

Washington Canoe Club **NEWS**

March 2019

The Return of the DOCK!

Just in time for spring, WCC crew brought the docks back from winter storage at the Columbia Island Marina. Please see below for several opportunities to paddle along with the community or volunteer and get to know other paddlers. Let the 2019 paddling season begin!



Searching for Historic WCC Photos

WCC Member Chris Brown is preparing a photo history of the WCC, to be part of Arcadia Publishing Company's Images of America series (you may have seen these books - 128 pages of sepia-toned images on places like Georgetown, Dupont Circle, etc.). If you have any photos you'd like to contribute from the pre-1980 period - of paddling or events related to the club - please be in touch; really unusual photos from 1980-2019 could also be considered. The book will be used to help raise visibility and funds for our boathouse restoration. Images are needed by March 31. Please email your information to the [editor](#).

Kumu'ohu Challenge | Save the Date & Volunteer Opportunities

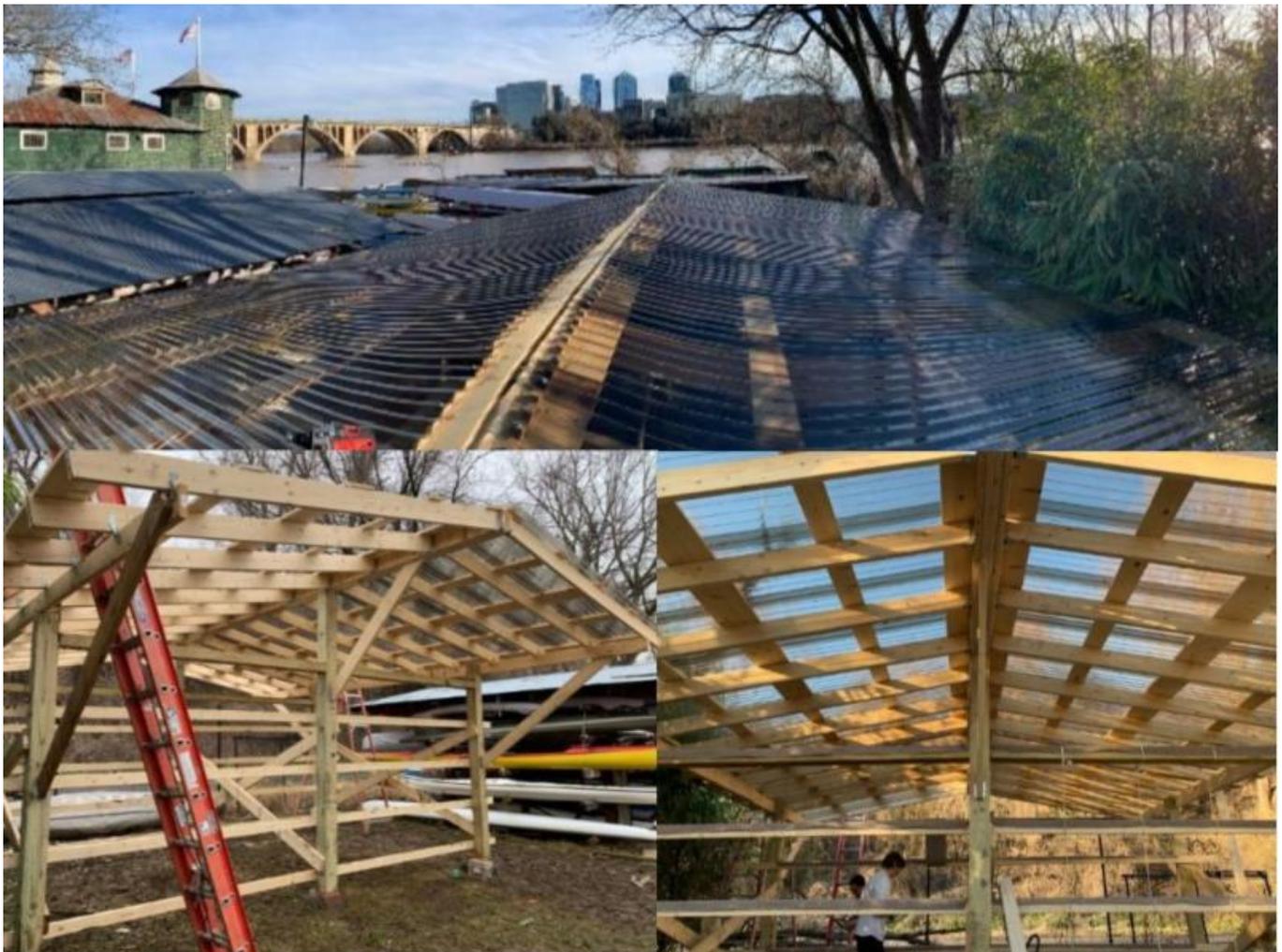
The prestigious 15th Annual Kumu'ohu Challenge will take place on May 4 from 8 am - 1 pm. This is the season opening race of the East Coast Outrigger Racing Association (ECORA) sanctioned OC1/OC2 points series and is part of the Mid-Atlantic SUP racing season. Racers are encouraged to register early at <https://paddleguru.com/races/KumuohuChallenge2019>.

