

June 2023



Greetings paddlers!

As peak paddling season gets underway, we hope you are getting out on the water and taking advantage of all the opportunities that the Club is excited to offer for training, recreation, and community building around our unique institution on the Washington waterfront. It's going to be an amazing summer!

To stay informed, check out valuable information posted almost daily on the private WCC member's [Facebook](#) page. Make sure to check out 🥰[Our Instagram](#) 🥰

In this issue:

- A note on the reservation process for Club boats on July 4
- We've got **Wifi**
- Calls for Volunteers
- A detailed update on boathouse rehabilitation by **David Cottingham**
- An introduction to our new Capital Campaign Manager **Chris Brown** (#2)
- Welcome back Club Steward **Erin Rhodes**
- Community partner Soul Trak's College Ambassadors paddle at WCC
- A gentle reminder of club rules that will make the busy season run smoother for all
- Paddle an OC-6 on Monday rec night
- Expanded opportunities for your suggestions and feedback
- A recap of the season's races so far
- **Shout Out!**

Congratulations to our WCC OC-C coaches and crews that raced in the Monumental today! Photos of Monumental are up on the WCC [gallery page](#)! Thanks, Sam Rhodes.

Technical note... Gmail "clips" lengthy email messages. When you get to the clip, please select "view entire message." You will know you've come to the end when you get to the shout-out!

Upcoming Events



July 4 at the Washington Canoe Club

One of the best places to view the DC fireworks will be from a canoe or kayak on the Potomac River.

WCC's fleet of recreational canoes, kayaks and SUPs can be reserved, on a very limited basis, for paddling on the evening of July 4th! Reservations are on the honor system and are made by taping a piece of paper with your name on it to the boat you'd like to use. No more than 2 boats can be reserved per family. Reservations can only be made on July 4th beginning at noon.

We'll send a detailed email from the [Commodore](#) before July 4 on the reservation process, use of "the big boats," and night paddling river safety.

Volunteers and board members will be at the club on the 4th and happy to help.

WCC First Friday Mixers!

What better way to unwind than with a happy hour at the boathouse? Members of the WCC Social Committee have been hosting "meet and greet" happy hours (even though all hours at WCC are happy) from 5 to 8 pm on the first Friday of each month. Bring your own drinks and food and join new and longtime members for a fun, relaxing evening – stunning sunsets included.



WCC First Fridays in 2023: July 7, August 4, September 1, and October 6.

News and Information



Network: M3000-612D

Passcode: ec866638

Volunteers Needed

• Tour Guides and Orientation Leaders

Membership Chair **Kelsa Gabehart** is currently seeking enthusiastic individuals to serve as Tour Guides and Orientation Leaders. Tour guides will meet with potential members and provide them with a brief tour of the club. Orientation Leaders will give new members a comprehensive walk-through and discussion of the club's layout and operations. Orientation Leaders will attend a training orientation and be provided with a handy cheat sheet for reference. Typically, the orientation session lasts for one hour, while tours tend to be shorter. If you are interested or want to learn more, please contact [Kelsa](#) at membership@washingtongoingclub.org

• New OC-6 Team Building Program

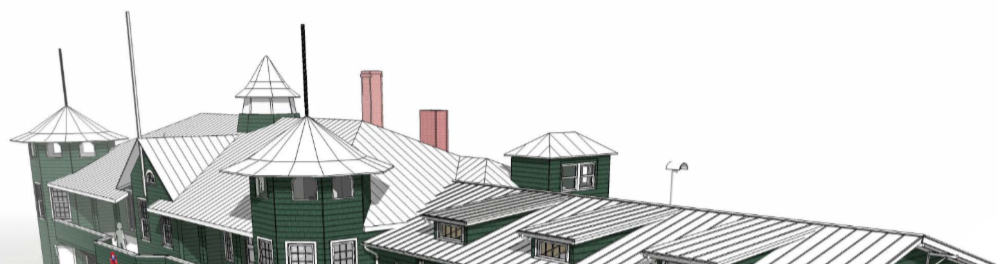
A group within WCC has been working on establishing an OC-6 Team Building program. This program offers corporate firms and other groups a unique opportunity to get their teams working together in the OC-6's. The organizers of the program are seeking volunteers to assist with the following:

