1:50.22 in the 500m sprint, which advanced her to the semifinals. Johnson came very close to advancing to the finals, but was edged out by half of a second and ended up placing fourth with a time of 1:53.72.



K1: *Rami Zur* (Chula Vista, CA) began competition in the 1000m and qualified for the semifinals where he placed 7th with a time of 3:46.20. He also competed in the 500m race where he again advanced to the semifinals, this time placing 6th with a time of 1:47.16.

## Canoe Slalom Olympic Team



K1W: *Heather Corrie* (Grandy, MN) began the competition in 16th place and moved herself into the semifinals and finals. The competition was delayed due to lightning at the venue and oncoming darkness after Corrie was prepared to make her runs. Brushing that off and sticking with her consistent preparation regimen, Corrie started fast with a 112.51. On the next run, however, Corrie missed gate 5 and had a touch at the bottom ending her competition with an 8th place finish.



C1: *Benn Fraker* (Peachtree City, GA), showed consistent improvement in his two days of competition. Fraker finished the qualifying day 10th, was 8th after his first run, and finished 6th overall in the finals. In the semifinal and finals, Fraker paddled without penalty. This bodes well for the future for the 19 year old that entered the competition ranked 17th in the world.



K1: *Scott Parsons* (Bethesda, MD) had a fast start to his Olympic campaign with a third place finish his first run. On his second run, a touch at the top led Parsons to push even harder at the bottom to make up that time and he was called for missing a gate. The judges ruled that only half of Parsons' head went through the gate resulting in the 50. This eliminated Parsons from further competition. Going into the competition, Parsons was ranked 9th in the world.

C2: *Ricky Powell* (Parkesburg, PA), left, and *Casey Eichfeld* (Drums, PA), right, began the competition with a strong first run



of 101.69 and no penalties. Unfortunately, in the second run they touched at the top of the course and missed the downstream gate 7, causing a 50 second penalty. These two penalties eliminated them from further competition. As with Fraker, these two young men have very bright paddling futures for the USA team.



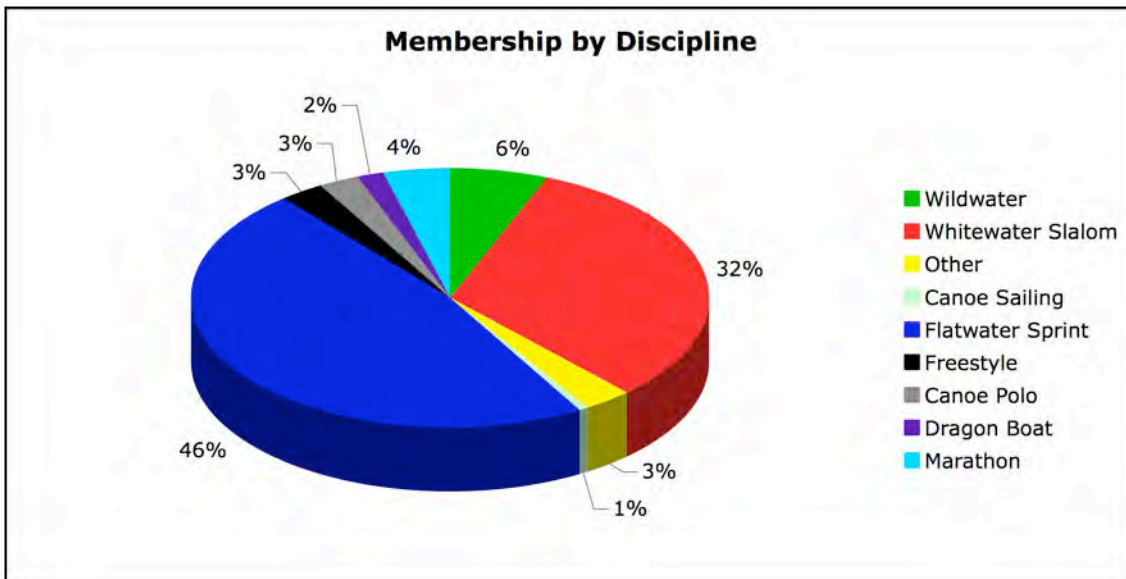
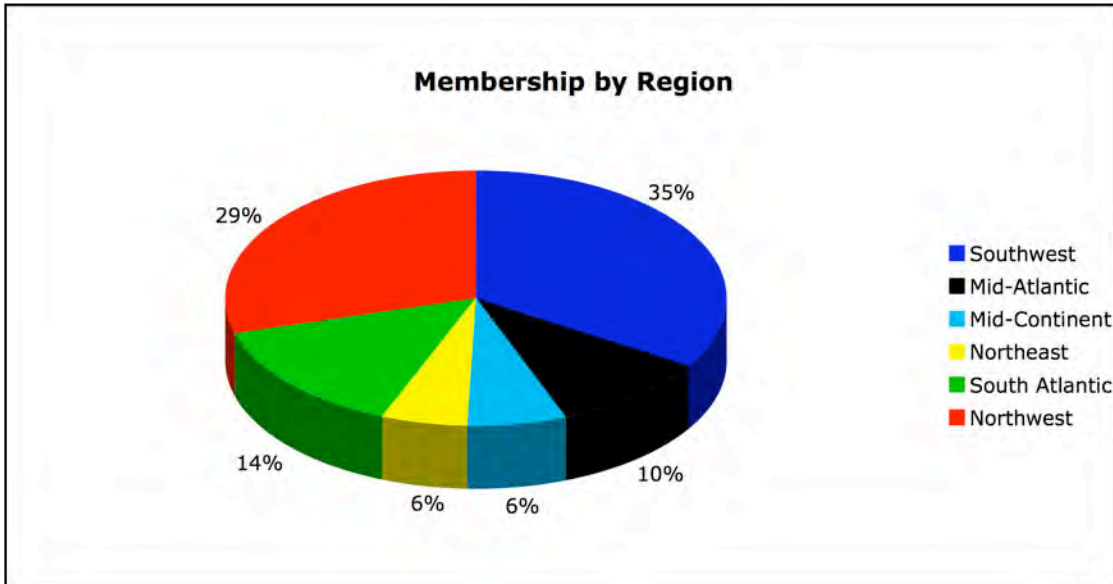


