The 2012 U.S. Olympic Canoe/Kayak Team will consist of seven athletes competing in seven events. Those events are:

- Sprint - women’s single kayak (K1) 500m, Carrie Johnson
- Sprint - women’s single kayak (K1) 200m, Carrie Johnson
- Sprint - men’s single kayak (K1) 200m, Tim Hornsby
- Slalom - women’s single kayak (K1), Caroline Queen
- Slalom - men’s single kayak (K1), Scott Parsons
- Slalom - men’s single canoe (C1), Casey Eichfeld
- Slalom - men’s double canoe (C2), Eric Hurd & Jeff Larimer

**WHITEMATER SLALOM**
Venue: Lee Valley White Water Centre
Dates: Sunday, July 29 - Thursday, August 2

**FLATWATER SPRINT**
Venue: Eton Dorney
Dates: Monday August 6 - Saturday August 11

**NICHOLAS OLIVIER**  
U.S. Press Officer  
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UK: 077-1414-1406  
US: 210-386-9013
CANOE/KAYAK 101

There are two Olympic disciplines within canoe/kayak: flatwater sprint and whitewater slalom. Flatwater sprint races are often held at the same venues as Olympic rowing. The London 2012 sprint venue is at Eton Dorney, 25 miles west of London. Whitewater slalom courses involve paddlers making their way through rapids around gates, similar to slalom skiing at the Winter Games. The London 2012 slalom venue is the Lee Valley Whitewater Centre, 20 miles north of Olympic Park. Both sprint and slalom involve canoes and kayaks, although women’s canoe is not currently part of the Olympic program. Paralympic Canoe/Kayak was recently voted in for Rio 2016, but will not be part of the London Games.

ABOUT USA CANOE/KAYAK

USA Canoe/Kayak is a non-profit membership organization based in Oklahoma City, OK, 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 Olympic sports of Flatwater Sprint and Whitewater Slalom and the official U.S. federation of the International Canoe Federation. Other paddling sports sanctioned by USA Canoe/Kayak include Marathon, Freestyle, Wildwater, Stand Up Paddleboard, Canoe Polo, Canoe Sailing, Outrigger, and Dragon Boat. For more information about USA Canoe/Kayak, please visit us on the web at www.usack.org, on Twitter at @usacanoekayak and Like us on Facebook at facebook.com/USACanoeKayak.
THE QUALIFICATION PROCESS

The first 2012 Olympic boat quota slots were earned for Team USA by kayakers Scott Parsons and Caroline Queen at the 2011 Slalom World Championships in Slovakia in September, which was the first Olympic qualification event. The rest of the U.S. boats were earned at last chance qualification events. The U.S. earned two sprint kayak slots for London while at the 2011 Pan American Games in Mexico in October. Only a Gold medal at the 2012 Slalom Pan American Championships in Brazil in March would do for the U.S. to earn Olympic slots for singles and doubles canoe. Team USA did just that, qualifying the maximum number of slalom boats - four - for the 2012 Games.

THE SELECTION PROCESS

Sprint kayaker Carrie Johnson was the first canoe/kayak athlete named to the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team. She booked her ticket to London with a first place finish in the Women’s Kayak 500m race at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Trials in Oklahoma City on April 20. Tim Hornsby was faster than Ryan Dolan in the Men’s Kayak 200m at World Cup No. 2 in Duisburg, Germany in May, to earn the lone men’s sprint spot. All four 2012 Olympic slalom boats (and five athletes) were selected at the Slalom World Cup No. 1 in Cardiff, Wales in June.
OLYMPIC FORMAT

---Number of Boats---

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Slalom Event</th>
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<th>Heats</th>
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<th>To Final</th>
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<td>C2M</td>
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The competition starts with heats. Each paddler runs the course twice and the best of these two scores determines the qualifiers for the semifinals. In the semifinal, each paddler runs the course once. The best scores qualify for the final. The final is one run down the course. The athlete with the best score is the winner.

Sprint Event (with U.S. boats)

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Men’s Single Kayak, 200-meters</td>
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<tr>
<td>Women’s Single Kayak, 500-meters</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Women’s Single Kayak, 200-meters</td>
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Athletes will progress through heats, semifinals and finals. The exact format of the competition depends on how many boats are competing. Click the links above for the most up-to-date information.