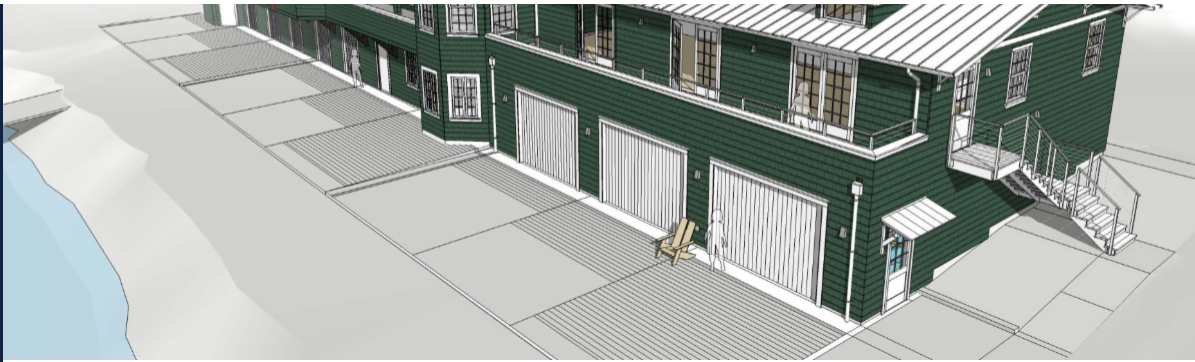
- **PR/Marketing:** Help identify and target outreach to client companies interested in booking these events. A contact list is already being developed.
- **Graphic Designer:** Develop a brochure and digital assets to effectively promote the program.

If you are interested in contributing as a volunteer in either of these roles, please contact [Tom Cooney](#) at Thomas.Cooney@klgates.com.

• Youth Outing Group Volunteers

We need experienced paddlers to assist local school groups and community partners in getting kids out on the water in canoes, kayaks and SUPs. The events typically take place on weekday mornings and last approximately 2-3 hours. If you are interested, please contact [Jim Ross](#) at frailey.ross@gmail.com and he'll put you on his go-to list of volunteers.





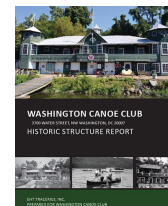
Proposed rehabilitated boathouse.

WCC Boathouse Rehabilitation Update

By David Cottingham

For several years, WCC has been working with **Don Gregory** of Cox, Graae, Spack Architects, **John Matteo** of 1200 Architectural Engineers, **Laura Hughes** and **Alyssa Stein** of EHT Tracerics historic preservation consultants, and **Kevin Fisher** of Rhodeside & Harwell landscape architects, to develop a comprehensive, multi-phase plan to rehabilitate WCC's historic boathouse and site. This architecture-engineering-landscaping team prepared a "concept level" plan that anticipated doing the work in several phases, which would have included:

1. protecting the building's exterior;
2. stabilizing the West Bay's foundation;
3. raising the West Bay and central portion to reduce flood risks;
4. removing and rebuilding the East Bay; and
5. improving the site with landscaping, fencing, and new external boat storage buildings.



WCC and the design team presented this concept-level plan to the National Park Service (NPS) and the DC area historic preservation review agencies in 2021 and 2022. Those agencies tentatively approved the plan, subject to further plan development. While we were seeking approvals of our plans, the COVID pandemic hit, the stock market tanked, interest rates doubled, and the global supply chain for building products forced prices through the roof. The estimated price of our project skyrocketed from about \$4 million for phase one to almost \$8 million for a much-reduced phase one project. The WCC Boathouse Rehabilitation Committee worked with the design team to scale back the initial phase of the project to meet WCC's financial situation.

After much deliberation, the WCC Fundraising Committee and Board believe that we can raise about \$2.5 million for this project. \$2.5 million is a goal on what the initial phase of the project can cost and we hope to have a successful capital campaign that raises more.

With WCC's financial capacity in mind, the Boathouse Rehabilitation Committee went back to the design team. The design team developed multiple initial phase concepts in hopes of reducing the costs. Each alternative would have improved the Boathouse in various ways (structurally and aesthetically) and provided many benefits for members (like bathrooms). However, given the rising costs, WCC still couldn't afford them. The bottom line is, that, within our current financial constraints, after much analysis and review, WCC cannot at this time either:

1. stabilize the West Bay foundation and elevate that section or
2. demolish the East Bay and build even a "barebones" new structure in its place.