## 2008 Highlighted Events

- Pan American Canoe Championships & Continental Olympic Qualifier  
May 15-18 Montreal, Canada
- Whitewater Slalom Junior Team Trials  
May 31-June 1 Golden, CO
- Freestyle Nationals  
June 14-15 Salida, CO
- Marathon Team Trials  
June 14-15 Mount Holyoke, MA
- ICF Canoe/Kayak Slalom World Cup Series, Race 1  
June 20-22 Prague, Czech Republic
- ICF Canoe/Kayak Slalom World Cup Series, Race 2  
June 28-29 Tacen, Slovenia
- ICF Canoe/Kayak Slalom World Cup Series, Race 3  
July 4-6 Augsburg, Germany
- World Canoe Polo Championship Tournament  
July 23-27 Alberta, Canada
- Flatwater Sprint Nationals  
August 5-9 Oklahoma City, OK
- Olympic Games  
August 8-24 Beijing, China
- Whitewater Slalom National Championships  
August 30 McHenry, MD
- American Open Canoe & Kayak World Series  
October 3-4 McHenry, MD
- US Kayak Polo National Championships  
Oct. 31-Nov. 2 McHenry, MD



# 2008 Membership Breakdown





## Looking to the Future

### Events for 2009

- USA Canoe/Kayak Team Trials - Canoe Sprint  
April 24-26 Chula Vista, CA
- US National Team Trials - Canoe Slalom  
May 15-17 Durango, CO
- Pan American Sprint Championships  
July 3-5 Rio de Janeiro, Brazil
- Pan American Slalom Championships  
August 1-2 Alberta, Canada
- ICF World Senior Canoe Championships  
August 12-16 Halifax-Dartmouth, Canada
- ICF Canoe Slalom World Championships  
September 9-13 La Seu d'Urgell, Spain
- USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom Series: ASCI  
September 26-27 McHenry, MD
- US National Championships - Canoe Slalom  
October 3-4 Charlotte, NC
- USA Canoe/Kayak Slalom Series: USNWC  
October 3-4 Charlotte, NC

## 2016 Chicago Olympic Bid



Proposed Whitewater Slalom Venue

On April 14, 2007, the United States Olympic Committee selected Chicago as the U.S. Bid City for the 2016 Games. Chicago will now compete with other international cities for the honor of being the official 2016 Host City. The final decision on which international city will host the 2016 Games will be made in October 2009.

It is the vision of the Chicago 2016 committee to build a legacy for Chicago that will stand the test of time for the next 100 years. The vision is intended to stir the soul of the world: The Chicago 2016 Olympic and Paralympic Games will use sport as a catalyst to demonstrably strengthen the Olympic Movement. The Games will inspire young and old, Chicagoans and citizens around the world. With the plan for a compact Games and Chicago's accessible world-class infrastructure and enthusiastic multicultural community, athletes and the world will come together to rejoice in sport and strengthen the Olympic movement.