Members not racing can volunteer to be part of the action too! Volunteers will be needed for this race to help with registration, parking, lunch duties, cleanup, safety, timing/spotters and running of the raffle. If you are new to the club and wonder how you can participate, this is your chance. Come help and make new friends! Please contact Race Director, [Rachel Shackelford](#) if you would like to help.

New Deluxe Outdoor Boat Rack

The WCC has a new deluxe outdoor boat rack. Thanks to a lot of hearty construction volunteers, including: Jim Ross (site super), Peter Swiek, Chris Tousimis, Luke Rhodes, Kyle Kosinski, Martin Lowenfish, Tom Dziadkowiec, Kathleen McNamee (and Nitro), The Juniors Team, Dan Havens and Tim Manning. The new rack will replace older ones that have served us well, but the time has come for them to be decommissioned.

Do you have carpentry skills or want to build your paddling muscles by swinging a hammer, then join in on our next construction project, a new boat dock! This project will commence late spring/summer so stay tuned! If interested in volunteering, email [Jim Ross](#).



Introducing our new short-form interview aimed at providing quick facts and insights about a featured WCC'er with the hope of spurring new connections, commonalities and aha moments between Club members.

This month's Spotlight interview is with Coralie Miller (third from the right), a WCC member since Jan 2000.



1. Tell us a little about yourself and your background?

Although I've called many places home, I am now a Virginia resident and, I've lived here more times and for a more extended period than any other place. I was born and raised in England until the 7th grade when I moved to Hollywood, California and in the 11th grade, I moved to Hawaii, this time to live with my dad. There I met a good-looking Navy man who later became my husband, and together we moved back to Virginia followed by San Diego, Virginia (again), California and finally, back to Virginia for the final time when my husband retired from a 20-year career in the Navy.

2. What's your paddling specialty, team affiliation and years of experience?

I am an outrigger canoe paddler. I have paddled outrigger with the Outrigger Canoe Club - HI, Lanakila Canoe Club - Redondo Beach, CA, Kai Elua Outrigger - San Diego, CA and finally was referred to the Washington Canoe Club from a San Diego teammate. In total, I've been an outrigger paddler for 37 years with a few years off the water when raising my son.

3. How did you get involved in paddling and what about it do you enjoy most?

I started outrigger canoeing in Hawaii in 1981 (yes, I am old)! Being outside on the water has always been the best cure for taming my anxieties. I also enjoy the fact that there is still something new to learn!

4. What are your other recreational interests? Any recent accomplishments?

My cross training includes kickboxing and/or boot camp, and I sometimes trapeze with my co-workers from the Arlington Free Clinic. Here's a photo of my recent accomplishment where I "timed the catch."



