

Spring 2022

Washington Canoe Club

CURRENTS



Photo by Bill Woodruff

Hello Paddlers!

Welcome to our Spring 2022 issue of *Currents*!

In this issue, we have lots of great and timely content:

- Information about: our exciting upcoming **Jazz Event** on Sunday, June 12, and the **Spring Cleanup** and **Commodore's Cruise** on Sunday, June 5
- SUP and Prone paddling sessions with **Kathy Summers**
- **The Mile Rock Challenge** returns Sunday, June 5
- An invitation to Monday night **OC-6 Rec Night**
- An inspiring feature by **Liz Pennisi** on broadening our paddling horizons and the amazing WCC coaches that can help
- **New rec boats** have been added to the WCC fleet
- A **call for volunteers** to serve as Entertainment Committee Chair/Co-Chairs
- A **refresher** on some important club rules and policies
- A building and grounds update by **Jim Ross**
- Team announcements
- We remember **Mark Uhar**

and more!

*Just a quick technical note, dear readers... Gmail "clips" email messages that it deems too "content-heavy" – which this newsletter certainly is! So make sure that when you come to what you might think is the end of the newsletter, you click on "view entire message." You will know you've come to the end when you get to the **shout-out!***

Upcoming Events

SUNDAY JAZZ AT WCC

JUNE 12
4-8 PM

Featuring New Orleans' own
PANORAMA JAZZ BAND
Rain or Shine!

GET TICKETS



Panorama Jazz Band

Sunday, June 12
4:00 – 8:00 pm (rain or shine)

**Get your tickets now for THE SOCIAL
EVENT of the season!**

New Orleans' own [PANORAMA JAZZ BAND](#) will bring their Crescent City party vibe to WCC to benefit the restoration of our historic boathouse.



Your event hosts will provide Mardi Gras fare along with wine, beer, and non-alcoholic beverages. (*Bloody Mary bar will be extra.*) Also on tap for the afternoon is a raffle and a special WCC Experiences Silent Auction.

[Buy tickets](#) now and take advantage of early-bird pricing until June 1!
\$50 for adults, \$25 per child (age 2 and under free)

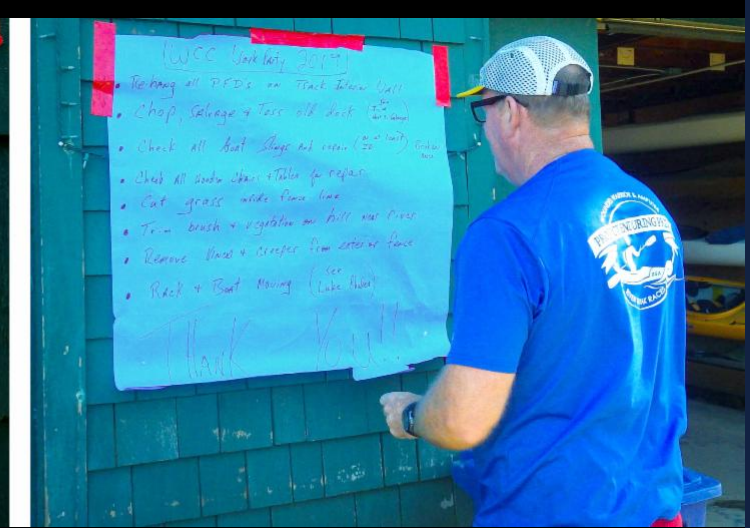
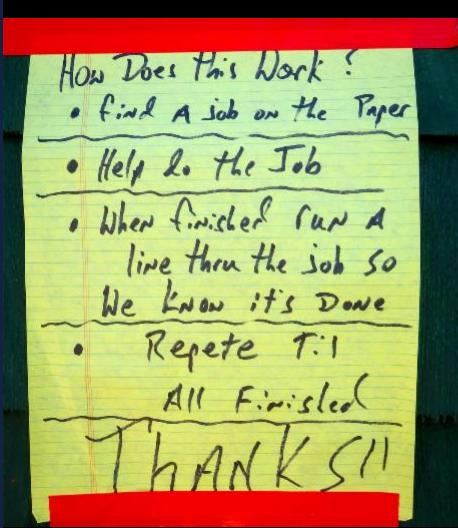
Open to WCC members and their guests. There is **no guest parking** at the club. Here is a guide to [parking](#) in Georgetown.

