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American Kneeboard Association



### OUR PURPOSE

The purpose of this organization is to help introduce people to the fun sport of competitive kneeboarding, provide consistent and fair standards for competitive events, and to help educate the public on ways to have more fun and generally improve individual skills in kneeboarding.

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS

#### 2019 Voting Rights

COB - A'lisa Piper, Fl  
President – Kenny Stuart, Tn  
V.P. – Kurt Schmelzer, Mn  
Chris Dinse – Wi  
Chuck Purdy – Mi  
Mark Ritchhart - Tn  
Ken Stuart – Ga

#### Non-Voting Rights -HVP's

Scott Ascher - Wi  
Dan Kelsey – Mn  
Doris Rohner – Fl, Secretary  
George Rohner – Fl, Treasurer

#### Founders

Randy Andrus  
Richard Brown  
Lonnie Marchand  
Chuck Purdy



# American Kneeboard Association

Enhancing the Water Ski Community



## AKA Plans To Expand: Social events, Fun tournaments, Basic skills events, Clinics, Officials

Keep your calendar open for the summer. Our President Kenny Stuart has challenged all AKA board members to host one event, but not limited to one, during the 2019 season. Events can be of individual choice, ranging from a social get together to a full record setting tournament. What's important is that a handle is in a hand and our members have fun. As they become available we will be posting on Facebook and [www.kneeboardusa.org](http://www.kneeboardusa.org).

AKA is experiencing a need to increase the number of rated officials needed to officiate at events. To grow the numbers a new policy is in effect. Past officials may now regain their ratings if the following criteria is met.

1. USA WS & WS's membership is current.
2. Documentation is found in AKA archives of the rating status.
3. The AKA hardship form is completed and returned to the officials chair.
4. A clinic is attended prior to officiating at an event.
5. All past clinicians (Senior officials) are reinstated as clinicians.
6. All regular rated officials may be granted an exception to host a clinic as a clinician. He must request an exception from the Rules Committee Chair.



AKA members needing to attend safety or trained drivers clinics may find a list of sanctioned clinics at [www.usawaterski.org](http://www.usawaterski.org).



## 37<sup>th</sup> Water Ski & Wake Sports Hall of Fame Induction Ceremonies

April 27, 2019

Swan Ballroom

1500 Epcot Resorts Blvd., Lake Buena Vista, Fl

For more than four decades, Mark Ritchhart has contributed to the sport of water skiing in multiple disciplines gaining notoriety most with his innovative kneeboarding performances. His water skiing career began in the late 70's in Lake of the Ozarks . Mark became a professional show skier at 18 and performed at Cypress Gardens and Sea World. Showing off some new innovative doubles moves he won the 1 Adagio Doubles National Title at the D1 National Show Ski Association Nationals in 1994. While honing his skills in slalom & trick skiing, he discovered knee boarding and has become one of the best knee boarders in the history of the sport. Mark is a 24- time Open Men National Kneeboard Champion, 7-time International Kneeboard Champion, 3-time MII National Kneeboard Champion and an 80+ time State Kneeboard Champion. Mark is also a four time USA Kneeboard Team Member and was undefeated in open competition from 2000-2009. He currently holds the Open Men Slalom Record at 67 (1 @41 off) and the current International Slalom Record at 63 (3 @39 ½ off). Mark has also contributed to the sport as a coach, mentor, driver and official. Throughout the 1990's, Ritchhart put his physical instructional skills to work in the collegiate and disabled categories, where he traveled overseas to teach the disabled as a side skier. He took over the Florida Southern College water ski team in 1990 and restructured the program which guided the team back to the national stage. He has held official's ratings for more than 20 years as a Senior Judge, Regular Driver, Safety Director and Technical Controller and has held the position of Chief Judge at several National Tournaments. Sponsored by HO Sports for more than 20 years, his influence as a member of the American Kneeboard Association Board of Directors and his willingness to share his vast proficiency and coaching skills with all, has provided positive effects and experiences for Kneeboarding members past and present.

Credits: USA Water Ski & Wake Sports Foundation. See full program details at [usawaterski.org](http://usawaterski.org)