

Washington Canoe Club NEWS

April 2019

13th Annual Potomac River Cleanup

Each year, WCC joins thousands of volunteers in support of the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. This year's event took place last Saturday and our team of volunteers worked by land and boat to excavate all kinds of debris littering the shores and parkland of the Potomac. The haul of trash was impressive! Remember that moped carcass dumped at the river's edge just upstream of the club? Gone! Also gone - abandoned sleeping bags, umbrellas (6), bottles, old clothes and... you name it! Special thanks to Cheryl Williams for organizing this event on behalf of the WCC and to everyone else who took time to do your part. For WCCers, Potomac clean-up is a year-round effort. All are encouraged to pick up trash - land and river - whenever you see it. Let's continue to do our part to keep the beautiful Potomac clean!



New Dock Build

The WCC's restoration team, led by Jim Ross, is rebuilding two docks that suffered damage from last year's onslaught of stormy weather. On Sunday the team built the frame and Monday night (tonight),

they are adding decking. Thank you to Jim Ross, Dan Havens, Blaide Rhodes, Kyle Losinski, Martin Lowenfish, Tim Summers, Annamarie Holms (a new member), Gavin Ross, Peter Swiek and Chris Tousimis!



Upcoming Events

WCC New Member Social (All members invited)

April 16th from 5:30-7:00pm

Come by the Club to meet new WCC members and have some fun. The event is potluck, bring any food item or beverage to share. Please don't drink and drive so plan your transportation accordingly! Any questions, please contact event host Mo Fathelbab at (202)256-9336 or by [email](#).

WCC Annual Spring Clean Up

Saturday April 27, 8am - 2pm | Lunch will be provided!

Three events, all on one day at the same time! Commodore's Cruise, Spring Clean Up, & WCC Member Update Meeting

8am-2pm Commodore's Cruise (**IMPORTANT!**)

Mandatory for all members storing boats/boards. If you have a boat or SUP that you're storing at the club, you or a representative must come to the club and show that your boat or board is "river-worthy". So, we're not storing derelict or abandoned craft with precious rack space. If a boat/board has not been taken out during the cruise it will lose its current rack space. At a later date we will determine where we will move these boats for temporary storage to give their owners a chance to come and verify them. If there are any boats/boards that have previously not been verified in the past few Commodore's Cruises and they do not get verified at this Cruise those craft will lose storage privilege and will need to be removed. Please check in with Luke (Commodore) or Tom D (Vice commodore) or other volunteers who will be there to verify you have claimed your craft, taken it out on the water, and done a short loop (we'll put a buoy in the

water).

10am-12pm Work Party

As you all know, this is a volunteer run club and all up keeping are done by members. Come and help get the club ready for the season. Just show up with your work clothes, some work gloves and a "can-do" attitude. There will be things for every level of effort - ex. nailing the dock nails down flat, removing unwanted vegetation, cleaning out the fridges, securing boats properly, tidying shelves, boards etc.

12pm WCC General Update Meeting

Find out what's happening at WCC at our General Update Meeting. All members welcome!
#cleanit #paddleit #learnit

Annual WCC Sponsored Kumu'ohu Challenge | May 4, 2019 - Volunteers needed!

The prestigious 15th Annual [Kumu'ohu Challenge](#) will take place May 4 from 8am-1pm. This is the season opening race of the East Coast Outrigger Racing Association sanctioned OC1/OC2 points series and is part of the Mid-Atlantic SUP racing season. Racers are encouraged to register early. Members not racing can volunteer to be part of the action too!

We are looking for volunteers to fill the following roles described below. You can volunteer for multiple spots or just express your interest and the race organizer will place you where help is most needed. There are options for racers and non-racers alike. Come help and make new friends! To volunteer, contact Race Director, Rachel Shackelford at rachelpualani@gmail.com.

