

June 2025



Greetings, WCC members and friends! Thanks to everyone who helped clean up the boathouse and grounds before and after the May flooding.

Everyone is geared up for another great paddling season! Plans are taking shape for races, social and fundraising events, and community partnership activities.

Your participation is crucial to the success of our individual and collective efforts as a club. As always, valuable information (like parking updates) is posted almost daily on the private WCC members' [Facebook](#) page. Make sure to check out our [Instagram](#) page as well.

If you would like to join the newsletter team or have content to share, please [contact](#) us. There are so many great stories at the club, and we look forward to sharing yours!

**WCC Wifi**

Network: M3000-612D  
Passcode: ec866638

**WCC Webcam**

View river conditions from the upstream ramp.  
Go to [www.videoloft.com](http://www.videoloft.com) (or get the app)  
Click Login  
Username: wccowlsnest@yahoo.com  
Password: buildingfund

*Technical Note: Gmail clips long email messages (like this one). When you encounter the clip, please select "view entire message" or simply view it in your browser. Thanks for reading.*

## Upcoming Events



*The rec. group out for a cruise in 2023!*

## Recreational Outrigger Practice Returns!

**Monday 5:50 pm (on the water at 6 pm)**

Every Monday night, Coach **Joe Cafferata** will take an hour-long cruise in the six-person outrigger canoes (OC6) and teach basic paddle strokes and timing. The club has paddles and PFDs. Bring water, sunscreen, a hat, and some food or drink to share if you want to socialize after the paddle.

There is a recreational 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](mailto:josephlrc@yahoo.com). Please sign up ahead of time so Joe can plan accordingly.

## Friday Happy Hours

What better way to unwind than with a happy hour at the boathouse? WCC member **Tom Reiter** is hosting “meet and greet” happy hours (even though all hours at WCC are happy) from 6 to 10 pm (weather permitting) on the second Friday of each month. Bring your own drinks and food and join new and longtime members for a fun, relaxing evening – stunning sunsets included.

Friday Happy Hours are scheduled for July 11, August 8, and September 12. Check the [WCC members' private Facebook page](#) for updates.





*Entertainment co-chair's Adrienne and Carmela with the band at Jazz Night 2024.*

## Second Annual Summer Kick-off: Jazz Night at WCC

*Hosted by the WCC Entertainment Committee*

**Saturday, June 21, 2025**

**6:00 pm – 10:00 pm**

**Nate G and the Crew Off 35th Street** will perform from 6:30-9:30 PM

**Cost:** \$30 adults, \$80 families (children under 12 free) | Pay at gate (cash/credit)

Enjoy talented Duke Ellington School of the Arts students performing covers of Stevie Wonder, Grover Washington, and Parris Bowens, plus original songs. Light fare and beverages included.

**RSVPs Closed** - Walk-ins may not receive food depending on availability  
Open to WCC members and guests (Share: <https://evite.me/jazznite>)

**Volunteers needed!** Contact the [Entertainment Committee](#) to help out

**Parking:** Limited due to DC water construction. No guest parking - see Georgetown parking guide: <https://www.georgetowndc.com/explore/getting-here/>

## Hawaiian Night Fundraiser

**Saturday, June 28, 2025**

**5:30 pm – 8:30 pm**

*Hosted by the WCC Men's Outrigger Team and the WCC Entertainment Committee*

**Join us for an unforgettable evening bringing the spirit of Hawaii to WCC!**

### Event Highlights

- **Outrigger Canoe Experience:** Glide across the Potomac River in traditional outrigger canoes, guided by our skilled club members.
- **Hawaiian Feast:** As the sun sets, savor a delicious spread of authentic Hawaiian cuisine featuring kalua pig (pulled pork) sliders, tropical fruits, and traditional shaved ice, plus vegetarian options.
- **Cultural Performances:** Enjoy Hawaiian music from local band **Kupono** and mesmerizing hula dances from Arlington's own [Halau O'Aulani Cultural School](#), transporting you to the sandy shores of the Pacific.