Proposed Flatwater Sprint Venue



## Sponsors

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### NATIONAL ELITE TEAM SPONSORS



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AMERICAN CANOE ASSOCIATION  
*Kayak & Canoe Recreation*



OFFICIAL LICENSEE



SUPPORTERS





## 2008 Board of Directors & Staff

### 2008 USA Canoe/Kayak Board of Directors

- Gina Sanchez                      Sprint At-Large Rep                      President
- Angela Lokken                      Slalom At-Large Rep                      Vice President
- Jim Ingrum                      At-Large Director                      Treasurer
- Connie Hagler                      Sprint At-Large Director                      Secretary
- Eric Giddens                      Slalom At-Large Director
- Scott Greifenberger                      At-Large Director
- Maggie Hogan                      Sprint Athlete Director
- Sandra Low                      Non-Olympic Director
- Charles Luckman                      Co-Opted as a member of the COPAC board of directors
- Aaron Mann                      Slalom Athlete Director
- Scott Mann                      Slalom Athlete Director
- David Mason                      Non-Olympic Director
- Cliff Meidl                      Sprint Athlete Director
- Richard Perlmutter                      Co-Opted as chair of USA Whitewater Slalom
- Charles Yatman                      Co-Opted as president of COPAC and a member of the ICF Board of Directors

### USA Canoe/Kayak Staff

- David Yarborough                      Executive Director
- Gerald Babao                      Operations, Membership
- Stacey Hepp                      Marketing & Communications
- Lorraine Piephoff                      Accounting
- Nathan Luce                      Head Coach, Flatwater Sprint
- Silvan Poberaj                      Head Coach, Whitewater Slalom
- Cathy Hearn                      Slalom Canoe Coach
- Mac Hickox                      Sprint Development Director



## 2008 Discipline Committees

### USA Whitewater Slalom (USAWS)

- |                      |                               |
|----------------------|-------------------------------|
| • Richard Perlmutter | Chair                         |
| • David Queen        | Vice Chair                    |
| • Matt Taylor        | Treasurer                     |
| • Nicolas Borst      | Secretary                     |
| • John Brennan       | Southwest Representative      |
| • Bert Hinkley       | Northwest Representative      |
| • Brian Homberg      | Mid-Atlantic Representative   |
| • Dave Kurtz         | At-Large Representative       |
| • Hannah Larsen      | Athlete Representative        |
| • Lee Leibfarth      | South-Atlantic Representative |
| • Angela Lokken      | At-Large Representative       |
| • Aaron Mann         | Athlete Representative        |
| • Scott Mann         | Athlete Representative        |
| • Jamie McEwan       | Northeast Representative      |
| • Jure Poberaj       | Athlete Representative        |
| • Karla Westcott     | Mid-Continent Representative  |

### Sprint Racing Committee (SRC)

- |                       |                         |
|-----------------------|-------------------------|
| • Scott Greifenberger | Chair                   |
| • Andrew Soles        | Vice Chair              |
| • Cliff Meidl         | Treasurer               |
| • Gina Sanchez        | Secretary               |
| • Jeff Canupp         | Regional Representative |
| • Jim Farnum          | Athlete Representative  |
| • David Fort          | Regional Representative |
| • Maggie Hogan        | Athlete Representative  |
| • Carrie Johnson      | Athlete Representative  |
| • Mike Knopp          | Regional Representative |
| • Cliff Meidl         | Athlete Representative  |
| • Susannah Stucchio   | Regional Representative |



## Thank You

On behalf of all everyone at USA Canoe/Kayak we would like to extend an enormous thank you to all of the volunteers, officials, donors and partners who helped make the 2008 season possible. Your commitment to helping grow the sport in our community and throughout the country is sincerely appreciated.

The mission of USA Canoe/Kayak is to continue to recruit, retain and develop competitive canoe and kayak athletes, coaches and officials to be the best in the world. With the help of all those who volunteer their time and effort we will continue to see improvement and results as we strive towards this goal. Each year USA Canoe/Kayak continues to advance its mission and through our programs we have seen many lives changed for the better.

Without your contribution we would not have seen the success that 2008 brought to all our athletes including participation in the 2008 Beijing Olympic Games. We would like to specifically thank our two Team Leaders at the Beijing Olympic Games: Angela Lokken for slalom and Cliff Meidl for sprint. Their contribution and support cannot be overstated. As our focus shifts to 2009 we reflect on those that made 2008 possible and honor their support with our growth and effort in the upcoming season.

Thanks again for your generous support of our efforts.

Best wishes,





## Contact

USA Canoe/Kayak National Office  
330 South Tryon Street, Lower Level  
Charlotte, NC 28202

Phone: 1.704.348.4330

Fax: 1.704.348.4418

[www.usack.org](http://www.usack.org)