

# Learn Free - Take a NASBLA-approved Online Paddlesports Safety Course



*The new Paddlesports Safety Course contains hundreds of detailed illustrations.*

According to the U.S. Coast Guard, Paddlesports, which include canoeing, kayaking, rafting, and stand up paddling (SUP), is the fastest growing area within recreational boating. With that popularity is a growing number of accidents. In its most recent statistics covering recreational boating, the U.S. Coast Guard reported over 134 fatalities relating to paddling accidents in 2011.

The New Mexico State Parks Division's Boating Safety office, has supported the work of the National Association of State Boating Administrators (NASBLA) and is proud to have one of the leading online boating safety educators bring you a free Paddlesports on-line safety course.

Kerry Moher, Vice President of BOATERexam.com and member of the NASBLA Education Standards Panel said that "Many of us are also avid paddlers. So we put two and two together and decided to create a free course that would help new enthusiasts enjoy the sport safely."

For over eight years, BOATERexam.com has been delivering an online safe boating course for New Mexico that leads to safety certifications required by all Jet Ski, powerboat and sailboat operator born on or after Jan. 1, 1989. It is not required for paddlecraft. However, "There are many safety risks unique to paddling," says Pamela Dillon, NASBLA Education Director and former head of the American Canoe Association. "For example, capsizing is far more frequent. Early in the season, the combination of cold water and an unexpected capsizing can be deadly. So we are excited to have an online course that can help us get that kind of message out."

"By making the course free of charge, we hope that many new paddlers will spend a few minutes to learn some basics before heading out on the water." Anytime is a good time to take the course," concludes Moher. To take the paddlesport course visit [www.boaterexam.com/paddling](http://www.boaterexam.com/paddling).

## Trends in boating accidents

- The 2012 fatality rate was **5.4** deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels. That's a 12.9 percent drop from the 2011 rate of 6.2 deaths per 100,000 registered recreational vessels.
- Overall, the number of accidents in 2012 decreased **1.6 percent** compared with 2011.
- Almost **71 percent** of all fatal boating accident victims drowned; of those, almost **85 percent** were not reported as wearing a life jacket.
- **Seven out of every 10** boaters who drowned were using vessels less than 21 feet in length.

## Paddlesports Information Statewide 2014

NM State Parks can provide the American Canoe Association (ACA) course "Introduction to Kayaking" at lakes during the summer and through the US Coast Guard Auxiliary (Kayaking at Rio Rancho Pool ) Call for contact info. 888-667-2757.

### **Commercial and Community College Ventures (Kayaks, Canoes, Rafts, Paddleboards)**

**Kayak Rentals NM aka Art Chicks** – Siscily Lederman - Paddling Upper El Vado Lake State Park and on Heron Lake State Park and Abiquiu Lake ,  
575-209-0675 [www.kayakrentalnewmexico.com/](http://www.kayakrentalnewmexico.com/)

**New Mexico River Adventures** – Matt Contram (Rio Grande and Chama Rivers Raft, SUP ½, 1 and 2 day trips. Considering for 2014 NM Lakes and Stand up Paddle boarding SUP)  
800-983-7756 [www.newmexicoriveradventures.com/](http://www.newmexicoriveradventures.com/)

**NM Kayak Instruction** – Kelly Gossett (various locations statewide and kayak sales) Instructing kids, teens, adults. Provides ACA Instructor Certifications – Recreational Kayaking, Whitewater, SUP, Adaptive Paddling and Coastal Kayaking. Whitewater touring and SUP NM.  
505-217-2187 [www.newmexicokayakinstruction.com/](http://www.newmexicokayakinstruction.com/)

**Quiet Waters Paddling Adventures** – Michael Hayes – Recreational Sit on Tops and Insides, Canoes. Guided tours Rio Grande north of and within Albuquerque (Rentals and sales in the Albuquerque area.) Cooperates school programs at Fenton Lake State Park 505-771-1234 [www.quietwaterspaddling.com/](http://www.quietwaterspaddling.com/)

**Zia Kayak Outfitters** – Russ Trager - Elephant Butte Lake State Park for recreation kayaking and kayak fishing and kayak fishing guides and tournaments. Extensive kayak sailing and kayak fishing store at the town of Elephant Butte. 575-744-4185 <http://www.ziakayaks.com/>

**San Juan Community College** – Marcel Bieg - (If you are a NM resident there are kayak rentals for use at locations like Navajo Lake and for those that want to work in the adventure sports fields a Full Outdoor Leadership Program is available. Marcel also instructs ACA courses. (505) 566-3113  
[http://www.sanjuancollege.edu/outdoor\\_rentals](http://www.sanjuancollege.edu/outdoor_rentals) <http://www.sanjuancollege.edu/pages/1043.asp>

**Southwest Wind Sports** - Mike Pogzeba -NM Stand Up Paddle boarding at different locations. Annual sale made of current year rentals. (505) 350-7942 [www.windsurfnm.com/windsurfing-equipment/](http://www.windsurfnm.com/windsurfing-equipment/)

**Captain Bob's Whitewater Weekends** - Robert Austin – Elephant Butte Lake State Park and Caballo State Parks Boys and Girls Clubs, Big Brothers and Sisters etc. Family trips and Wounded Warriors (575) 740-3784  
[www.whitewaterweekends.com/](http://www.whitewaterweekends.com/)

**Kayak New Mexico** – Kelly Gossett- A 501c3 that specializes in Paddlesports outreach and instruction annually for physical or developmentally disabled and children at risk. 505-217-2187

**Santa Fe Outrigger Canoe Club** Shiela Buehler...Santa Fe Fire Officer

**Albuquerque Stand Up Paddleboard Surfers**-Gene Scanlon- SUP Trips Instruction and Yoga, Sol Board Sports (505) 450-2658

### **Social Groups w/ Paddlesports, hiking, nature walkers, biking and adventurers groups)**

**Greater Albuquerque/Santa Fe Kayak Community.** 657 members [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

**New Mexico Adventure Racing Club Meet up.** 346 racers [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

**Southwest Stand Up Paddling and Windsurfing.** 113 board heads [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

**New Mexico Kayak Fishing Club.** 19 kayak anglers [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

**Albuquerque Stand Up Paddleboard Surfers.** 129 members [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

**Las Cruces Paddling Meet Up Group** 230 members [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

**Adobe Whitewater Club** [webmaster@adobeww.com](mailto:webmaster@adobeww.com)

**Las Cruces/El Paso Adventurers Meet Up** 711 members [www.meetup.com](http://www.meetup.com)

On line free Paddlesports orientation is available at [www.boaterexam.com/paddling](http://www.boaterexam.com/paddling) and a 14 minute orientation on <http://vimeo.com/7725540>