Whether you're paddling on the water or swaying to the rhythm of Hawaiian music, this is an evening of aloha spirit you won't want to miss! Dress in your

best Hawaiian attire and prepare for a night of fun. All proceeds support our men's outrigger program, helping fund guest coaches from Tahiti and equipment upgrades.

### Event Details

**Cost:** \$30 adults, \$80 families (children under 12 free) | Pay at gate (cash/ credit)

**RSVP by June 22** - Walk-ins may not receive food depending on availability. Open to WCC members and guests | Share: <https://evite.me/aloha>

**Volunteers needed!** Help with registration, food service, and cleanup. Contact coach **Ivan Gale**: [ivangale@gmail.com](mailto:ivangale@gmail.com)

**Parking:** Limited due to DC water construction. No guest parking - see Georgetown parking guide: <https://www.georgetowndc.com/explore/getting-here/>



### COMMUNITY PARTNER EVENT

## Jubilee Youth Services Paddle

**Wednesday, July 23, 2025**  
**12:30 – 2:30 p.m.**

WCC volunteers will help 20 kids from **Jubilee Youth Services** learn to paddle canoes for an excursion later this summer.

**Volunteers needed!** We're looking for volunteers to assist with instruction and safety on the water. Email Community Partner Committee chair [Louise Flynn](#) if you're available to help.

This is a great opportunity to share your paddling experience while supporting

our community partnership efforts. Help introduce these young people to canoeing and the river we all enjoy.

## Chris Brown's Paddlethon for the Boathouse

Throughout the month of July, longtime WCC member and cancer survivor, **Chris Brown** will take on an incredible challenge: **paddling 70 miles as a personal "Paddlethon" to raise critical funds for the Boathouse Rehabilitation Campaign.** Chris says, "This may not sound like much, but with wind, high water, and summer heat creating uncertainty many days, it will be plenty challenging for me."



Chris has set an ambitious personal fundraising goal of \$10,000 and is rallying support from his family and friends to help preserve and improve the Boathouse for generations to come.

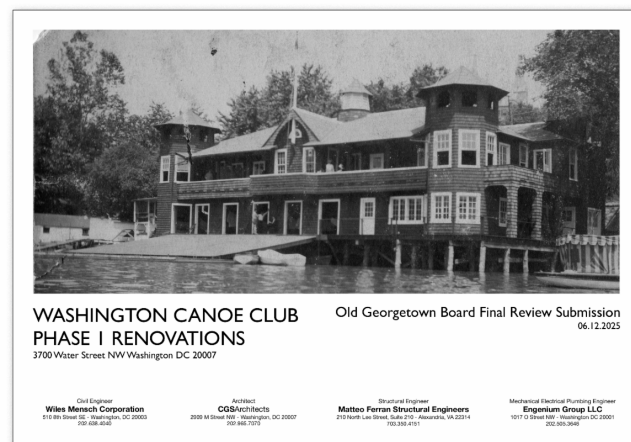
WCC is so grateful to Chris for his dedication, creativity, and inspiring commitment to our campaign!

Interested in doing your own paddlethon? Or maybe you have a fun or unique fundraising idea of your own—let us know. We'd love to help you bring it to life! Email us at [fundraising@washingtoncanoecub.org](mailto:fundraising@washingtoncanoecub.org).