- Event Set-Up (7am-8am): Help set up tables, tents, raffle/t-shirt area, etc.
- Event Management (7am-10am & 12:30pm-2pm or shorter shift within these periods)
 - Gate Control - Wield ultimate control to boathouse access for boat load-in/out and volunteer access. None shall pass ... without your permission.
 - Dock control - Bring your white gloves and police whistle - be our traffic director to ensure dock access is coordinated and smooth
 - Registration & raffle/t-shirt sales - Get 'yer raffle tickets! T-shirts! Amateur barkers welcome. Great spot for new members to socialize and meet folks!
- Race Roles (10am-12:30pm)
 - Timing - Experienced paddlers preferred for timers. (Interested but never timed races before? Train up by volunteering to time our monthly Mile Rock challenges.)
 - Safety Boats - We have this mostly covered, but would like to expand our fleet of qualified boat drivers. Do you have boat driving experience? Do you have a DC boating license? Let us know!
- Food & Drinks (11:45am-1:30pm): We have this mostly covered, but could use a few people to help set up and serve.
- Clean-Up (1:30pm-2:30pm): OK - this is the BIGGIE folks. You KNOW how much you appreciate when folks stick around to clean up after the party. Be THAT guy/gal. Again - new members, great place to meet folks.
- Future Race Director - We are seeking someone (or a small team) to take over the Race Director role for this race in the future. There is a group of dedicated people that do a lot of the ground work already and the Race Director primarily keeps those tasks on hand and serves as point person on the day of the race. Now would be a great time to come on board and learn the ropes. You can even direct the race and race yourself!

Soul Trak Community Paddle | May 5 & May 11 - Volunteer needed!

Soul Trak Outdoors, a D.C. based nonprofit with the mission of connecting communities of color to natural spaces and recreational outlets, will be facilitating a paddling event and cook-out at the WCC for 20 adults on May 5 and May 11 between 10 am to 12 noon. Organizers for Soul Trak also work for City Kids which the WCC has hosted events for in the past.

STO's goal is to build a coalition of diverse outdoor leaders by running a variety of programs providing hands-on education and skill-based programs to expand understanding and interest in public lands.

WCC volunteers are needed to paddle with the group beginning with helping paddlers get into boats, providing instruction and oversight while on the water and ensuring paddlers to have an overall positive experience. Please email Louise Flynn at flyloud@yahoo.com to volunteer on May 5 and Linda Aragon at lmaraon@me.com on May 11. Thank you! your help will be appreciated by all!

Future Club Events - Save the Dates!

- Novice OC6 practice - 6pm on Mondays starting April 29
- Crab Fest - Sunday, June 9 (1-4pm)
- 2019 Jazzfest Music Festival - Sunday, June 23
- 2019 Rock-the-Dock Music Festival - Saturday, September 28

Luke Rhodes - A Model WCC Citizen

Luke won't tell you this, but the newsletter committee will! The WCC received a \$400 donation from Peter Folger, "in recognition of the stellar volunteer spirit and neighborliness exhibited by Luke Rhodes and his paddling pals in support of Nicole and Steve's wedding at the Potomac Boat Club...". Well done Luke and thank you! #BeLikeLuke



Club Rules | Things to "Know" and "Do" to be a Good WCC Citizen

Gate Lock & Keys

- Don't give your key to non-members - only members should park past gate.
- Don't leave the lock on the sand at the front gate - it destroys the lock!

Parking

- Park inside the last two trees only (spare National Park Service new grass), park as if you are going to be double parked in on the river side, use the key board if you block someone in, don't park in front of the trash can on Tuesday mornings.
- If double parked, use the Key Tracker Board located in the weight room.

Boats and Paddles

- Non boat owners should use WCC club boats - the ones with the WCC club sticker!
- Don't drag boat getting them to/from the water. If the boat is heavy, ask a fellow member to help carry it.
- Rinse boats and return them to the racks after using - don't leave them on the slings or on the docks.
- Take care of the club paddles while using them.

Boathouse or Equipment Repairs

- If you spot something broken let Jim Ross or Luke Rhodes or using the online contact form located on the member's page on the website.
- There should be several full tanks of propane in the shed. Empties should be left by the yellow gas locker by the downstream fence. Note: A new volunteer is needed for scheduling and overseeing propane deliveries. If available, email Blaise Rhodes.

Safety

- Sign the club waiver - friends as well! Information below in this newsletter
- First aid kits are located by the club door entrance on to your right (fridge is on the left)
- Going for a paddle? Let others know by signing out on the new Float Plan Board, located in the area of the fridge.
- Hang life vests.
- Kids to be supervised at all times.

Parties

- When planning a party of 10 or more people, please seek board approval by submitting a request [here](#). Expect the approval process to take at least a week.

Fridge

- Don't leave stuff in the fridge for more than few days - and if only you are going to consume.
- Close the fridge AND the raccoon prevention latch.

Clean-Up

- Clean the trash/recycle and the grills after you use them and return stuff to where you got it.
- Roll-up awnings, close shutters and lock the doors when you leave the club. Also lock the doors/gate if you are the only one at the club and going for a paddle.