5. What do you enjoy most about the WCC and do you have any words of encouragement or advice for new club members?

What I love most about the Washington Canoe Club is the many different types of craft that are available to try and to get on the water. It has been great fun to learn marathon canoeing, to do war canoe in the winter and to fall off a SUP board in the summer. I find the members friendly and always willing to help you discover your favorite *water activity, beer, and bourbon!*

Butchers Wanted - Encouraging new recruits to join the fun!

The WCC Master's Kayak Team, called The Butchers, will begin practice for the 2019 season on Thursday, April 4 at 6:30 pm. The team holds weekly Thursday evening practices and is focused on skill mastery, spirited competition, team building, and fun! The group currently has two open spots available and encourages all existing and new members to join in. Anyone interested in signing up or learning more about the program, contact Coach [Darek Oborski](#).



Help Expand the WCC Paddling Community

The WCC has several new membership openings available and we encourage all existing members to help recruit new candidates so we can expand our 2019 paddling community. If you know of a paddler looking for a club or to join a team or to develop their paddling skills, please encourage them to consider a WCC membership. All interested candidates are encouraged to apply. For additional membership information, feel free to introduce prospective members to [Kelsa Gabehart](#).

WCC'ers Take on Paddling Challenge from Dragon Boats

On March 9, a local dragon boat club hosted an indoor paddling race, the Pergamental, to celebrate the end of winter training. Indoor, you say? Yes, the club uses rowing machines with paddling adapters so they can train indoors in the winter months. The Pergamental featured several different distances, from a 200 meter sprint to a 5000 meter race.

The dual club member Paul Flack reached out to WCC, to see if we were willing to send a couple paddlers up to Silver Spring to compete. Several of our club members were up for the challenge and went up to participate. And promptly took first place in the 1000 meter tandem challenge. Congratulations to Blaise and Sean for their victory, and for showing those "wussy" (their words, not mine) dragon boat paddlers where the real paddlers train!

If you're curious to see what paddling on a rowing machine looks like, or how wearing a pink tutu improves the ability of a man to paddle, enjoy the pics.



Annual Potomac River Cleanup

Join us April 13 for WCC's annual Potomac River Cleanup! Each year, the WCC joins thousands of volunteers in supporting the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Annual Potomac River Watershed Cleanup. Help us clear the bottles and trash that's collecting along our shorelines. Volunteers are needed to cleanup both on land and by boat/board. The cleanup will take place from 9 - 11am. For more information click [here](#). All interested members should RSVP to Cheryl Williams at cherylnorcross@gmail.com or to the Facebook event. (NOTE: this event is open to the public. Volunteers not associated with WCC members will be participating in the land-based cleanup only)

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!

MOST WANTED

The WCC is a volunteer-led club and we are always in need of your help to keep things running. Volunteering is a great way to meet new and old members, learn about various types of

paddling and expand your club knowledge. Reach out to [Volunteer](#). To follow are a couple of specific areas of need:

Newsletter Writers and Contributors

Our (small) newsletter team has (big) ideas on how to ramp up on stories, event coverage and other happenings but we need more contributors. Anyone interested, please join us for a planning session, this Wednesday March 20 at 7 pm at Mr. Smith's in Georgetown - just down from the Club. We look forward to collaborating with you!

Graphic Designer

WCC is looking for a graphic design volunteer to help with design of some promotional items. If interested, please contact Liz Wissner through the WCC website Contact Us page.

<https://www.washingtoncanoecub.org/page/show/3199484-contact-us>

Photo Essays

Catch a great shot? Share your WCC moment with the newsletter team and we'll share it with the rest of our paddling community. Email pictures to cmelquist@gmail.com.

#washingtoncanoecub #wccmoment. #paddlerserenity

This beauty was snapped Thursday night by Peter Swiek. As all members know, there's no place in the DMV more awe-inspiring than the WCC during times like this - and so many others! Send us your pics and tag us on Instagram [@washingtoncanoecub](#).



Paddling season is upon us; Grab a new Tee!

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!

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Instagram: [@washingtoncanoecub](https://www.instagram.com/washingtoncanoecub)

[WashingtonCanoeClub.org](https://www.washingtoncanoecub.org)