## News and Information

### Boathouse Rehabilitation Update

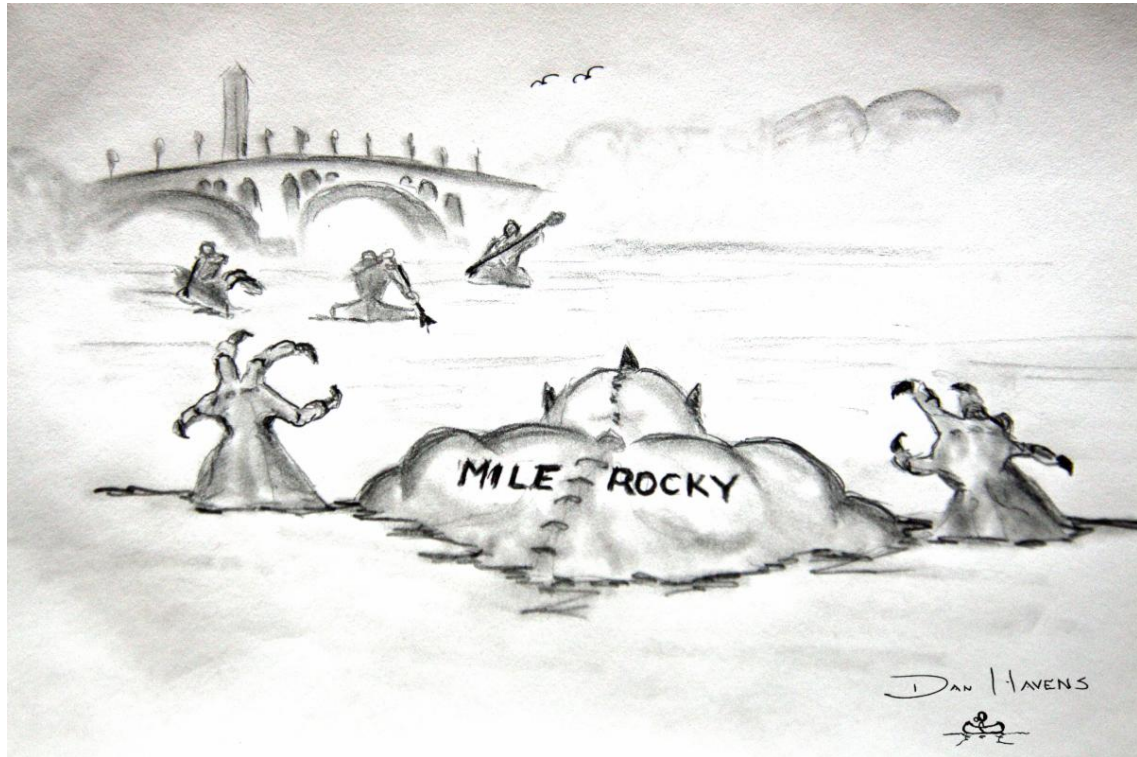
The National Park Service (NPS) has submitted documents describing the revised WCC building restoration project to the Old Georgetown Board (OGB) for review.



The next OGB meeting is scheduled for July 3, where staff will review our project. The WCC Boathouse Rehabilitation Committee will be prepared to present and discuss the project if requested.

Thanks to **David Cottingham** and the committee for their work in advancing the project to this stage!

## Stay Safe on the Water This Summer



*“Mile Rocky” drawing by Dan Havens 2025*

*“The river is always changing, but to the best of my knowledge, the rocks have not moved for 100,000 years or more. **They love to EAT all boats...** especially rudders. They have been doing it for a long time.*

*Paddlers need to be aware of where the rocks are at different water levels. Don't be afraid to ask someone who is experienced with Potomac River knowledge. No sound is worse than the sound of the hull of a canoe or kayak hitting a rock. After hitting a rock, the craft will never be quite the same.*

*Paddle hard, be safe, and have fun on our Beautiful Potomac River.”*

**– Dan Havens**

As you enjoy the long warm summer days at WCC, prioritize safety by understanding your limits, knowing water conditions and hazards like the notorious Mile Rock (usually marked with a buoy), and staying aware of other waterway users.

Paddlers should review the [Potomac River Safety Committee \(PRSC\)](#) guidelines. The PRSC, which includes WCC representation, developed [traffic patterns](#) for safe shared river use. Paddlers should use the DC shore area between Key Bridge and Fletcher's Cove, but stay alert everywhere since not all boaters follow these patterns. Remember that rowers face backwards and may not see you approaching.

