



## NEWS

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### Shoreline Lake to Host 2013 U.S. National Kayak Polo Championships

#### Silicon Valley's foremost destination for watersports to debut entry of internationally recognized competitive sporting event into the San Francisco Bay Area

Mountain View, CA. September 16, 2013 – Shoreline Lake, in conjunction with the Bay Area Kayak Polo Club (BAKPC), has announced it is acting as the host venue for the 2013 U.S. Kayak Polo National Championships on September 27-29. Shoreline was chosen as the debut site for this national tournament's expansion into the Bay Area, given its affiliation with BAKPC (Int/Adv practices are held at the Lake) and their coach Sergey Finkelstein (four-time U.S. National Champion, and Shoreline's Kayak Programs Coordinator), as well as the kayaking and kayak polo activities available, optimal location, and protected environment.

This national tournament draws the top kayak polo teams and athletes from across the United States and Canada to participate in officially ranked matches, encompassing four divisions (A, B, Women's and Open), and organized as a classic round robin elimination. Starting on Friday the Open teams – players of any level and nationality – compete for the Open division title, and the U.S. and Canadian national women teams will also compete for the Continental title. Then, Saturday, the competition for the U.S. National titles in the A, B and Women's divisions begins, with the finals for these titles taking place Sunday afternoon.

"As Sergey and the BAKPC want to develop awareness of kayak polo in this country, we were delighted to be the venue for the competition," says Christina Ferrari, President of Silicon Shores Corporation (which operates the Shoreline Lake facilities). "It's very much in keeping with our goal of providing unique watersports activities in Silicon Valley."

Originating in Europe during the early part of the 1900's, Canoe Polo (as it is called overseas) is played in short, maneuverable kayaks with five players on each team. A cross between water polo, basketball, and hockey, the idea is to pass the ball from player to player and score by putting it through a suspended goal net. Players not only must be able to paddle rapidly and intensely, but also have excellent ball handling and game strategy skills, and work together as a team. Since the inception of the tournament in 1999, the number of teams attending the U.S. Nationals has grown in line with the popularity of the sport in Europe and the Pacific (It is considered one of the fastest-paced, and fastest-growing, water sports in the world.). To continue advancing its popularity in the U.S., the Open division allows for unseeded participants to have a shot at potential international competition, although these players may play less than the 5 games guaranteed for the other divisions.

"Besides being an ideal viewing area for watching the competitions, we encourage Shoreline patrons to learn more about this sport," says Ferrari. "Since he also competed internationally, Sergey welcomes questions about getting into the more competitive aspects, and is a fantastic resource regarding all things kayak as well."

Additional details about the National Championships (including scheduling), and kayak polo in general, can be found on the [BAKPC Nationals page](#), the [U.S. Men's Team website](#), and the [International Canoe Federation website](#). The Bay Area Kayak Polo Club is a not-for-profit organization headquartered in Berkeley. Dedicated to the game of kayak polo, BAKPC membership provides an outlet for competitive and recreational kayaking in the greater San Francisco Bay Area. For more information please see [www.BayAreaKayakPolo.org](http://www.BayAreaKayakPolo.org). Details about Shoreline's kayaking activities can be found on their [Kayaking](#) and [Clubs/Racing](#) pages.

#### About Shoreline Lake

Headquartered in Mountain View, CA, Silicon Shores Corporation oversees operations of the Shoreline Lake Aquatic Center and the Lakeside Café at the Shoreline at Mountain View wildlife and recreation area. Silicon Shores manages the facilities through a leasing arrangement with the City of Mountain View, which owns the Shoreline Lake park area. This private company, established in 2000, is incorporated in California. For more information, please go to [www.ShorelineLake.com](http://www.ShorelineLake.com).

Contact: Maria Gonzalez, [Gonzberg Agency](#)  
Phone: 510.295.4114  
[maria.gonzalez@gonzbergagency.com](mailto:maria.gonzalez@gonzbergagency.com)

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