The Jazz event team is still accepting donations for the WCC Experiences Auction and Marketplace

WCC members with experiences (vacation homes, event tickets, services, etc.) and/or items (artwork, sporting equipment, etc.) available for donation to the auction please contact Jay Gopal at admin@washingtonganooclub.org by June 1, 2022.

Your generosity will bolster our fundraising effort. **Thank You!**

Spring Cleanup and Commodore's Cruise
June 5th, 9 am – 12 pm



Spring Cleanup + Work Party

9 am –12 pm

WORK + PARTY? It's the WCC way. As you all know, this is a volunteer-run club and all upkeep is done by members. Come and help get the club ready for the season. Just show up with your work clothes and a "can-do" attitude. There will be tasks for every level of effort.



Mercedes and Catherine bravely eradicate the horrors that thrive in the fridge.

Commodore's Cruise (Boat Check)

9 am –12 pm

This event is **MANDATORY** for all members storing boats/boards. The traditional Commodore's Cruise was suspended for the past two years thanks to our friend COVID. While COVID hasn't gone away completely, the Cruise is back! If you have a boat or SUP at the club, you or your 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 in precious and

limited rack space.

Please check in with [Tim](#) (Commodore) or [Stephen](#) (Vice-Commodore) or the other volunteers who will be there to verify you have claimed your craft. If a boat/board has not been checked out during the cruise, it may lose its rack space. At a later date (and as per club rules) we will move any unclaimed boats to temporary storage to give their owners a chance to come and claim them. After a to-be-determined period of time, any boats that are still not claimed will be considered abandoned and disposed of.

Email [Tim](#) (Commodore) with any questions on the cruise or [Jim](#) (VP) regarding the cleanup.



SUP and Prone Paddling Sessions

With Kathy Summers

Intro to SUP

Friday, June 3 at 5:30

Intro to Prone

Saturday, June 4 at 12:00 (*Intro to Prone is required to use the club prone board*)

Anyone who is interested in either session should email **Kathy Summers** at Kathsummers@me.com, and let her know which session you are interested in (or both) and if you are an experienced/competitive paddler or a recreational paddler. That way she can get an idea of how much interest there is and can determine how to group the

information sessions appropriately.

All attendees will be notified if we need to reschedule due to bad weather. The rescheduled date will be within two weeks of the original.

These introductory sessions are free for members only, sorry no guests.

The 2022 Mile Rock Challenge Series is Back Sunday, June 5th!

The summer of 2022 welcomes back a time treasured tradition at the WCC – the Mile Rock Challenge. The Mile Rock Challenge is only open to WCC members and occurs on the first Sunday of each month, from June through the final race in September. A mandatory scratch meeting is at 10 am so race organizers know who is there and we can begin to seat the groups. The first group goes off at 10:30 with the remainder in different groups soon after; the fastest boats go last. Register for free the morning of the races and refer to the [WCC Facebook page](#) for any updates or changes.

On the Horizon

The WCC Sunset Fundraising Dinner will return this fall

Members of the Washington Canoe Club, as well as alumni, neighbors, and friends (all decked out in WCC Chic attire), will once again welcome autumn with an elegant dinner and program on the banks of the beautiful Potomac River. More information will be sent out as arrangements are made. In the meantime, you can revisit the [2017](#) and [2018](#) dinners as we look forward to this very special event.

News and Information

Remembering Mark Uhar

On May 9, WCC lost a good friend and longtime member **Mark Uhar**. Mark's two brothers, **John** and **Roger** are also longtime WCC members and the club offers its condolences to them for the heartbreaking loss of their little brother.

If you didn't know Mark, you might have recognized him as the friendly guy who cycled to the club with his beloved dog **Hallie** in a bike trailer. He would often load Hallie into the dock canoe, casually paddle out to a sandbar, and let her run.

Mark did a lot for our club, most recently helping us clean up and occupy the back 40 space. Our condolences go out to Mark's family and friends.