**Summer Club Stewards**

Welcome back to **Erin Rhodes** and **Alistair Leith**, who will serve as WCC's club stewards this summer. You'll find Erin or Alistair at the club on Friday evenings and Saturday and Sunday afternoons to assist new members, answer equipment questions, and provide friendly and knowledgeable support to those in need of information or assistance.

Both are skilled paddlers with extensive club knowledge. (Note: Steward responsibilities do not include lifeguarding or childcare.)

Thank you, Erin and Alistair!

## Entertainment Co-Chair Needed!



*Camela and Adrienne planning events.*

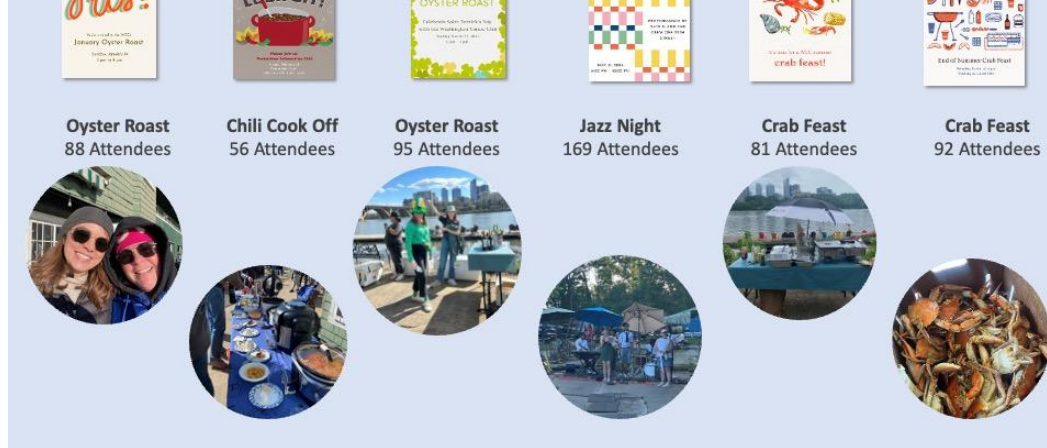
The Washington Canoe Club Entertainment Chair position is full of opportunity. Our historic building on the bank of the Potomac, with its long dock looking for loungers, is the perfect backdrop for any and every kind of celebration. How many people have a stage-like set for hosting parties?

Well, you do! With a built in work force of volunteers and with Carmela by your side, you could do anything. Crab feast? White linen party? Did someone say oysters? Canoe Club paddlers love us some parties.

We have been incredibly fortunate to have the dynamic duo of **Adrienne Leon** and **Carmela Leith** as Entertainment Co-Chairs for the last two years, but Adrienne is going back to school, and Carmela needs a partner. If you ever wanted to partner up with someone who knows how it's done, this is an opportunity to create fun times with a truly generous soul. Email [Entertainment@WashingtonCanoeClub.org](mailto:Entertainment@WashingtonCanoeClub.org) with any questions or to join the team!

### 2024 Entertainment Year in Review





*"When I first joined WCC I was welcomed by friendly faces but I didn't know how to integrate myself into the community. However, as Entertainment Co-Chair, those friendly faces quickly turned into friendships and I was constantly recognized for my work. I would continue in this role for years if I wasn't moving out of the area. Bringing the community together and welcoming newcomers was incredibly rewarding."*

– **Adrienne Leon**

## ISO Board Nominations

It may seem early, but the **WCC Nominating Committee** is hard at work in search of next year's officers and board members. We ask ALL members to consider who they would like to see in leadership positions at WCC in 2026. There are two At-Large slots on the Board of Governors which will be open for election (or re-election) at the annual meeting in November. All officer positions (per the by-laws) are for one year only, so all the following positions will be considered open, although some officers may run for re-election:

President, Vice President, Treasurer, Secretary, and Commodore.

