

American Kneeboard Association

News

2/2025



ALERT: Skionee sets date for its first event in 2025. Details will be posted soon. March 22.

Setting the Pace for 2025

The American Kneeboard Association is proud to recognize the outstanding contributions of three exceptional members who have truly gone above and beyond in their service to the community in 2024. It is through the remarkable commitment of these individuals that we are able to thrive and grow as a recognized discipline of USA Water Ski & Wake Sports. Congratulations to this year's honorees!

A'lisa Piper

AKA Co-Ambassador of the Year

A'lisa is a true pioneer in kneeboarding and a transformative leader in the sport. With an impressive legacy as nine-time Chairman of the AKA Board of Directors and thirteen-time AKA Kneeboarder of the Year, she has consistently demonstrated excellence at the highest level of competition. Her groundbreaking achievements include being the only female kneeboard competitor worldwide to successfully execute an invert in competition. Her dominance as an Elite Open Women Competitor, winning Slalom, Trick, and Freestyle events showcases her exceptional versatility on the water. Born into a water ski family and kneeboarding since the age of two, she brings unparalleled expertise, not only as a competitor, but also as a USA WSWS trained driver. Her visionary leadership has been instrumental in re-inventing the American Kneeboard Association, while her key role in Skionee Board Team demonstrates her ongoing commitment to advancing the sport. This combination of athletic achievement, pioneering accomplishments, and transformative leadership re-inventing AKA makes her an extraordinary ambassador who is fundamentally shaping the future of competitive kneeboarding. Congratulations A'lisa Piper.



A'lisa Piper, AKA Co-Ambassador of the Year
AKA 2025 National Secretary
Skionee Board Team 2025 President
USA WSWS Safety Coordinator
USA WSWS Trained Driver
World Rider Cup Ripper Division Slalom (38 buoys)
World Rider Cup Women Freestyle Record (4438)
World Rider Cup Women Flipout Record (5/21.84sec.)
AKA Girls Slalom Record Holder, (41 buoys)
AKA Freestyle Record Holder (6540)

Danny Sauls

AKA Co-Ambassador of the Year

Danny Sauls stands as a cornerstone of the water skiing community at Red Water Lake, where he's known not just as a skilled athlete but as a dedicated family man and passionate advocate for kneeboarding. As a member of the first Water Ski family on Red Water Lake and a vital part of the Skionee Board Team, Danny has made significant contributions to the sport he loves. Danny's specialty lies in the slalom event, where he regularly demonstrates his expertise during practice sessions. His dedication to the sport shows in every performance, inspiring both newcomers and seasoned athletes alike. Following in the footsteps of his father, Ed Sauls (a past AKA president), Danny continues to build upon his family's water sports legacy. As a husband and father of two children, he can often be found on weekends at Red Water Lake, where he splits his time between practicing his own skills and teaching others. Early in 2024, Danny played a pivotal role in reimagining the American Kneeboard Association (AKA), working from his home lake in partnership with [A'lisa Piper](#). His commitment to the sport's future led to his nomination to the AKA Board of Directors, where he now helps shape the organization's direction. Danny's role in kneeboarding's future is significant, as he bridges the gap between traditional competition and the next generation of athletes. His hands-on approach to teaching and leadership makes him not just an Ambassador of the Year, but a true ambassador for the sport itself. Congratulations Danny Sauls!.



Danny Sauls, AKA Co-Ambassador of the Year
AKA 2025 National President
Skionee Board Team 2025 Vice President
USA WWS Trained Driver

Rob Lawson

AKA Volunteer of the Year

Rob Lawson has transformed countless lives through his unwavering dedication to Skionee Board Team and AKA. Over the past year, he logged more than 100 hours as a new AKA member, working on the leadership committee for Skionee, working towards becoming an AKA rated driver, and assisting, without question, beginner kneeboarders mount and ride kneeboards. He was instrumental with event set up, ensuring when participants arrived, they had an impressive welcoming experience. He was onsite shortly after daylight, worked as a dock starter in the blazing Florida sun, where the only shade was realized from a large, brimmed hat, as well as remaining after the event as part of the roadie crew. He did not miss any events or practices, even one that this family was unable to attend. He pledged more participation for the 2025 season. Rob was the largest raffle ticket selling for the win of an OB'rien Sozo kneeboard. Ticket sales have ensured that 2025 funding is available to host another successful season. Join Rob as an AKA volunteer. Be part of re-inventing the American Kneeboard Association. Hats off to Rob Lawson, AKA Volunteer of the Year.



Rob Lawson, AKA Volunteer of the Year
2025 Skionee Board member
AKA Dock Starter