



Media Contact:  
Verde PR  
Brook Sutton  
[brook@verdepr.com](mailto:brook@verdepr.com)  
970.259.3555

## 2010 Team Dagger Athletes

**Easley, S.C. (April 16, 2010)** – Dagger announced today the 2010 North American team roster. The list of paddlers includes world-record holders, elite level competitors, explorers and teachers, with hundreds of first descents combined. There are environmental activists and humanitarians whose personal missions are as lofty as their paddling achievements. They paddle all over the world, but call paddling towns across the U.S. home. The unifying factor for the members of the 2010 Team Dagger is that their passion for kayaking is paramount, whether paddling flatwater with a beginner class or running a Class V creek against the clock.

“Inspiration and talent are the defining qualities of this year’s Dagger team roster,” said Cheri McKenzie, CMO of Confluence Watersports, parent company to Dagger. “As individuals, each team member is contributing to the sport and to their community, in ways that go beyond pure athleticism. Of course, whitewater is at the core, and the team is wildly talented. But what sets this team apart, is their appreciation for the full spectrum of kayaking and the potential it inspires in all of us.”

Team Dagger, 2010 (Please click the athlete’s name for a full biography.):

[Andrew Holcombe](#), based in Asheville, North Carolina

- Andrew is both an athlete and the Dagger team manager
- One of his many paddling accomplishments: Two-time Green River Race winner and course record holder.
- Andrew teaches for the [Nantahala Outdoor Center](#).

[Jason Beakes](#), based in Washington, D.C.

- One of his many paddling accomplishments: Eight-time member of the U.S. Whitewater Slalom Team.
- Giving back to those who give so much: Jason works with [Team RiverRunner](#), an organization that teaches wounded veterans how to kayak.

[Tao Berman](#), based in White Salmon, Washington

- One of his many paddling accomplishments: Tao has been one of most successful paddlers and dedicated voices in the sport for nearly 15 years.
- Working to find a cure for prostate cancer: Tao supports [Athletes for the Cure](#).

[Tyler Bradt](#), based in Stevensville, Montana

- One of his many paddling accomplishments: Holds the male world record for a waterfall descent (Palouise Falls, WA; 186-feet).
- Does it smell like French fries? Tyler once drove from Alaska to Argentina in a truck that doesn’t burn petroleum. It was documented in the film, [“Oil + Water.”](#)

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[Christie Glissmeyer](#), based in Hood River, Oregon

- One of her many paddling accomplishments: Holds the female world record for a waterfall descent (Metlako Falls, OR; 82-feet)
- Mini-fact: She learned to paddle on the Main Fork of the Salmon in Idaho.

[Chris Gragtmans](#), based in Asheville, North Carolina

- One of his many paddling accomplishments: Three-time Canadian World Freestyle Team member.
- Creek boat of Choice: Dagger Nomad 8.5.

[Pat Keller](#), based in Asheville, North Carolina

- One of his many paddling accomplishments: Multiple first descents.
- A Gemini to the core, Pat paddles rad drops, but never forgets to savor every rowdy and every quiet moment.

[Anna Levesque](#), based in Asheville, North Carolina

- One of her many paddling accomplishments: 2001 World Freestyle Bronze medalist.
- Girl power! Anna is the founder and lead instructor of [Girls at Play](#), an educational resource for women paddlers of all levels.

[Brad Ludden](#), based in Vail, Colorado

- One of his many paddling accomplishments: Named one of the top 10 adventure athletes in the world, by "Outside Magazine."
- Talk about inspiring: Brad helps young cancer survivors re-discover their strength, as founder of [First Descents](#).

[Andy Maser](#), based in Portland, Oregon

- One of his many paddling accomplishments: First descent of the Lower Congo rapids.
- Paddling the world to protect it: Andy is co-founder of [Epicocity Project](#), with a mission to explore and protect the natural world.

[Rush Sturges](#), based in Forks of Salmon, California

- One of his many paddling accomplishments: Over 100 first descents, worldwide.
- Word on the street: Rush is considered by many of his peers to be one of the best all-around kayakers in the business. And did we mention he's a [hip hop artist](#)?

[Corey Volt](#), based in Greenville, South Carolina

- One of his many paddling accomplishments: Member of the 2009 US Men's Freestyle Team.
- Favorite place to paddle: If a choice must be made, it would be the Sierras in California.

Team Dagger 2010 also welcomes [ambassadors](#): Laura Farrell (N.C), Brendan Wells (Wash.), Iker Beristan Van Dusen (Mexico), Todd Wells (Wash.), Katie Scott (Calif.), Ken Hoeve (Colo.). For bios of team athletes and ambassadors, please visit the community tab on [Dagger](#) website. To check out the latest boats, news and events from Dagger, please visit: [www.dagger.com](http://www.dagger.com) and join us on Facebook.

### **About Dagger:**

Dagger doesn't believe in going part way, or giving "just enough." In the world of paddling, Dagger is all in, and has been since 1988. From recreational kayaks for slow-moving water to whitewater boats for Class V creeking - and everything in between - Dagger makes a top quality kayak for every type of paddling and every type of water. Located in Easley, S.C., alongside its sister brands under the Confluence name, Dagger represents the relentless pursuit of fun. From the mountains to the sea, the soul of Dagger is in the water. If this sounds like you, join the [Dagger Community](#) and check out the kayaks at [www.dagger.com](http://www.dagger.com).