Information Technology (IT) and legal skills are at the top of list for skills needed on the board, but the club utilizes every skill type for the wide assortment of jobs we take on, so don't hesitate to nominate yourself or someone else even if you are not a lawyer or a current member of the Geek Squad.

Please tell us who you would like to see in these positions, using this [Google Form](#).

Questions: contact **Chris Brown**, **Cheryl Zook**, **Martin Lowenfish** or **Mary Stapp** ([ms.stapp@gmail.com](mailto:ms.stapp@gmail.com)).





## Youth tackle windy day at WCC City Kids Prepare for Wyoming Canoe Trip

*By Elizabeth Pennisi*

The April day started angry, with clouds rushing by, raindrops every once in a while, and wind alternating with calm as if the weather could not decide what to do. But by the time the City Kids arrived, it was sunny and just a little breezy—perfect for putting middle school youngsters on the water. For me, this was a first, but for WCC's **Ian Ross**, overseeing this outing was old hat.

As City Kids' development and communications manager **Neha Rauf** points out, approaching its 30th anniversary, **City Kids Wilderness Project** offers DC youth an immersive seven-year program that builds a close-knit community while nurturing outdoor leadership and life skills. Through hiking, backpacking, paddling, and extended wilderness expeditions, participants develop confidence, teamwork, and a deep connection to the natural world, she explains. The selective application process includes an overnight camping experience, narrowing a pool of over 100 applicants to approximately 24 youth who will grow and learn together throughout the program. Each summer, participants travel from Washington, DC to Jackson, Wyoming for summer camp, where they take on increasingly challenging adventures—including remote multi-day canoe trips. "The experience of paddling to a back-country site is so unique because you feel so remote and get to spaces you could not get to otherwise," says City Kids trip leader **Nico Mowery**, who has been involved with the program for six years.





Getting a feel for water and learning to communicate in the boat are the hardest things to learn, she says, so she appreciates the opportunity WCC provides for kids to do that. In addition, "I like highlighting DC green space for our participants."

But beyond learning to paddle and working as a team, the WCC visit offers youth an opportunity to step outside their comfort zones, try something new, and build confidence in themselves. "It introduces them to things that can help them with their life," says Ian.

We paired the 8 kids off in Alumacraft canoes. Aquatics team member **Graham Leith** loaded Nico and another volunteer into his boat, and they began leading the other canoes upstream. One boat immediately veered way left, so Ian yelled to me to get on the water. I grabbed **Kit Pierson**, a City Kids volunteer, as my bow person. Off we went—his paddle was backwards at first—and by coaching the kids in the bow and stern to draw from opposite sides, we got the errant boat to turn back to the DC shore and rejoin the flock.

At the 1000-meter mark, Graham turned back and those able to follow easily raced to Three Sisters, with **Charlie Johnson** in a kayak coaching the rest so they could get back going in the right direction. We stayed back, helping Ava and her partner Mariela who got turned around and were having trouble getting straightened out.

City Kids brought pizza and fruit for lunch, and even Ava, who got off the water with her head down because she was so frustrated, was soon eager to get back on the water. "When the waves pushed me up and down, sometimes I got tired out," she says, yet "it was fun and I would like to keep practicing."

What Mariela really appreciated was having a good partner. She came away knowing the C stroke—and "keeping your thumbs up," she notes. And DQ got a lesson in patience and perseverance. "I wanted to be the best with my first try, but then I realized you've got to keep doing it," he points out.

However, after lunch, by the time we got three canoes on the water and saw how fast the wind and current were taking them downstream, Ian called everyone back to the dock—later that afternoon gusts reached 48 knots. So we spent much of the rest of the time practicing strokes by sitting on the dock edge, and several seemed to master effective drawing and powerful forward strokes. A few took turns in the



canoe inside the docks and practiced maneuvering it, while others enjoyed peeking at the large snake hanging out in the brush off the downstream dock. One girl did 4 pullups, impressing even Graham and Ian. The City Kids returned May 11 and should be back in the fall.