[Obituary and services for Mark.](#)

OC-6 Rec Night is back!

Have you ever wanted to paddle one of the “big boats”?

Every Monday night (from now until the daylight savings time change) coach **Joe Cafferata** and his trusty steers, **Jay, Doug**, and others, will get you on the water in a six-person outrigger canoe (OC-6). You will learn basic paddling techniques and timing, and have a lot of fun doing it! The club has paddles and PFDs. Bring water, sunscreen, a hat, and some food or drink to share if you want to partake in the traditional potluck and socializing post-paddle.



OC-6 rec coach Joe Cafferata



Trusty steer, Jay Gopal

There is a rec OC-6 email list and Google sign-up sheet. To be added to the list and get the link to the sign-up sheet, email Joe at josephlrc@yahoo.com. Please sign up ahead of time rather than just showing up so Joe can plan accordingly.

You'll meet at 5:45 and launch the canoes at 6 pm. The paddle lasts for an hour then you'll put everything away and have a post-paddle potluck. The number of seats available in the OC-6 will depend on how many steers Joe has, but is usually between 10 and 15. If we have too many people for the OC-6 the remainder can take out aluminum canoes, and practice the same stroke and timing PLUS learn to steer!

It's always a great time!

Broadening your Paddling Horizons

By Liz Pennisi



Spring is finally in full swing, and there are plenty of opportunities at WCC to try something new and different. Our Club has a long racing and recreational tradition that continues today with coaches who can help you become stronger, faster, or just more fit. Dating back to the Club's founding a century ago, sprint canoes and kayaks have the longest history here, with international competitors **Gavin Ross** and **David Podloch** keeping that tradition going by coaching the juniors and elite crews (ages 13 to 18). And **Thom Crockett** is now guiding the masters' sprint team. In the late 1990s, 6-person outrigger canoes found their way to WCC's docks. A competitive men's team run by **Nathan Day** and an equally competitive women's team coached by **Kelly Rhodes** have won their fair share of medals from all over the East Coast, California, and Hawaii. If that's not enough outrigger for you, there's Wolfpack on Monday nights for small boats and surf skis. Also on Mondays, **Joe Cafferata** runs a recreational 6-person outrigger canoe (OC-6) group for those new to the sport. And while there's no official team for SUP, SUP and prone paddlers have **Kathy Summers** on hand to help anyone eager to stand up – or lay down — on a board.

Meet these coaches, and don't hesitate to reach out to them about joining in!

PADDLEBOARD

Kathy Summers (Stand Up/Prone Paddling)
Kathsummers@me.com

Kathy fell in love with paddleboards the moment she tried one in California in 2007. "Simply by standing on a board rather than sitting in a boat, I felt free," she recalls. Kathy brought SUP to DC a year later, starting "Stand Up Paddle DC," through which she taught hundreds of people how to stand up paddle in both the flat and white water of the Potomac. In joining the WCC in 2012, she paved the way for paddleboards to become the popular WCC craft they are today. She took up prone paddling in 2019 in part because "of the unique way it allows you to interact with the water while getting an amazing workout," she explains. "To me, paddling prone represents the balance between Yin and Yang, the calm and the energy." The WCC has a variety of SUP boards and paddles for anyone to try, on a first-come, first-served basis. There's also a WCC prone board that can be reserved once the paddler has taken the introductory course. Kathy will be hosting "Intro to Prone" and "Intro to SUP" evenings in June. She typically also holds a basic SUP evening or two for those who are new to SUP and would like help getting started.



SPRINT



David Podloch (co-coach, junior and elite sprint teams)
davidpodloch@gmail.com

Dave's most memorable moment as a sprint canoeist was racing with his father, high-kneeling in Mexico City, during the 2010 Pan American Championships. As a teenager, taking on the challenge of getting his balance and



controlling a sprint canoe was one reward; bonding with his dad, **Miroslaw (Mirek) Podloch**, was another, he recalls. Now in his second year helping out with the juniors program, “I do like passing my knowledge down to younger athletes.”

