



Whitewater Volunteer of the Year Award

November 6, 2010

This award is presented to the whitewater volunteer who has demonstrated the most outstanding contributions to CanoeKayak BC, and the development of the sport, over the past year.

2010 Recipients - Tim Marks and Cara Marks

Tim has been a volunteer for Victoria Youth Paddling Club's whitewater programs since the fall of 2007. While coaching his daughter Cara, Tim took other club members along on river trips, flatwater gate practice, and pool sessions. Cara's national success and her dream to compete at the Olympics made her a great role model for athletes in our club. Sadly, Cara injured her shoulder in the summer of 2008, and has continued to struggle with her recovery.

Both Tim and Cara continue volunteer their time to coach whitewater athletes at VYPC through these challenging times in Cara's racing career. They have built a dedicated group of 5 competitive slalom athletes, who training regularly on the Cowichan River and at other sites on the South Island. In 2010, VYPC was recognized by Canoe Kayak Canada as a Regional Development Centre for Slalom.



Tim and Cara have made considerable efforts to develop the sport. Tim hosts an indoor slalom race each winter, which attracts about 20 competitors. Tim and Cara, with help from Dawn Marks and Rose Sirois, recently hosted a multi-day whitewater camp getting 19 new paddlers on the river.

Tim helps VYPC in many other areas. He is on our strategic planning committee, and runs our school dragon boat program. As a middle school shop teacher, we also take advantage of his skills for equipment repairs.

Cara has been a coach for our



Girls Only Learn to Paddle program for the past 2 years. She also volunteers at various club functions and fundraisers.

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Previous Recipients:

2009 Don Barrie

Don has just returned from the better part of a week in Ottawa representing BC at the CKC/WW AGM and coaching and LTAD meetings.

He is currently the CKBC-W "Instruction & Coaching Coordinator". He is one of only two "Master Learning Facilitators" for whitewater in BC. Over the years he has put in countless hours developing and updating our WW program, including:

- running eight (8) instructor/coach certification courses across the province
- updating our instruction/coaching manuals
- updating our policies and website
- working with organizations like Thompson River University to promote and encourage adoption of our program
- he is also a former board member of the Vancouver Island Whitewater Paddling Society, and is still active in helping with events, in particular the 5th Annual Puntledge Festival that was held in June
- was a key volunteer for the Cowichan S-Bend Slalom Race in April
- provides kayaking instruction and volunteer time to kids from Brentwood College, as part of their outdoor education program
- volunteers for local tourism associations and runs a successful bed & breakfast (Warm Rapids Inn) and kayaking instruction business on the side!
- overall has boundless energy and enthusiasm, and is a great promoter of paddlesports, and a huge resource for our organization

Sprint members will have the opportunity to meet Don as he has committed to running a WW coaching course in Langley/Fort Langley in April as part of the Sport BC Power of Sport Tour and has agreed to help with the 'Grand Opening' of the Slalom Course on the Salmon River. His is also the first official registered for the upcoming BC Summer Games.

2008 Andrew Mylly

Andrew Mylly had been actively involved in the sport of Whitewater Kayaking in both Ontario and BC for a long period of time both as a competitor and as an administrator or director on national and provincial boards. He started paddling approx 1985 - his mom lived across the road from a rafting company in the Ottawa valley (Forester's Falls ON) so he grew up surrounded by it. He got started when he was pretty young, with instruction from a guy named Dave Freeze, who was a national team C-1 paddler in the mid 80s, and is with the University College of the Cariboo (Kamloops) adventure program. Andrew attended his first nationals in 1987 at the Gull.

Andrew has always been a positive role model, willing to take new paddlers on river runs, or through a course of gates, showing and leading the way. He was actively involved in teaching pool sessions and is a NCCP level 3 certified instructor. He has encouraged younger paddlers to become certified instructors and found ways to help make this possible.

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Andrew never made the Canadian National A team, but he was on the development squad in the mid 1990s. He trained with David Ford a lot in that time period. He was the national team manager at the World Championships in 1999 in Seu D'Urgell Spain when David won his first World Championships.

Andrew has helped paint gates and string many courses. Some include Tamihi Rapids, the Highway, Hope Slough, and Still Creek in Burnaby. Enthusiasm is key with Andrew, he is always willing to help with what needs done. At Nationals Andrew organized and ran the Wildwater Classic race in 2003 and in 2007 he again spearheaded this part of Nationals, adding a Wildwater Sprint to the event. He then tabulated and distributed the results for the event.

Over the past few years, Andrew has developed the timing system the Chilliwack Centre of Excellence uses. Electronic eyes, count down beep timers a timing board and use of a score board for posting the run times so athletes can see their raw time before coming off the water. Each new innovation makes for a better race for the athletes. Andrew has actively been training timers and scorers to ensure there is a broad base of volunteers to draw from for events.

Andrew sat on the board of the Whitewater Kayaking Association of British Columbia (WKABC) as treasurer for 2 years, and as the whitewater representative for 3 more. When CCE had problems with the WKABC, he worked tirelessly to resolve them. Now that Canoe Kayak BC (CKBC) is the Provincial Sport Organization for BC Whitewater, he has taken on the role of president and at this year's AGM for CKBC, he became the VP of Marketing and Fundraising.

Andrew has been the liaison with PacificSport to ensure athletes received their Bronze cards and the opportunity for AAP funding. He has evaluated, updated, and administered the criteria for cards and funding.

At Canoe Kayak Canada (CKC), Andrew is part of the Whitewater High Performance Committee as an advisor to Larry Norman - VP of Slalom and Wildwater.

Andrew is always motivated and reliable; he is fair and looks at all parts before making decisions. He brings the advantage of having been an athlete as well as an organizer to the things he does. Andrew always does his best, looking out for the future of the sport of Whitewater Kayaking.

2007

Shelly Beer & Shonnet Allen