OLYMPIC SCHEDULE

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FUN FACTS

• Carrie Johnson will enter a four-year veterinary program at the University of California-Davis immediately after returning from London.
• Carrie Johnson was a gymnast for many years before a broken arm led her to a switch in sports.
• Tim Hornsby's girlfriend Becky Holliday will also be in London, competing for Team USA in the pole vault.
• Tim Hornsby is the first Olympian produced by the Lanier (Ga.) Canoe and Kayak Club, which is based at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic venue.
• Caroline Queen took off the past Spring semester from Davidson College to focus on Olympic qualification but has arranged to earn credits working on projects while travelling.
• Caroline Queen became the youngest woman to make a U.S. Slalom National Team at age 15.
• Casey Eichfeld uses dancing as a cross-training activity to improve balance and flexibility.
• Casey Eichfeld was the youngest solo competitor at a U.S. Slalom National Championships at age eight.
• Scott Parson's wife Lauren Bixby also paddled competitively, making a U.S. Junior Team before injuries cut her career short.
• Eric Hurd has been referred to by everyone as "Butter" since 1999.
• Jeff Larimer is a carpenter.
• USA Canoe/Kayak CEO Joe Jacobi won the Gold medal in slalom doubles canoe at the Barcelona 1992 Olympic Games.
**STORYLINES**

**Sprint to the Finish:** The 200-meter distance will be making its Olympic debut for men’s sprint kayak and canoe, replacing the 500-meter races. It brings the “fastest paddler in the world” element to the sport, similar to track and field. Also, the spectators can see the race develop from start to finish, usually lasting 35 seconds.

**Competing with Crohn’s:** Carrie Johnson, 28, was diagnosed with Crohn’s disease in 2003, while rehabilitating a elbow injury. The illness left her unable to train in the 2003 and 2009 seasons. Johnson was accepted into the UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and will begin the four-year program immediately upon returning from London. She has decided that the 2012 Games will be her last.

**Is Third Time the Charm?** Scott Parsons, 32, hasn’t decided yet whether the 2012 Games will be his final run at an Olympic medal. He placed 6th at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games and one crucial error knocked him out of medal contention in 2008. He emerged as the most consistent U.S. slalom paddler during the 2012 Olympic selection process. Men’s Slalom Kayak is one of the most competitive disciplines in the U.S. but Parsons outlasted a number of challengers. The veteran paddler hopes his steady hand will lead to the elusive Olympic medal.

**Going It Alone:** Casey Eichfeld, 22, returns for his second Olympic Games. But this time, he’ll be paddling solo as the U.S. representative in Slalom Single Canoe (C1). In 2008, an 18-year-old Eichfeld competed for Team USA with partner Rick Powell in Doubles Canoe (C2). Prior to both Olympics, Eichfeld waited until the last possible race to take the lead in U.S. Olympic selection points and clinch the spot on the Olympic Team. He finished second in the 2012 Olympic selection process in C2.

**A True Student-Athlete:** Caroline Queen, 20, is a sophomore at Davidson College in North Carolina, a short drive from the U.S. National Whitewater Center and site of the 2012 U.S. Olympic Slalom Team Trials. She took the Spring 2012 semester off from school to focus on Olympic qualification. She plans to enroll in medical school after completing her undergraduate studies. She cross-trains as a member of the Davidson club field hockey team. She attempted to qualify for the 2008 Games at 16 years of age. Even now, she’s 13 years younger than Olympic teammate Scott Parsons.

**Like Fathers, Like Sons:** Eric Hurd, 26, and Jeff Larimer, 31, are both following in the wake of their paddling fathers, Mike Hurd and Mike Larimer. The elder Hurd and Larimer trained with each other on the Chattahoochee River just north of Atlanta. Mike Hurd was also a high school All-American basketball player.
Mike Larimer narrowly missed out on paddling for Team USA at the 1992 Olympic Games, but he was able to coach the U.S. Canoe/Kayak Team at the Atlanta 1996 Olympics. Surprisingly, their sons have only recently joined forces in doubles canoe. But the duo quickly established themselves as the best C-2 boat in North and South America with a Gold medal at the 2012 Pan American Championships.

Four Years Wiser: Tim Hornsby, 26, attended the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games as a training partner for U.S. Olympian Rami Zur. Hornsby, 26 returns to the Olympic stage - this time as an Olympian - after outlasted teammates Zur and Ryan Dolan in the long 2012 selection process. Joining Hornsby in London will be his girlfriend Becky Holliday, who qualified for her first Olympics in pole vaulting. Hornsby is the first Olympian produced by the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club, which has won 10 National Championships. Lake Lanier hosted the canoe/kayak and rowing events at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games.