He enjoys seeing his students improve, often in a way not visible to the parents. That’s because the paddlers are learning how to keep their upper bodies loose and take advantage of the potential power of their legs and lower core. Newcomers are encouraged but need to be patient. There is a massive learning curve requiring a lot of patience and a lot of falling into the water. “But, if you put in the effort, you will reap the rewards,” Dave promises.

Gavin Ross (co-coach, junior and elite sprint teams)
gavin.f.ross9.5@gmail.com

“What’s the harm in trying?” is what Gavin has to say to any kid who is looking for something new, challenging, fun – and not your run-of-the-mill sport. The Juniors program takes all comers ages 13 to 18 who are curious about what it’s like to learn to sit—or kneel—upright in a tippy boat and make it go very, very fast. Our Club has a range of sprint kayaks and canoes—from stable to very tippy. Newbies start in the craft they are most comfortable in and, should they desire, work their way up as their balance and technique improves. They can try either kayak, high-kneel canoe, or both. There are club paddles as well, so the investment is just in time and effort. Of the dozen juniors already on the water, some are there just to have fun; others strive for national and perhaps one day, international titles. “I try to strike a balance between not being too strict or hard, but still getting them to improve” Gavin says. It’s a winning strategy: In April, two WCC racers made the U.S. National Team. Gavin himself started in the WCC juniors program and competed both nationally and internationally, often with his brother, **Ian Ross** (also an international competitor), in sprint canoe.



Practices for juniors are Mondays, Tuesdays, Thursdays 5:30 to 6:30 pm, and Saturdays 9 to 11 am. The Elite squad is on the water 6 times a week, mostly in early mornings.



Thom Crockett (coach, masters program sprint/surf ski)
thomcrock@gmail.com

Thom sat in a sprint kayak for the first time 5 years ago, in California. So, he knows what it’s like to be an adult trying to master this challenging sport. Given that he is quite competitive by nature, it was hard for him to accept how slow he was, but within two years he was competing nationally and even internationally. He relished the challenge of moving from stable to tippy boats, even though each sleeker craft was at first like starting over.

And Thom is eager to help others do likewise. For the next two dozen Wednesday evenings, starting at 6:30, Thom will be guiding WCC adults who are carrying on the sprint tradition as a masters group. He will devote most of those evenings toward technique workouts and some interval and VO2 max training. In addition, he plans to send out weekly guidelines to help the paddlers structure multiple workouts per week and can tailor training to prepare them for particular races, such as Nationals in August. He welcomes newcomers but advises that it’s a good idea for someone new to sprint to put some miles in on a surf ski to begin to get the balance down. Thom just joined the club about 18 months ago and is pleased to be a member, as well as a coach. “I really love the attitude,” he says. “It’s such a fun and relaxing place.”

Masters Workouts are Wednesdays at 6:30 pm.

OUTRIGGER

Kelly Rhodes (women's outrigger) rhodesk25@gmail.com

An all-around paddler who excels at sprint, and marathon as well as outrigger, Kelly has coached the women's team almost since these boats first arrived at WCC. Under her guidance, the team has won the Catalina Crossing in California, the Liberty Cup in New York, and their division at several Hawaiian races. Workouts begin in January with weights, running, and core exercises. The crew tries to be on the water by April, with practices ramping up to Tuesday and Thursday evenings, with multiple-hour paddles on Sunday mornings. It's good to have some paddling experience and be fit but anyone is welcome to talk to Kelly about how they might fit in.

Women's outrigger practices are Tuesday and Thursday at 6 pm and Sunday at 9 am.



Nathan Day (men's outrigger) nathan.a.day@gmail.com

This team, whose unofficial motto is "What could possibly go wrong?" brings a "Work Hard. Play Hard," attitude to WCC, says Nate. He took over coaching the men a decade ago, frustrating them with complex workouts but pushing them to have great showings in races including the Catalina Crossing in California in which paddlers jump in and out the canoe every 40 minutes or so in a relay and the Chattajack, a 30+mile downriver run in Tennessee. He learned to paddle and race outrigger canoes in Hawaii almost 17 years ago.