The Boathouse Rehabilitation Committee then began considering a new approach for protecting the historic building from further deterioration and providing benefits to WCC members. Our objective has been to work with WCC membership and the Fundraising Committee to develop a plan for the boathouse that will meet our obligations to NPS for historic protection and that we can afford. That plan will:

1. Enable WCC to occupy the full ground level of the entire boathouse. This is going to require extensive repairs to interior foundations and exterior walls – and lots of club member sweat equity.
2. Heal the exterior of the boathouse by repairing the roof, plugging all holes in the walls, and diverting the flowing water around the building.
3. Paint the exterior and interior so that our boathouse looks fresh and welcoming to members and guests.
4. Install additional essential amenities for members like bathrooms and changing rooms.
5. Install a fire alarm system.

This represents a big shift in WCC's thinking for next steps for the Boathouse. We must face the reality of where we are relative to WCC's financial capacity and plan accordingly. We must develop details on each of the above project components, determine the cost of each, and present the package to NPS. And, we **MUST** raise the money to do this. We anticipate having a Boathouse which members are proud of that (1) can store many more boats inside, (2) is structurally secure until the Club can raise funds to take the next steps to fully rehabilitate the building, and (3) provides amenities to enhance members' and guests' enjoyment of our exceptional Boathouse.

We've taken the initial steps down this path. We've hired an engineer to assess the structural integrity of the building and to point out what we would need to do to occupy the ground floor of the boathouse. At this time, we are awaiting his report. When we get the analysis, we will develop boathouse improvement plans with our design team to achieve the Club's common objectives. Once we have those plans, we will present them to NPS for its review prior to beginning construction. As always, we appreciate members' support as we continue to develop and implement workable plans for the rehabilitation of our remarkable historic boathouse!

CLUB LEADERSHIP

Meet Chris Brown (#2), our new Capital Campaign Manager!

Chris is thrilled to be working with the WCC to support the work of Board Chair **Andrew Soles** and of Board Member **Grace Hong**, who leads the Fundraising Committee. Chris is a longtime SUP, recreational paddler, and surfer from Mount Pleasant, DC (who now enjoys the waves of the Guanacaste province in Costa Rica, where he and his spouse **Jessica** and two daughters **Mei-Kim** and **Josephine** relocated during Covid). He is very enthusiastic about helping us build a community of supporters around the Washington Canoe Club and connect members of the DMV with our precious natural resources.



“Having been an advocate, resident, and parent in the District



of Columbia for nearly 15 years, I know what a tremendous asset the WCC is to its members and to the city at large. Our family became members and were active in preservation, clean-up projects, and social activities for professional athletes and recreational paddlers alike. My children loved to jump from the dock and I would paddle with fantastic members. In the evenings we would relish the true gift of the good fellowship that comes from a common passion for the WCC.”

Chris is committed to community impact through the power of the entrepreneurial spirit that is inherent in our communities. In his role as Capital Campaign Manager, Chris explains that the Phase 1 fundraising goal this year is \$1M, encompassing a blended model of gifts from members, legacy members, major gifts donors, and corporate/foundation support. He notes that the fundraising team recently brought in **Melissa Webster**, whose focus is on data management. Her expertise and efforts will provide in-depth data analysis necessary to achieve our fundraising goals.



Chris views the WCC as unique in its member involvement and commitment and believes that our members’ involvement and contributions in many forms will be of the utmost importance in the boathouse rehabilitation project. In early June, Chris met with many members and hosted a meet and greet at the club where the campaign team provided information about roles on the campaign committee and its short-term and long-term objectives. He looks forward to recruiting more members to work with the Campaign Committee.

If you are interested in working with the Campaign Committee, please shoot Chris a quick email at chrisbrownncs@gmail.com

*We are grateful for all the hard work of **Chris Brown, Grace Hong, David Cottingham,** and everyone else who is working to turn our boathouse dreams into a reality!*



WCC welcomed Community Partner Soul Trak

The Soul Trak College Ambassador Cohort (CAC) hosted fellow Howard University students for an afternoon of paddling at WCC followed by a cookout back in April.

Chris Brown #2 recently shared this testimonial from **Tyrhee Moore**, Founder of Soul Trak Outdoors, to our [Facebook](#) page:

"Our partnership with the Washington Canoe Club (WCC) for our College Ambassador Initiative was phenomenal. WCC provided free boats and volunteers, enabling over 55 college students to explore our local waterways and bridge the gap between Howard's Campus and nature. WCC's accommodating nature and the hard work of our college ambassadors made this event a success. We are grateful to WCC for their generosity and dedication to our students' cause. This partnership exemplifies the power of collaboration and community engagement, creating rewarding experiences for students of color. Thank you, WCC, for making a lasting impact on our students."

This is such a great testament of WCC's value to members AND our community alike.