Others to Watch: Slovakia has been dominant in slalom paddling of late. Both the men’s doubles and single canoe boats will look to continue their dominance in London. Twins Pavol and Peter Hochschorner hope to earn their fourth straight Olympic Gold medal, while Michal Martikan will race for his fifth Olympic medal in five Games. Sprint kayaker Tim Brabants, from Great Britain, plans to ride the home course advantage to his fourth medal in three Olympic Games. In between Games, Brabants took time off to complete medical school and is an emergency room doctor.
### All-Time Olympic Medal Counts

#### Canoe/Kayak - Both Sprint and Slalom

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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#### Canoe/Kayak - Only Sprint

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#### Canoe/Kayak - Only Slalom

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BEIJING 2008 - Only SPRINT

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BEIJING 2008 - Only Slalom

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U.S. CANOE/KAYAK OLYMPIC MEDALS

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<td>1992</td>
<td>Greg Barton</td>
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<td>1988</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Greg Barton, Norm Bellingham</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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<td>1984</td>
<td>Greg Barton</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>Jamie McEwan</td>
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<td>Marcia Jones Smoke</td>
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<td>Francine Fox, Gloria Perrier</td>
<td>Silver</td>
<td>Sprint Women's K2 500m</td>
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<td>1952</td>
<td>Frank Havens</td>
<td>Gold</td>
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<td>1948</td>
<td>Frank Havens</td>
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<td>1948</td>
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<td>1936</td>
<td>Ernie Riedel</td>
<td>Bronze</td>
<td>Sprint Men's K1 10,000m</td>
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CARRIE JOHNSON

(Discipline/Events: Sprint Kayak, K1 500m, K1 200m
Hometown: San Diego, Calif.
Birthplace: San Diego, Calif.
Current Residence: Chula Vista, Calif. - Olympic Training Center
Birthdate: 1/16/1984
Height: 5’6”
College: UC-San Diego ‘09 Biochemistry;
UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine ‘16
Team: San Diego Canoe and Kayak Team
Coach: Stein Jorgensen


Olympic Experience:
• 2008: 10th in K1 500m
• 2004: Reached semifinals in both K1 500m and K4 500m (with Kathy Colin, Marie Mijalis, Lauren Spalding)

How She Qualified: Johnson, 28 earned the Olympic boat quota slot for the U.S. by winning Gold in K1 500m at the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico on October 28. She then clinched the spot for herself with a 1st place finish in the K1 500m at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Oklahoma City on April 20, becoming the first canoe/kayak athlete to be named to the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team.

Recent Results:
• 2012 World Cup No. 2: 9th in K1 200m, 21st in K1 500m
• 2012 World Cup No. 1: 15th in K1 500m, 22nd in K1 200m
• 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials: 1st in K1 500m, 1st in K1 200m
• 2011 Pan American Games: GOLD in K1 500m, GOLD in K1 200m
• 2011 World Championships: 17th in K1 200m, 20th in K1 500m
• 2011 World Cup No. 3: 9th in K1 200m, 12th in K1 500m
• 2011 World Cup No. 2: 6th in K1 500m, 7th in K1 200m

Career Highlights:
• 2010 World Championships: 10th
• Beijing Test Event: SILVER in K1 500m
• 2007 World Championships: 5th in K1 500m, 4th in K1 1000m
• 2007 World Cup No. 2: 1st in K1 1000m
• 2006 World Championships: 6th
• 2005 World Championships: 8th
Competing with Crohn's: Johnson, 28, was diagnosed with Crohn's disease in 2003, while rehabilitating a elbow injury. The illness left her unable to train in the 2003 and 2009 seasons. Johnson was accepted into the UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine and will begin the four-year program immediately upon returning from London. She has decided that the 2012 Games will be her last.

Fiancé: Swiss paddler David Gubser. They met at the opening ceremonies for the 2005 World Championships. He has since retired from competition.

Family: Parents - Ronald and Sally Johnson; Sisters - Stacy and Virginia

Nickname: "Care Bear"

Job: Immediately following the 2012 Games, Johnson will begin a four-year program at the UC-Davis School of Veterinary Medicine

Hobbies: Painting, learning to surf

Quote: "Falling in life is unavoidable. Staying down is optional."

Honors: USOC Athlete of the Month (May 2007), San Diego Hall of Champions Athlete of the Month (August 2007)

Getting started: Johnson was introduced to the sport through the San Diego Jr. Lifeguard program when Chris Barlow started San Diego Canoe and Kayak Team.

Facebook: https://www.facebook.com/CarrieKayak

In the News: Los Angeles Times, USA Today.

Johnson blew everyone out of the water in 2004 when she finished first in the K1 500m race, earning an automatic spot on the 2004 U.S. Olympic Team. At the Games in Athens, she had the highest U.S. Canoe/Kayak finish at 10th - barely missing the cut to nine for the finals at age 20. Four years later, she became the first member of the 2008 U.S. Olympic Team - Canoe/Kayak to qualify by name.