Practices are Saturday morning and Wednesday evening, with a sunset BBQ (BYOM) afterward. During them, he stresses intervals ranging from more than 15 minutes to less than a minute with the goal of learning to push hard no matter what the stroke rate. Fit paddlers with no outrigger experience are welcome to join in, as are non-paddlers who are highly competitive. "They have to have the desire and will to work," says Nate. Otherwise, he advises would-be paddlers to learn to paddle in the recreational outrigger program, work to bring their general fitness up, and talk to Nate before showing up.

Men's outrigger practices are Saturdays at 8 am and Wednesdays at 6 pm.

Joe Cafferata (coach, recreational outrigger - OC6) josephlrc@yahoo.com

Joe came to outrigger with more than 1000 hours of wilderness canoe camping experience, often guiding in the Boundary Waters and the Quetico. He hadn't heard of outrigger before joining WCC in 2013 to have a place to store his kayak. Jumping straight onto the men's outrigger team was a tough slog, so he was eager to help with the recreational program as a way "to offer a more gradual introduction to the sport as well as build community," he recalls. He, **Jay Gopal**, and **Doug Brooks** help beginners with technique and form on the dock, but most of the hour practice is spent on the water. Afterward, many often



hang out, enjoy some food and drink, and relax. There's a google signup sheet, and most people show up by 5:45 pm Monday to help Joe sort out the crews. If there are more than 10 people, some get to practice in aluminum canoes. "And there is plenty to learn in that craft," Joe says.

Recreational OC6 practice is Monday at 5:45 pm

Wolfpack (1- and 2-person outriggers, surf skis). There's no coach for this informal Monday night workout. Just show up ready to be on the water by 6 pm, for about 1.5 hours of mostly intense interval training, with pieces based on time, distance, point to point, or pyramids. The group usually heads toward the airport, hoping to catch some surf. Though the workout is competitive, experienced paddlers at all levels are welcome to join, as workouts can be adjusted so someone doesn't get left too far behind. Need a boat? There are a few WCC single outriggers, but paddlers must be checked out well in advance by the coaches to use them and there is a digital sign-up system. Started as a compliment to OC6 training, "Wolfpack makes you fast," says Wolfpack regular **Blaise Rhodes**. "But if you show up at 6:10, you'll miss it."

Wolfpack workout is Monday at 6 pm.



One opportunity to try something different that must wait until next year is "Team Madruga," a group of WCCers who head to upstate New York each Memorial Day weekend for the [General Clinton Canoe Regatta](#) – an aluminum canoe relay race. Crews are already set for 2022 and you can read all about the team and how it did in the next newsletter. If this appeals to you, mark your calendar to contact **Blaise Rhodes** at blaiserhodes@hotmail.com in early spring 2023 to be counted *In for The Clinton* next year.



NEW REC Boats to be added to the WCC Fleet

WCC Commodore **Tim Johnson** and Vice Commodore **Stephen Weiss** announce that the WCC board of governors has approved the purchase of several new recreational kayaks and paddles to make getting out on the Potomac and enjoying quality water time more fun than ever this Summer. The new boats and paddles are clearly marked in the rec boat/kayak storage racks.

Remember to wear or have on board a life vest when paddling. When transporting boats from the storage rack to the dock, always carry or wheel the boat, NEVER drag it. Dragging severely degrades the docks and the boat. Boat too heavy? Wheels and a bungee chord are hanging on the downstream side of the kayak rack. Better yet, ask a friendly nearby member for assistance. We all share the responsibility to keep our boats

and docks in tip-top shape for all to use and enjoy.

WHO'S UP FOR A CRAB FEAST THIS SUMMER?

**Or an oyster roast this fall?
Or just looking for an excuse
to get our community
together?**



If you answered YES to any of the above – then we encourage you to volunteer to organize a Summer communal gathering of fellow members and friends.

WCC is still searching for someone to step up and volunteer to be our club's Entertainment committee chair (or co-chairs). We have a great team of seasoned WCC event volunteers ready to support you.

If you have an idea for a fun, welcoming, and delicious, event please contact entertainment@washingtongcanoecub.org and we'll get this party started!

The Entertainment Committee is responsible for planning and hosting several club-wide events throughout the year including Crab Feasts, Oyster Roasts, Annual Banquet, and club meetings – events that we all enjoy and that bring us all together and build a sense of community among members. The Chair also manages requests from members and outside groups wishing to hold parties and events at the club. If you are organized and able to network, delegate, and inspire your fellow members to work together to host the events that benefit our community, please contact us at entertainment@washingtongcanoecub.org.