Graham hopes next time, more of his paddling peers will be able to make it. "I think more younger people helping would be appreciated by some of the campers," says Graham, who plans to do more volunteering with this group.

Community partnerships like City Kids are one of the ways Washington Canoe Club fulfills its mission of "preserving, promoting and engaging in paddlesports on the Potomac River." By introducing young people to paddling and connecting them with our waterways, we're nurturing the next generation of paddlers and environmental stewards. Members interested in getting involved with our community outreach efforts are encouraged to contact [Louise Flynn](#) to learn more about volunteer opportunities with the Community Outreach Committee.

## Sixty years later, '60s Olympian returns as WCC masters paddler

*By Elizabeth Pennisi*



*It took a lot of practice, but even in his late 70s', WCC Olympian Dennis Van Valkenburgh was able to master the tippiest C-1, though he hadn't paddled for 50 years.*

In eighth grade, a math teacher convinced **Dennis Van Valkenburgh** that it

would be good for his grades and for him to learn to paddle in a war canoe—the teacher was the WCC coach as well. “It looked pretty uphill if I didn’t do it,” Dennis recalls. But he was hooked the moment he stepped onto the WCC dock. “I had never seen the Potomac River that big, and I found there were a lot of great people there,” he recalls.

Several were training to go to the Olympics in Rome. So, even though paddling “was real hard,” he found himself up to the challenge. “I was strong and moderately athletic.” He and his fellow paddlers competed to be the best, practicing daily all summer against one another in two war canoes, vying for a spot on the team bound for Toronto.

He tried and liked the “peanut C1,” a relatively stable boat good for beginners, and by the end of the summer of 1960, he was getting quite adept at high-kneel canoeing. The next year, he did well at Lake Sebago and New Jersey regattas and loved the brand-new models. So, after becoming the US junior national champion in 1961 at age 16 and paddling in a winning C4 at the new Dempsey boathouse downstream from Key Bridge, he set his sights on the 1964 Olympics in Tokyo.

But Tokyo proved a greater challenge than he expected, though not for the usual reasons. It turned out the other serious C-1 competitors all had a new, sleeker model boat, the Delta. Rather than get discouraged, he found a “boatman” on the Hungarian team trained in boat repair who said he could turn this older boat into the newer model. The only hangup—the only way Dennis would be allowed to make these changes was if he bought the US boat. So, he called his dad—international calls were uncommon at the time—and his dad agreed to do that. It took a week to make the changes. And while Dennis did make the finals, he came in 8th. “I could have been 6th,” he laments.

He was just 20 years old and started at the University of Maryland with plans to continue to train and race, but the unfortunate sudden death of his dad derailed all plans. “I lost all motivation to do anything,” he recalls. At age 35, he landed in Colorado, supporting himself as lead guitarist in various rock and roll bands. Eventually, though, he got married, had children, and became a car salesman, spending his “music” time learning jazz piano. When he retired a decade ago, he went to school to learn how to be a piano tuner—another challenge that he now enjoys as a part-time career. “I never thought I’d see a canoe again,” he explains.

Then, for the 50th anniversary of the Tokyo games, the gold medal C-1er from Germany invited the other finalists of the race for a reunion in Potsdam, Germany. Five were still alive, including Dennis, and the week he spent at Potsdam Canoe and Kayak Club inspired him to plan to take his wife to the upcoming Tokyo Olympics. “I hadn’t seen a canoe race in 55 years.”

But once COVID hit, no spectators were allowed there. Eager to see some racing, Dennis asked about attending the US Olympic tryouts in Sarasota and was told he could see the events up close only if he became an official. So that’s what he did, and he was so impressed by all the sleek, bright-colored, lightweight craft now in use that afterward he tracked down a used one to buy in Seattle. He loved the wooden boats he learned in, but these boats “are beautiful.” However, being just 13 inches wide, they are also very unstable. When he got back to Golden, where he lived, this Nelo became his obsession. Six days a week, all summer, he took the boat to one of the three no-wake lakes

close by, falling out and getting back in over and over again until once again he could paddle with confidence. Hooked once more, he got training advice from the US sprint coach and also began running and lifting weights, as well as focusing on interval training in the C1. “I haven’t fallen out in over a year.”