Johnson, a native of San Diego, has been training at the Olympic Training Center in Chula Vista, Calif. since 2002. She got involved in sports at a young age and started swimming when she was only three months old. She has participated in soccer, dancing and diving and was a gymnast for 11 years.
TIM HORNBY

Discipline/Event: Sprint Kayak, K1 200m
Hometown: Atlanta, Ga.
Birthplace: Atlanta, Ga.
Current Residence: San Diego, Calif.
Birthdate: 7/20/1986
Height: 6’3”
College: UC-San Diego, aerospace engineering
Team: Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club

First-time Olympian: 2012

How He Qualified: Hornsby, 26, took the long way to Olympic qualification. He won the Men’s K1 200m event at the 2011 Sprint National Championships in Gainesville, Ga. on Aug. 6. But it was teammate Ryan Dolan who qualified the Olympic boat quota slot for the U.S. at the 2011 Pan American Games in Guadalajara, Mexico on October 28. Hornsby pulled even with Dolan in the Olympic selection process by winning the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Oklahoma City on April 20, forcing a race-off between the two at the first two 2012 World Cups. Hornsby clinched the spot for himself with a 14th place finish at the 2012 World Cup No. 2 in Duisburg, Germany on May 27.

Recent Results:
• 2012 World Cup No. 2: 14th in K1 200m
• 2012 World Cup No. 1: 25th in K1 200m
• 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials: 1st in K1 200m
• 2011 Pan American Games: 5th in K2 200m with Ryan Dolan
• 2011 World Championships: 25th in K2 200m
• 2011 World Cup No. 3: 14th in K2 200m
• 2011 World Cup No. 2: 23rd in K2 200m
• 2011 National Championships: K1 200m

Career Highlights:
• 2008 Olympic training partner
• 2010 Vichy World Cup: 11th in K1 200m
• 2008 Szeged World Cup: 4th in K1 200m, 8th in K2 500m, 8th in K2 1000m
• 2006 Pan American Championships: 3rd in K1 200m
Four Years Wiser: Hornsby, 26, attended the Beijing 2008 Olympic Games as a training partner for U.S. Olympian Rami Zur. Hornsby returns to the Olympic stage - this time as an Olympian - after outlasted teammates Zur and Ryan Dolan in the long 2012 selection process. Joining Hornsby in London will be his girlfriend Becky Holliday, who qualified for her first Olympics in pole vaulting. Hornsby is the first Olympian produced by the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club, which has won 10 National Championships. Lake Lanier hosted the canoe/kayak and rowing events at the Atlanta 1996 Olympic Games.

Girlfriend: 2012 U.S. Olympic pole vaulter Becky Holliday
Nickname: “Timmay”
Job: tutor
Hobbies: kitesurf, surf, biking, travel
Hero: Lance Armstrong

Website: http://www.timhornsby.net/
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tim-Hornsby/117672079303
Twitter: https://twitter.com/Tim_Hornsby

In the News: TeamUSA.org

Son of Roger and Patti Hornsby, Tim was born on July 20, 1986 in Atlanta, Georgia. He attended Lakeside High School in Atlanta and graduated in 2004. Tim has been on the water since age 11 when he learned to paddle at spring break camp. After high school, Tim was accepted to the University of California San Diego, Jacob’s School of Engineering.

He was first coached by Tony Hall in 1997 at the Lanier Canoe and Kayak Club. Tim’s Breakout year was in 2003, when he went to the World Junior Championships and placed 10th in the K2 1000-meter race at the age of 17. While still competing with the Junior National Team, Tim was in the K4 boat that placed 4th at Olympic Trials in 2004.

In 2006 at the Pan American Championships he placed 3rd in the K1 200-meter race. Then in 2007, Tim placed 2nd in the 4x100 meter relay at the World Cup in Szeged, Hungary. Tim has really begun to grow into a world class competitor. He started out 2008 by placing 1st at Olympic Trials in K2 500-meter race, as well as the K4 1000-meter race. He went on to compete in the World Cup circuit and placed 8th in the K2 500-meter race, and 8th in the K2 1000-meter race in Szeged, Hungary.
CAROLINE QUEEN
(link)

Discipline/Event: Slalom Kayak
Hometown: Darnestown, Md.
Birthplace: Knoxville, Tenn.
Current Residence: Davidson, N.C.
Birthdate: 3/5/1992
Height: 5’3”
College: Davidson College ’14 Psychology
Club: Potomac Whitewater Racing Club

First-time Olympian: 2012

How She Qualified: Queen, 20, earned the Olympic boat quota slot in Women’s Slalom Kayak for the U.S. by placing 37th at the 2011 World Championships in Bratislava, Slovakia on September 9. Teammate Ashley Nee pulled even in Olympic selection points by winning the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Charlotte on April 14. The lone Olympic slot would go to whichever paddler finished higher at the 2012 World Cup No. 1 in Cardiff, Wales. Queen booked her ticket for London on June 9 with a 35th place finish, 1.06 seconds faster than Nee.