Take the PADDLE FIT CHALLENGE

**Hey paddlers, it's not too late to sign up for the annual Paddle Fit Challenge!
The goal is to paddle 1,000 miles or more in 2022!**



While the challenge was created with non-racing members in mind, it is open to any member who wants to take it on and is willing to log their mileage throughout the year. Those who complete the challenge will be awarded this year's custom paddle fit pin.

To register: Sign up in the book outside the weight room and track your mileage on the pages provided. GPS level recording is not necessary — honest tracking in the spirit of the effort is!

Any paddle-powered craft of choice is fine (SUP, OC, canoe, kayak, etc. or a combination). Mileage paddled in team boats or off-site can be included. If you have questions, please email: PaddleFitWCC@gmail.com

Congratulations to **Lisa Ramm**, **Bill Woodruff**, and **Linda Ross** for completing the challenge two years in a row.

Spring Refreshment

Here's a seasonal refresher on a few club policies for new members and those getting back to the club after some time away thanks to COVID. All club rules and by-laws can be found on the [website](#).

LOCKING UP

If you are the last person leaving the club then you are responsible for locking up, no matter what time of day or night.

Here's your checklist:

- Put away any club gear accidentally left out such as pfd's or paddles
- Close all boat bay doors. Use the poles to secure the bay doors so they remain shut keeping the bigger critters out (see photo)
- Make sure both fridge anti-raccoon latches are closed
- Turn off all lights inside the boathouse and make sure outdoor lights are off or unplugged
- Lock the boathouse front door (same key as the NPS vehicle gate)
- All gates should be closed and locked