Gratitude

Be super grateful you have the ability to paddle, access to the Potomac and, are a member of the one-of-a-kind WCC Paddling Community. We're glad you're here. Use these rules to help make WCC great for everyone! More information available at <https://www.washingtoncanoecub.org/page/show/3511743-boathouse-rules-and-by-laws>

2019 Annual Liability Waiver

It's that time of year.... Liability WAIVERS! According to WCC rules, all members are required to complete a waiver in order to use the club. For family memberships, all members of the family must complete a waiver. New waivers must be completed each year. In addition, when you bring guests to the club, they also need to sign one.

The link to the 2019 online waiver is below. You will be prompted to type your name, address, email, emergency contact and electronic signature consent. Then, you will be directed to complete a final confirmation by responding to an email. Please make sure to complete this second step. The same link works for both members and guests. Double click or copy and paste the link to your browser.

<https://waiver.smartwaiver.com/w/5c8e8432ac5d9/web/>

If you cannot reach waiver through the link above, you can go to the WCC web site (www.washingtoncanoecub.org) and click on: [Membership->Members Only->Waivers](#)

If you have any questions, contact [Hillary Schaeffler](#).

WCC Website Survey

How can our website function better for our members? If your answer is "WCC has a website?", then we need to do better! Please take time to share your thoughts about the website by completing this short survey. <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/YRLTLM>

For reference, the WCC's current website & member information can be found here:

<https://www.washingtoncanoecub.org/page/show/3511740-members-only>

Volunteers Needed!

For upcoming WCC Music Festivals - Rock-the-Dock and JazzFest! Take part in the organizational committee now and have as much fun being on our super cool planning team as everyone else will have rocking and jazzing at these events. Interested? Email [Catherine Melquist](#) and you're in!

A Note from WCC President, Andrew Soles

In the prior month's edition of the WCC News, we reported on an indoor paddling competition sponsored by the dragon boat community involving some of our club members. In hindsight and with regret, we now realize that some of what was meant entirely as good-natured banter between teammates might have been interpreted as sincere disrespect for other paddling disciplines. As club president, let me apologize for letting this go uncensored. I'm convinced that the reason WCC has maintained itself as a viable club for over 100 years is due to our willingness to embrace and respect all paddlers, and part of what makes many of us successful paddlers is our exposure to so many different paddlecraft. There's a longer back story here for those that want to hear it, but outrigger actually came to WCC as a result of our initial embrace of dragon boating. What if someone had told Norm Bellingham "sorry we aren't open to whitewater paddlers"? We would not be where we are today without the energy and enthusiasm that has come from SUP paddlers. Let's continue to share and embrace the spirit of openness and inclusiveness that has made WCC great!

Andrew Soles

Amazon Smile - A great way to give to the WCC!

Q1. What is it?

A1. AmazonSmile is a website operated by Amazon with the same products, prices, and shopping features as Amazon.com. The difference is that when you shop on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price of eligible products to the charitable organization of your choice.

Q2. How do I sign up?

A2. On your first visit to AmazonSmile (smile.amazon.com), you are prompted to select a charitable organization from Amazon's list of eligible organizations. WCC is represented as "[Friends of the Washington Canoe Club](#)". You can change your selection at any time.

Thank you to members Caroline Brosius, Jay Gopal and others who are already actively using Amazon Smile for the benefit of WCC. Let's all do this! Need something from Amazon? Click [here](#).

Paddling season is upon us; Grab a new Tee or a buff (NEW below)!

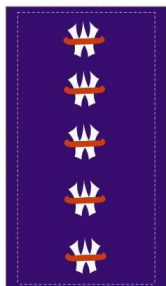
Put your orders in and wear them proudly. Visit the store [directly](#) or use the link from the WCC [webpage](#).



Show off your club spirit and look good doing it!

Visit the new WCC Store!

Wait, there's more...



Want some swag that also supports the Club's restoration efforts? (Hint: the answer is YES, YOU DO!) Buy a buff head-wear and show your WCC pride! All proceeds to go the Club's restoration profits. \$10 each. Contact [Lisa](#) to reserve yours. Only Paypal and cash accepted.

What is a buff?, you may ask - Its a head-wear/head-scarf which can be used as a Bandana, Balaclava, around the neck, over your head folded or single layer to keep your hair away, keep you warm/cool..etc. Yeah, you need one! #wccinbuff

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