Recent Results:
• 2012 Junior World Championships: 17th in U23 Women’s Kayak
• 2012 World Cup No. 1: 35th
• 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials: 2nd
• 2012 Australian Open: 9th
• 2011 World Championships: 37th
• 2011 National Championships: 1st
• Reached second round at the London 2012 Olympic Test Event
• 2011 World Cup No. 3: 18th
• 2011 World Cup No. 2: 18th
• Placed 24th among Women’s Kayaks in the final 2011 ICF World Cup Standings

Career Highlights:
• 2010 National Championships: 2nd
• 2008 World Cup No. 1: 19th
• U.S. National Team Member in 2007-08, 2010-12
A True Student-Athlete: Queen, 20, is a sophomore at Davidson College in North Carolina, a short drive from the U.S. National Whitewater Center and site of the 2012 U.S. Olympic Slalom Team Trials. She took the Spring 2012 semester off from school to focus on Olympic qualification. She plans to enroll in medical school after completing her undergraduate studies. She cross-trains as a member of the Davidson club field hockey team. She attempted to qualify for the 2008 Games at 16 years of age. Even now, she’s 13 years younger than Olympic teammate Scott Parsons.

Nickname: “Bam Bam”
Job: Student
Hobbies: field hockey, reading, basketball
Quote: "Obstacles are what you see when you take your eyes off the goal."
Role Models: I certainly look up to Rebecca Giddens and Sarah Leith as athlete role models. My parents are also great mentors to me.
Trivia: Although I have dedicated much of my time to slalom, kayaking is not my only sport. I love field hockey and continue to play on my college’s club team. I also enjoy trying new sports and have taken up basketball as a new cross-train. I am also a very dedicated student. I plan to attend medical school in pursuit of a degree in psychiatry after acquiring my undergraduate degree from Davidson.

Website: http://carolinequeen.com/
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/carolinequeenslalom
Twitter: https://twitter.com/SlalomLina
YouTube: http://www.youtube.com/user/carolinequeenusa/featured

In the News: Baltimore Sun. TeamUSA.org.

Caroline Queen first began paddling slalom at Valley Mill Camp in her hometown of Darnestown, MD at the age of nine. She soon entered regular training in the summer of 2002, when she began working with the US Junior Team coach, Martin Nevaril. With Martin’s guidance, she blossomed as a young paddler. In 2006, then fourteen-year-old Queen attended her first US National team trials, when surprised the slalom community by winning Day 2 of the competition. The following year, Queen began training with National Team coach Silvan Poberaj. With help from both Poberaj and former team member Joe Jacobi, she became the youngest woman ever to make the US National team.

Queen did not race in the 2009 season due to a severe knee injury that prevented her from attending the 2009 Team Trials in Durango.
SCOTT PARSONS

Discipline/Event: Slalom Kayak
Hometown: Bethesda, Md.
Birthplace: Sylvania, Ohio
Current Residence: Bethesda, Md.
Birthdate: 3/27/1979
Height: 5’9”
Team: Potomax Whitewater Racing Club


Olympic Experience:
• 2008: 20th
• 2004: 6th

How He Qualified: Parsons, 33, earned the Olympic boat quota slot in Men’s Slalom Kayak for the U.S. by placing 15th at the 2011 World Championships in Bratislava, Slovakia on September 11. He earned points toward Olympic selection by finishing 1st at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Charlotte on April 14. Finally, he clinched the spot for himself with a 11th place finish at the 2012 World Cup No. 1 in Cardiff, Wales on June 9. Despite facing a highly competitive class of U.S. men’s kayaks, Parsons led throughout the Olympic selection process.

Recent Results:
• 2012 World Cup No. 1: 11th
• 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials: 1st
• 2011 World Championships: 15th
• 2011 World Cup No. 2: 8th
• Placed 10th among Men’s Kayaks in the final 2011 ICF World Cup Standings

Career Highlights:
• 2007 World Championships: 7th
• 2004 USA Canoe/Kayak Male Athlete of the Year
**Is Third Time the Charm?** Parsons, 32, hasn’t decided yet whether the 2012 Games will be his final run at an Olympic medal. He placed 6th at the Athens 2004 Olympic Games and one crucial error knocked him out of medal contention in 2008. He emerged as the most consistent U.S. slalom paddler during the 2012 Olympic selection process. Men’s Slalom Kayak is one of the most competitive disciplines in the U.S. but Parsons outlasted a number of challengers. The veteran paddler hopes his steady hand will lead to the elusive Olympic medal.

**Wife:** Lauren Bixby also kayaked competitively, making a U.S. Junior Team. Her slalom career was cut short because of shoulder problems and the subsequent surgeries. Despite joint problems she has trained for and run a half marathon as well as a full marathon and paddles slalom on class one whitewater everyday.