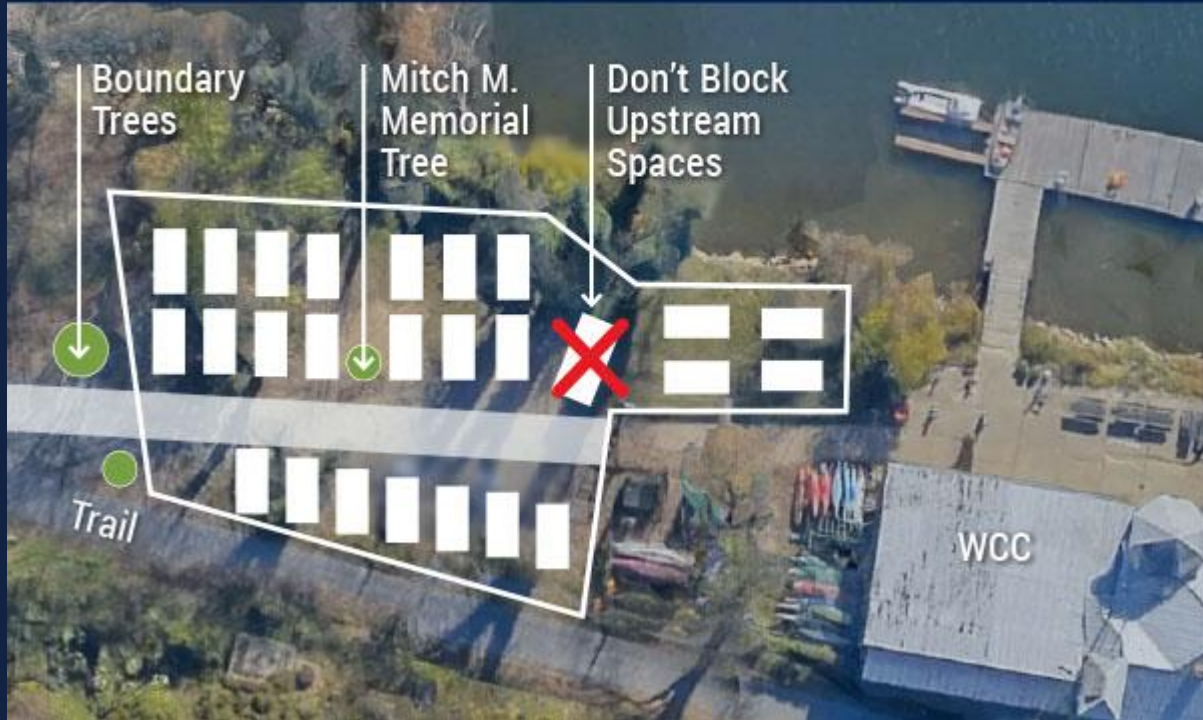


If you are on the water and you return to find yourself locked out of the boathouse, there is a spare key stashed for emergencies. You should have been given that location at your orientation. If you don't know the location contact Kelsa at membership@washingtongcanoecub.org to get it.

PARKING RESPONSIBLY

Parking at WCC is extremely limited and strictly for use by members only on a first-come, first-served basis. It's every member's responsibility to park close to the boathouse and double up on the river side. Especially at busy team practices and popular rec paddle times. We can't have cars loosely parked all the way to the aqueduct bridge.

DESIGNATED PARKING AREA



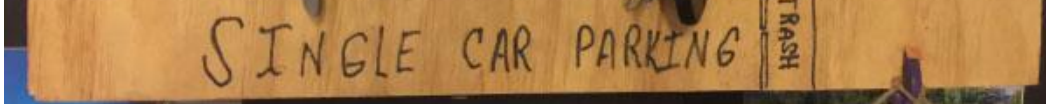
Here are a few reminders of our parking policy:

- Members must display a WCC sticker or magnet on their cars and park only within the designated parking area
- No overnight parking
- No guest parking
- The downstream boundary of our parking area is marked by the first large tree on the river side of the lot
- Double park on the river side by pulling your vehicle in far enough so someone else can park behind you
- If you park behind someone, leave your car key on the keyboard that's hanging in the weight room
- Do not block the entrance to the 4 upstream spaces by the pull-up bars
- Tuesday/Wednesday morning is trash pick up, so no single car parking in front of the dumpsters

If you need a sticker for your car, please contact membership@washingtongoeclub.org

Guests can park along Water Street outside of the NPS locked gate or in one of the many lots on the Georgetown waterfront. Information can be found on the [Georgetown parking site](#).





Building and Grounds

The Canal is Full Again

By Jim Ross

As most of you have already noticed, the NPS canal has been filled for the Spring and is again leaking into the boathouse and onto the concrete pad making it very slippery. The rubber mats that we put out last year are working and we'll continue to place them where needed this year. Please be careful and watch your step.

Team Announcements

WCC Coaches: Kelly Rhodes (Women's Outrigger), Nate Day (Men's Outrigger), Joe Cafferata (Rec Outrigger), David Podloch and Gavin Ross (Junior's), Thom Crockett (Master's Kayak), and Kathy Summers (SUP)

Spring racing season is still in full swing. Look for more comprehensive race results in the next issue of *Currents*!



WCC hosted the 16th Annual Kumu'ohu Challenge on April 23

After two long years, the Washington Canoe Club welcomed all paddlers back to the club for the 16th annual Kumuohu Challenge on the Potomac!

The race was split into three heats, OC2's, OC1's, and SUPs. Surf skis, kayaks, sprint canoes others were also in the mix to make it interesting. Thanks to all the racers, cheerleaders, and volunteers who made it a wonderful day. Special thanks to **Kelly Rhodes** for organizing a great event. Proceeds from the race will go towards the boathouse restoration and the WCC outrigger program.

Below are two of the four Kumu'ohu trophies that were hand made by **Dan Havens** out of "gifts from the river". Winners' names are engraved on plaques on the trophy base. Congratulations to all who are recognized on these unique and beautiful works of art.



The OC-1 Women's trophy.



One of the SUP trophies.

Photos of the race are on the WCC [gallery page](#) (thank you **Caroline Brosius**), the WCC [Facebook](#) page, [lightroom](#) (thank you **Peter Sweik**), and [race results on paddle guru](#).