Thanks to WCC & Canoe Cruisers Association volunteers.

Meet our Summer Club Stewards Erin Rhodes and Alistair Leith

A warm welcome back to **Erin Rhodes**, who will serve as WCC's club steward for the summer. Erin will be at the Club on Friday evenings, as well as Saturday and Sunday afternoons, to assist new members, answer club equipment questions, and provide friendly and knowledgeable support to anyone in need of information or assistance.

On days that Erin is off, **Alistair Leith** will be stepping in as steward.



Both Erin and Alistair are very skilled paddlers and have extensive knowledge about the club. (However, please note that their steward responsibilities do not include lifeguarding or childcare.)

Thank You, Erin and Alistair!



Peak Season at WCC

With July 4th and the peak summer season fast approaching, here's a gentle reminder of our shared responsibility as members of the Washington Canoe Club.

Upon joining WCC, you gained access to club facilities and equipment. Please honor this privilege by adhering to the club rules, taking proper care of our equipment, and cleaning up. As an all-volunteer club, we rely on the dedication and efforts of our members to handle tasks like cleaning, repairing, and maintaining the equipment and the facility. We don't have paid staff for these responsibilities, so it's up to all of us to fulfill these duties by:

- Cleaning up after gatherings, including cleaning the grills and utensils
- Emptying full trash and recycling containers (take it to the dumpsters)
- Taking excess food home instead of stuffing the refrigerator
- Putting all equipment and furniture back where it belongs after use
- Treating all equipment gently (no dragging canoes, kayaks, SUPS, or paddles on the ground or banging them on the dock)
- Not smoking ANYWHERE on club grounds
- Adhering to WCC's parking policy – NO PARKING for non-members
- Respecting the club's policy that children under 18 are not permitted at the club unless accompanied by a parent or hosting member. This person is responsible for all underage attendees and must obtain waivers from each non-member attendee, regardless of age. Additionally, **alcohol consumption by anyone under 21 is strictly prohibited at WCC as it is both against club rules and illegal in the District of Columbia.** Failure to comply with this law will impact the host's membership status.
- Getting parties approved. All gatherings with more than 10 non-member guests must be pre-approved by the board (mainly to avoid scheduling conflicts). Please complete the [party request form](#) at WashingtonCanoeClub.org/forms.

We are very fortunate to be where we are doing what we do. Thank you for your cooperation in helping to preserve and enhance our shared space.

As always, WCC's Board of Governors welcomes feedback. Feel free to send your comments or questions to feedback@washingtoncanoeclub.org.

All club rules and by-laws can be found on the [website](#).



The rec OC6 crew, 2021. Photo by Bill Woodruff.

WCC Monday Rec Nights OC-6 | Kayak | SUP

Meet at 6:15, Launch at 6:30

Every Monday night, Coach **Joe Cafferata**, along with **Jay Gopal** and **Doug Brooks**, will take groups out in the six-person outrigger canoes (OC-6) and teach basic paddle strokes, and timing. **Stephen Weiss** will be available to work with kayakers, and **Trish Riggs** will be there to work with SUP paddlers.

The goal is to assist members who want to improve their paddling skills and provide opportunities for those who want to try paddling something new.

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.

The club has paddles and PFDs for the OC-6's. Club SUPs and kayaks are first come first served. Bring water, sunscreen, a hat, and some food or drink to share if you want to partake in the traditional potluck and socialize after the paddle.

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.

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

Attend a WCC Board Meeting

The WCC Board of Governors would like to extend an invitation to all members to attend one of our quarterly in-person board meetings.

Two spots are available for guests at each meeting. If you are interested in WCC governance or have a topic to discuss, this is your chance to do so.

The remaining in-person meetings for 2023 are July 3 and October 2.

Suggestions & Feedback for the WCC Board

A new virtual (and physical) suggestion box has been set up so you can let the Board know what can be improved, what you'd like to see more of, or anything else that's on your mind.

Virtual suggestions go to a dedicated feedback list and not the entire board.

feedback@washingtoncanoecub.org

Contact WCC VP [Jim Ross](#) to schedule attendance and get the location (private residence).

TEAM ANNOUNCEMENTS

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

The 2023 Racing Season

The WCC Coaches, Teams, and individual competitors are training and organizing this season's races. Plans are underway for our WCC athletes to compete nationally and internationally!