**Family:** Parents - William and Mary; brother - Brian, and sister-in-law, Nancy...Has two cats and one dog...Father ran a paddling training center...Learned to kayak with his brother, family took lessons at YMCA

**Job:** Worked as a part-time prosthetic technician at the Medical Center Orthotics and Prosthetics.

**Hobbies:** Reading, kayaking for fun.


**Twitter:** [http://twitter.com/scottypkayak](http://twitter.com/scottypkayak)

**In the News:** [Washington Post](https://www.washingtonpost.com/). [NBC DC](http://nbc4.com).

Scotty is at his best on big whitewater. Years of surfing the big waves on the Potomac and training at the demanding Dickerson Whitewater course just outside of Washington, DC has given him unequalled boat control and whitewater skills. Scotty, as he’s called by his friends, is one of the most loved paddlers in the USA. There is certainly a lot to like about him. His paddling style is a combination of the strength he has earned from years of training and the technical grace that makes him so fun to watch.
CASEY EICHFELD

(link)

**Discipline/Event:** Slalom Single Canoe (C1)
**Hometown:** Drums, Pa.
**Birthplace:** Harrisburg, Pa.
**Current Residence:** Charlotte, N.C.
**Birthdate:** 11/15/1989
**Height:** 5’10”
**Club:** Potomac Whitewater Racing Club


**Olympic Experience:**
- 2008: 11th in Doubles Canoe (C2) with [Rick Powell](#)

**How He Qualified:** Eichfeld, 22, came from behind to earn his spot on the 2012 Olympic Team. Teammate Benn Fraker, a 2008 Olympian, earned the Olympic boat quota slot in Men’s Slalom Canoe for the U.S. by winning Gold at the 2012 Pan American Championships in Foz do Iguassu, Brazil on March 11. Eichfeld placed 2nd in Brazil and then finished runner-up to Fraker at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Charlotte on April 14. In order to book his ticket to London, Eichfeld needed to finish in the Top 20 at the 2012 World Cup No. 1 in Cardiff, Wales, and three places higher than Fraker. Eichfeld clinched the spot on June 9 with a 6th place finish, ahead of Fraker in 11th place.

**Recent Results:**
- 2012 Junior World Championships: 17th in U23 C1
- 2012 World Cup No. 1: 6th in C1, 13th in C2 with Devin McEwan
- 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials: 2nd in C1, 2nd in C2
- 2011 Pan American Championships: 2nd in C1, 2nd in C2
- 2012 Australian Open: 17th in C1, 15th in C2
- 2011 World Championships: 19th in C1, 36th in C2
- 2011 National Championships: 2nd in C1, 3rd in C2
- Reached second round at the London 2012 Olympic Test Event
- 2011 World Cup No. 4: 16th
- 2011 World Cup No. 2: 13th
- Placed 18th among Women’s Kayaks in the final 2011 ICF World Cup Standings
Going It Alone: Eichfeld, 22, returns for his second Olympic Games. But this time, he’ll be paddling solo as the U.S. representative in Slalom Single Canoe (C1). In 2008, an 18-year-old Eichfeld competed for Team USA with partner Rick Powell in Doubles Canoe (C2). Prior to both Olympics, Eichfeld waited until the last possible race to take the lead in U.S. Olympic selection points and clinch the spot on the Olympic Team. He finished second in the 2012 Olympic selection process in C2.

Family: Parents - Steve and Kathy Eichfeld; Sister - Erin; Brother - Devon
Hobbies: mountain biking, swimming, climbing
In the Community: Offers paddling instructions with the American Red Cross
Role Model: Jon Lugbill, because he inspired me with his career and his sportsmanship.
Trivia: I danced for seven years for balance and flexibility in my back

Website: http://www.caseyeichfeld.us/
Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/CaseyEichfeldCanoeSlalom
Twitter: https://twitter.com/kckanu

Casey started paddling in whitewater at age two and slalom racing at age five. At the age of eight, Casey was the youngest National Slalom Cadet Team member and the youngest solo competitor at a U.S. Whitewater Slalom Nationals. At age 14, he was competing in Europe as a National Junior Team member. In June 2000, Casey was recognized as one of the "Paddlers of the Next Century" by Paddler magazine. And, in the Sports Illustrated for Kids October 2000 Olympic issue, Casey was listed as a future "Olympic Hotshot."
First-time Olympian: 2012

How He Qualified: Consistency was key for Hurd, 26, and Jeff Larimer, 31, to emerge among a trio of U.S. doubles canoe boats with the lone Olympic slot. earned the Olympic boat quota slot in Men’s Slalom Kayak for the U.S. by winning Gold at the 2012 Pan American Championships in Foz do Iguassu, Brazil on March 10. Hurd and Larimer then earned points toward Olympic selection by finishing 1st at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Charlotte on April 14. Finally, the tandem clinched the spot for themselves with a 9th place finish at the 2012 World Cup No. 1 in Cardiff, Wales on June 10.