WCC Paddlers Race for a Good Cause

The Little D on the Monocacy

On Saturday, April 30, several WCC paddlers participated in the Little D on the Monocacy race, held on the historic Monocacy River in Frederick, MD. The race is held in memory of

Little D, who bravely fought metachromatic leukodystrophy until December 28, 2018. It was a wonderful day to raise money to help the lives of terminally ill children. This was the best year ever, in terms of attendance, donation totals, and weather.

As you can see from the photo below, WCC paddlers took home a lot of first and second-place [awards](#). Congratulations to all!

To learn more about Little D, you can visit the Little D on the Monocacy [Event Site](#) or their [Facebook page](#).



*WCC's winning lineup at the Little D. From left: Doug Brooks, Stephanie Kiefer, Stephen Weiss, Will Rhodes, Sam Rhodes, Mike McErlean, Jay Gopal, Martin Lowenfish, Lisa Ramm, Dan Havens, Kelly Rhodes, Bonnie Havens. **Way to go team!***

WCC OC-6 Teams Train for Monumental **June 11, 2022**



The Monumental outrigger canoe race is hosted by NCA Outrigger and the National Capital Area Women's Paddling Association (NCAWPA).

This is a great race to watch with beautiful views of the city as a backdrop to the action. We encourage all WCC members to come out and cheer on our OC-6 teams! Here is a [link to the racecourse](#) so you can plan your prime spectator spot.

June 11, 2022

7:30 am Women's Start – 14 miles

10:10 am Men's Start – 14 miles

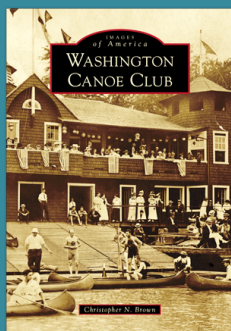
12:35 pm Mixed Start – 9 miles

Paddle hard and bring home those pineapples! Look for Monumental results in the next issue of *Currents*.



And Finally...

The WCC History Book is still available



Images of America: Washington Canoe Club, by WCC lifetime honorary member **Chris Brown**, is still available for [purchase](#) (and all proceeds from the sale will go to the boathouse restoration fund). Or [donate](#) \$250 or more to the restoration fund and receive a complimentary signed copy.

Chris Brown's pictorial history of WCC is the culmination of a three-year project sorting through thousands of images that document the WCC's 115-year history. The book has accounts of floods and dramatic rescues, pioneering women and men in paddling, social events and high jinx, Olympic greatness, and everyday living, all in the context of the remarkable 20th century of Washington history. It chronicles a century of activity along the Potomac River and a social institution of highly competitive, high-spirited men and women.

Head over to our [history page](#) and watch **Chris Brown's Virtual Book Talk** that was given via Zoom on December 3, 2020.

Shout Out!

Huge shout out to our Vice Commodore **Stephen Weiss** for acquiring some very nice rec boats for our fleet and new grills for our meats and veggies. Stephen also maintains the

grills and keeps the propane stocked. When you see Stephen around the club please thank him for all he does, better yet, **buy him a beer** (don't forget to pay the beer fridge)!

Thanks to everyone who takes out the trash, wacks the weeds, sweeps the slick algae off the deck, and tidies up on a regular basis.

If you know of a WCC member who should get a shout-out (and there are many), [let us know](#).

Do your online shopping at [smile.amazon.com](https://www.smile.amazon.com)
Select **Friends of the Washington Canoe Club** as your charity and AmazonSmile donates to WCC.



Show Your Club Spirit and Look Good Doing It!

All item can be customized with your name.

The WCC Squad Locker stores have a wide variety of club-branded items for members of all ages (including infants and toddlers). All items allow for personalization through the ordering process. With embroidered items, you can put your name (or mantra) on the sleeve. If an item has a printed logo, you can get your name (or nickname) on the back or sleeve. Hats are personalized on the back band area. Both shops are periodically updated and changed, so keep checking back. If there's something you would like to see offered, [let us know](#).

Visit the [Spring/Summer Store](#)

Visit the [Fall/Winter Store](#)

Thanks to Bonnie Havens for all her hard work on the stores.

THANK YOU to all club volunteers

If you have an idea for a contribution to the next issue of *Currents*, please reach out to one of your newsletter team members:

[Gloria Vestal](#) | [Dawn Nunziato](#) | [Mary Stapp](#)



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