It takes a lot of good organization and support to get teams and boats to away races so a huge **thanks to all who support and participate in our racing programs!**

APRIL RACE RESULTS



Wild Buffalo Race

Congratulations to the inspiring WCC women who raced (and won) the 32 mile course from Catalina Island to Newport Beach, on April 2nd.

Great racing [Kelly Rhodes](#), [Lisa Ramm](#), [Theresa Haught](#), and [Samantha Stewart!](#)
[Race Results](#)





The Kumu'ohu Challenge 2023

On April 22, WCC opened the paddling season with the 17th annual Kumu'ohu Challenge! The first ECORA small boats race of the season.

Mother Nature brought the challenge to the race this year with stiff winds. The paddlers were certainly up for it because the race was well attended and a huge success. Thanks to all who raced and volunteered. Special thanks to **Lisa Man** for organizing the race. Proceeds from the race and auction will go towards boathouse rehabilitation and the WCC outrigger program.

Kumu'ohu [results](#). Photos by **Joe Cafferata** are [here](#) and in the [WCC photo gallery](#).

THANK YOU SPONSORS: [Quickblade](#), [Premier Paddle Sports](#), [High Noon](#), [OluKai](#), [Patagonia](#)



The Kumu'ohu trophies are hand-made by **Dan Havens** from "gifts from the river". Winners' names are engraved on plaques on the trophy base.



Thanks to all the chase boat captains and crews.



The Little D on the Monacacy

WCC paddlers raced for a good cause.

April 29, WCC paddlers enjoyed swift high water for the 10th anniversary of the Little D on the Monacacy race, held on the historic Monacacy 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 perfect day to raise money to help the lives of terminally ill children. Way to go WCC!

Race results and [more info](#) on Little D.

US Sprint Trials

Lake Natoma, California

Five athletes competed for spots on the national team in April. Congratulations to **Ian Ross, Alistair Leith, and Liam Shuette** who will all be representing the US, and WCC, this year at the world championships. 🏆

ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup

Szeged, Hungary

Kudos to **Ian Ross** who raced in the 2023 ICF Canoe Sprint World Cup 1. Ian finished the regatta, scoring a 6th place finish in Men's C-1 5K against a very fast field. Way to go, Ian!



WCC Paddlers Continued the Memorial Day Tradition at the General Clinton Canoe Regatta and Grand Prix Relay

Every Memorial Weekend, many folks from the club travel to Central NY to attend the 5-leg, 30-mile [Grand Prix Relay](#) every year in honor of **Mitch Madurga**, a Navy vet who died on the Potomac while training to defend his win in the K-1 class of the 70 miler.

This year WCC raced seven teams, including a juniors team who came in fourth by a very narrow margin. Team Hype, racing in memory of friend and teammate **Hype Mattingly**, took first place. Team(s) Madruga 1-5 raced in memory of Mitch. Madruga 1 got second!

Since 2006 **Blaise Rhodes** has been organizing teams for the Grand Prix Relay. He says "It's fun and we often win beer". He's right!

This year, WCC Vice President, **Jim Ross** (right), presented Blaise (left) with the first-ever **Herb Howe Spirit of the Paddle** award in tribute to long-time WCC member and friend **Herb Howe** who has completed the 70-miler 25 times! Congrats Blaise and Herb.



The following day, three crews from WCC took on the 70 miler! Congratulations to the C-2 crews **Martin Lowenfish** and **Kelly Rhodes**, **Becca Rhodes** and **Stephanie Knabe** and the C-4 crew **Lisa Ramm**, **Marshall Hoskins**, **Lisa Man**, and **Emilia Rastrick**.

[Race results](#)

Lots of great photos have been posted to the WCC member's [Facebook page](#) and the website [photo gallery](#).

Trigger warning, paddle story ahead, scroll at your own risk!

Back in 2013, **Herb Howe** wrote a fun account of his 25th time completing 70 Miler. It was his bowman **Doug Brooks'** 1st time attempting it. Doug was kind enough to share the account of this adventure with us along with his commentary. Thank You, Doug and Herb.

[Read Cooperstown 2013!](#)

And Finally...

Shout Out!

Big shout out to **Jim Ross** and his handy helpers for building the new SUP rack. 🛠️

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





Show Your Club Spirit and Look Good Doing It!

Any 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

Team Newsletter is Dawn Nunziato, Gloria Vestal, Liz Pennisi, Mary Stapp

If you have an idea for a contribution to the next issue of *Currents*, get in touch at Newsletter@WashingtonCanoeClub.org.

We love hearing from you!



Washington Canoe Club | 3700 Water St. NW, Washington, DC 20007

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