Recent Results:
- 2012 World Cup No. 1: 9th in C2 with Jeff Larimer
- 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials: 1st in C2, 5th in K1
- 2011 Pan American Championships: GOLD in C2
- 2011 World Championships: 32nd in C2
- 2011 National Championships: 2nd in C2, 2nd in K1
- 2011 World Cup No. 3: 18th

Career Highlights:
- 2010 U.S. Open: 1st in K1
- 2010 ICF International: BRONZE in K1
- 2008 Pan American Championships: SILVER in K1
Like Fathers, Like Sons: Hurd, 26, and Larimer, 31, are both following in the wake of their paddling fathers, Mike Hurd and Mike Larimer. The elder Hurd and Larimer trained with each other on the Chattahoochee River just north of Atlanta. Mike Hurd was also a high school All-American basketball player. Mike Larimer narrowly missed out on paddling for Team USA at the 1992 Olympic Games, but he was able to coach the U.S. Canoe/Kayak Team at the Atlanta 1996 Olympics. Surprisingly, their sons have only recently joined forces in doubles canoe. But the duo quickly established themselves as the best C-2 boat in North and South America with a Gold medal at the 2012 Pan American Championships.

Fiance: Becca Kirlin, wedding set for September 29, 2012
Hobbies: alternative fuels, recycling
Quote: "Some run a race to see who's fastest. I run a race to see who has the most guts."
Nickname: "Butter"
How'd you get that name? I believe it was spring 1999. I was at a training camp in Washington D.C. on the Potomac River, with a team of all ages. I was the youngest, so naturally, I was the one to get the dares and pranks. One evening, while at a steak restaurant, my teammates bet that I couldn’t eat all the butter that came with the bread appetizer. Of course, looking up to the older athletes, I ate it all - without thinking twice. It was just one of those nicknames that stuck. It fully solidified on a world level later that summer. At the Junior World Championships in Poland, I had just secured 15th place in the world for the “18-and-under” category. I was 13. My coach came over to me and said, “I guess you’ve got to be Butter, because you are on a roll.”

Facebook: http://www.facebook.com/pages/HurdLarimer-C-2-for-Gold/263782190301988
Twitter: https://twitter.com/erichurdkayak

Eric’s training began at the “waterworks” in Atlanta- a single class II rapid with numerous gates set up for training during the week. On weekends he and his father would travel to the Nantahala Outdoor Center, in western North Carolina, for more extensive workouts on the Nantahala River. In August 2006, the US National Whitewater Center opened in Charlotte, North Carolina. Naturally, Eric moved to train on the hardest racecourse ever built in the country.

Overall, the sport has enabled Eric’s incredible work ethic and dedication to shine, as he is a strong-willed and big-hearted athlete. He has taken on other roles in the local community such as volunteering for organizations like the Gastonia Junior Chamber, the Schiele Museum of Natural History and Keep Gastonia Beautiful. He has worked at the US National Whitewater Center and at a local café, where both jobs have allowed for an extensive training schedule. In addition, Eric has continued to challenge himself as he continues his education, going to school in the fall semester when training is less intense. He intends to continue until he receives a Bachelor’s degree.
JEFF LARIMER
(link)

Discipline/Event: Slalom Double Canoe (C2)
Position: Stern, rear of boat
Hometown: Marietta, Ga.
Birthplace: Atlanta, Ga.
Current Residence: Kennesaw, Ga.
Birthdate: 2/3/1981
Height: 6'2"
College: Georgia State
Club: Atlanta Center of Excellence

First-time Olympian: 2012

How He Qualified: Consistency was key for Larimer, 31, and Eric Hurd, 26, to emerge among a trio of U.S. doubles canoe boats with the lone Olympic slot. earned the Olympic boat quota slot in Men’s Slalom Kayak for the U.S. by winning Gold at the 2012 Pan American Championships in Foz do Iguassu, Brazil on March 10. Hurd and Larimer then earned points toward Olympic selection by finishing 1st at the 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials in Charlotte on April 14. Finally, the tandem clinched the spot for themselves with a 9th place finish at the 2012 World Cup No. 1 in Cardiff, Wales on June 10.

Recent Results:
• 2012 World Cup No. 1: 9th in C2 with Eric Hurd
• 2012 U.S. Olympic Team Trials: 1st in C2
• 2011 Pan American Championships: GOLD in C2
• 2011 World Championships: 32nd in C2
• 2011 National Championships: 2nd in C2
• 2006 World Championships: 18th in C1
Like Fathers, Like Sons: Hurd, 26, and Larimer, 31, are both following in the wake of their paddling fathers, Mike Hurd and Mike Larimer. The elder Hurd and Larimer trained with each other on the Chattahoochee River just north of Atlanta. Mike Hurd was also a high school All-American basketball player. Mike Larimer narrowly missed out on paddling for Team USA at the 1992 Olympic Games, but he was able to coach the U.S. Canoe/Kayak Team at the Atlanta 1996 Olympics. Surprisingly, their sons have only recently joined forces in doubles canoe. But the duo quickly established themselves as the best C-2 boat in North and South America with a Gold medal at the 2012 Pan American Championships.

