

## International Whitewater Hall of Fame 2005 Nominee Biography



### Candidate: **Davey Hearn**

**Category:** Champion (Living)  
**Sport:** Whitewater C-1  
**Years Active:** 1976 – Present  
**Home Base:** Bethesda, Maryland USA

#### **Introduction:** (quoted from Affiliate Nomination Form)

“Whitewater Slalom Canoe C1 Champion. Davey Hearn dominated the top levels of canoe slalom for over a decade (with Jon Lugbill), revolutionizing the sport while producing innovations in paddling technique and boat design. His return to the top of the podium in 1995 for a second individual World Championship title ten years after his first, along with three Olympic appearances underscores his influence on the sport over his 26 year competitive career. Davey Hearn continues to motivate and teach slalom athletes today in a career as a coach.”

#### **Accomplishments:**

- 1995 - World Championships, Nottingham, England, World Champion, Gold Medal
- 1985 - World Championships, Augsburg, Germany, World Champion, Gold & Team Gold
- 1989 - World Championships, Savage River, Maryland, USA Silver Medal & Team Gold
- 1987 - World Championships, Bourg St. Maurice, France, Silver Medal & Team Gold
- 1983 - World Championships, Merano, Italy, Silver Medal & Team Gold
- 1981 - World Championships, Bala, Wales, Silver Medal & Team Gold
- 1979 - World Championships, Jonquiere, Quebec, Canada, Silver Medal & Team Gold
- 1997 - World Cup Overall, Europe, USA & Canada, Silver Medal
- 1993 - World Cup Overall, Europe & USA, Silver Medal
- 1988 - World Cup Overall, Europe & USA, Silver Medal, inaugural season

#### **Contributions:**

- 2001-2005 Whitewater Canoe & Kayak Coach\_ (Junior National Team Coach 2005)\_  
Sharing training & racing expertise
- 2003-2005 Created [www.daveyhearn.com](http://www.daveyhearn.com) promoting whitewater slalom racing, Vice-webmaster & content provider
- 2004-2005 Whitewater course design consultant for ASCI, McHenry, MD, Whitewater Course Modeling
- 1976-1997 Designed 20 slalom canoes and kayaks used worldwide with (Jon Lugbill, Bob Robison, David Knight)

- 2002-2005 Created American Slalom Excellence Program whitewater training camps Coaching and sharing expertise
- 1984 - Helped lobby to get the World Championships in the USA for 1st time, Int'l Savage River Worlds Advocate
- 1977-1990 New techniques & boat designs helped revolutionize whitewater slalom (along with top USA C1s)
- 2002-2003 Dickerson Whitewater Course renovation project Team Leader
- 1991 - Dickerson Whitewater Course Model Unveiling at Navy's Model Basin, PEPCO pledged financial support
- 1996-1997 Part of international athlete lobbying effort to get Whitewater Slalom back in the Olympics for Sydney 2000

### Articles/Books Written:

- 2004-2005 Created *www.daveyhearn.com* promoting whitewater racing & news
- 1996 - *AOL.com Sports* 1996 Olympic Canoe Kayak Athlete Journal
- 2000 - *AOL.com Sports* 2000 Olympic Canoe Kayak Athlete Journal
- 2000 - *My Primetime.com* 2000 Olympic Canoe Kayak Athlete Journal
- 1986-2005 *Toward Paddling Perfection: how to get the most out of the canoe forward stroke*

### Honors & Other Accomplishments:

- 1995 - US Olympic Committee Top 10 Sportsman of the Year US Olympic Committee
- 1995 - USA Canoe Kayak Male Athlete of the Year, USA Canoe Kayak
- 1977 - Corning Award for most improved paddler, Kayak Canoe Club of New York
- US Team Member 26 years: 1976-2001
- Olympic Team 1992, 1996, 2000
- 1989 World Cup Overall Silver Medal - Europe, USA & Canada
- 1990 World Cup Overall Bronze Medal - Europe & USA
- 1977 World Championships - Spittal, Austria (World Championship Team Wildwater Bronze Medal)
- National Champion C1 19x: 1976, 1979, 1980, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1984, 1985, 1987, 1989, 1990, 1991, 1994, 1996, 1997, 1998, 1999, 2000, 2001
- National Champion C2 7x: 1977, 1978, 1979 (Ron Lugbill); 1981, 1985, 1986 (Paul Grabow); 1983 (Alan Blanchard)
- National Champion C1 Wildwater 1980 & C2 Wildwater 1978 (Ron Lugbill)
- 2004 *Whitewater Classics* by Tyler Williams – 14. Greater West Virginia, Potomac River, David Hearn page 67
- Created over 15 years in a cooperative effort between teammates, the Max series of 10 boats dramatically changed slalom racing
- Operates Maximum Whitewater Performance, a paddling instruction and gear business, since 1987
- International coach: Two Australian racing camps, 1981 and 1991; slalom paddlers, Chile and the U.S. Junior Worlds Team, Austria,

- 1986; USA-USSR 1st slalom exchange, Soviet Georgia, 1988; Alberta, Canada camp, 1988; Japanese camps in Japan, 1994 & 1996
- Spokesperson for American Whitewater, West Virginia Rivers Coalition: Advocate for clean free-flowing rivers