**Job:** carpentry  
**Hobbies:** drumming  
**Hero:** Nikola Tesla, he was a real life mad scientist.  
**Honors:** 2010 Georgia State University Field Camp Award  
**Trivia:** I have the voice of an angel

**Facebook:** [http://www.facebook.com/pages/HurdLarimer-C-2-for-Gold/263782190301988](http://www.facebook.com/pages/HurdLarimer-C-2-for-Gold/263782190301988)
SILVAN POBERAJ (link) 2012 U.S. Olympic Slalom Team Coach: Poberaj is the longest tenured national team coach that USA Canoe/Kayak has ever had, signing on with Team USA in 1994. London 2012 will be his fifth Olympics as coach of the United States. Born in Slovenia, he coached the Slovenian Olympic Team in 1992, adding a sixth Games to his resume.

RAFAL SMOLEN (link) 2012 U.S. Olympic Slalom Team Coach: Smolen joined USA Canoe/Kayak in 2011 as its Slalom National Development and Coaching Manager. In that capacity, he worked with Poberaj to coordinate training camps, selection procedures and adherence to the high performance plan, all with an eye toward success at the international level. The Polish-born coach previously coached the Nantahala Racing Club in Western North Carolina. He coached numerous U.S. Senior and Junior National Teams, including the 2000 U.S. Olympic Team. He coached the Canadian National Slalom Team in 2005 and the 2008 Chilean Olympic Team. His 18-year-old son, Michal, is competed for the U.S. at 2012 World Cups No. 2 and 3.

STEIN JORGENSEN (link) 2012 U.S. Olympic Sprint Team Coach: The two-time U.S. Olympic kayaker will coach at his first Olympic Games in London. He coached the U.S. National Team during the 2008 and 2010 seasons and has served as 2012 Olympian Carrie Johnson's personal coach on and off since 2005. Jorgensen didn’t begin paddling flatwater sprint until his late 20s, but within seven years, he won the World Championships in 200m Kayak Doubles in 1995. He raced 500m Kayak Doubles at the 1996 Games and at the 200 Games, he raced 500m Kayak Singles and placed fourth in 1,000m Kayak Fours. Jorgensen currently works full-time as a firefighter with the Chula Vista Fire Department.
Shaun Caven, 2012 U.S. Olympic Sprint Team Manager/Coach: A native of Castle Douglass, Scotland, Caven coached the 2008 British Olympic Canoe/Kayak Team, which featured a gold medalist in kayaker Tim Brabants. Before that, Caven coached the Scottish National Team from 1997 to 2001 and the British Junior Team from 2001 to 2005. In 2009, Caven set up shop in Oklahoma City, where he serves as head coach for the OKC National High Performance Center and the Oklahoma City University varsity kayak program. He coached Team USA at the 2009 World Championships.

WILLIAM IRVING
Olympic Team Leader/
National Teams Dir.

GERALD BABAO
Operations Director

JOE JACOBI
USA Canoe/Kayak CEO
Oklahoma City is one of the country’s most exciting and unique cities with a heritage steeped in pioneer spirit, but always with an eye toward the future. And nowhere is this more apparent than at the Oklahoma River. A dry riverbed only a few short years ago, the river has been transformed into one of the city’s crown jewels. The Chesapeake Boathouse was the first structure to be built on the newly rejuvenated river in 2006, and it has quickly become a center of community activity and a focal point for national and international racing events. Now the addition of the four-story Chesapeake Finish Line Tower and the Oklahoma City National High Performance Center in the Devon Boathouse have bolstered this venue, and, the support of the corporate community in partnership with City leaders continues to fuel this world-class development.

The vision for the Oklahoma River began many years ago with the city’s first MAPS (metropolitan area projects), a one-cent sales tax to fund quality of life project across Oklahoma City. Plans are now underway for construction of $60 million in additional projects as part of MAPS 3. The centerpiece of the Oklahoma River projects is a $30 million whitewater rafting and kayak center. Additional river projects include permanent lighting for night racing, a wind screen, grandstands, jumbotron and race course infrastructure – all designed to create a “river stadium” to be used for youth and adult kayaking and rowing for all ages and at all levels of competition.

Events hosted in the Boathouse District include Olympic Trials • Canoe/Kayak in 2008 and 2012; USA Canoe/Kayak National Championships in 2008 and 2010. And, in 2014 the ICF Canoe Marathon World Championships comes to the Boathouse District.