Then three years ago, he and his wife visited Washington, DC, and he got in touch with **Jim Ross** about stopping by the WCC. “Come on down,” Jim said. And once again Dennis was hooked. “It was so cool to be down on the docks, and everyone was so nice.” And when he asked if he might race with WCC once again, they welcomed him with open arms. “It was very, very touching to have a home back at the canoe club,” says Dennis. It was touching, too, to meet paddlers who are the kids and grandkids of people he knew in the 60s. “I told **Becky Schuette** that I paddled with her grandfather.”

He has competed at Nationals as part of the WCC team and twice has come back for the **Middle States Regatta**. Once, **Ian Ross** invited him to race C2 with him. “That’s the coolest thing that ever happened to me,” he recalls. Dennis likes the 200-meter distance the best, but this coming July, he will race 500 meters at the International Canoe Federation Sprint Masters Championships in Portugal.



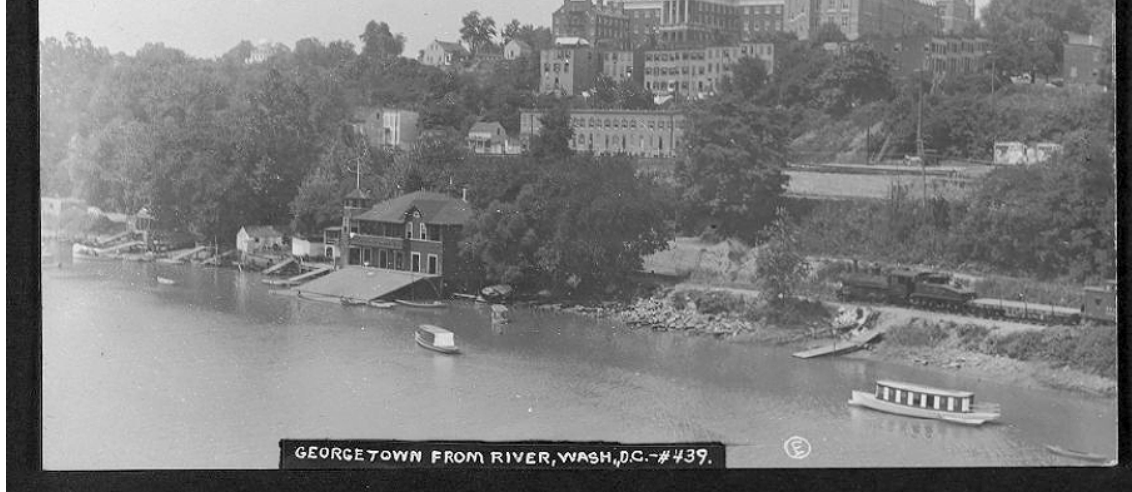
*Paddling with Ian Ross at the 2024 Middle States Regatta*

He's got a WCC outrigger transplant to Colorado, **Joe Przyuski**, who regularly joins him on Fridays for a workout and officiates with breaks to race at various events. Other old-timers officiate as well, and he’s reconnected with many of them. And he’s already scheming about getting front-row seats at the sprint races in the upcoming Olympics in Los Angeles.

Dennis loves how many more people are now involved in the sport—and how much stronger they are. “They lift and train all year-round,” something not done 60 years ago. And the WCC, too, is much different. “There are a lot more people and a lot more stuff going on.” In his youth, there were only about a dozen serious young paddlers and about half as many adults hanging out at the club. Today, Gavin and David are great mentors for the next generation, he points out. “We didn’t have that...We barely knew what we were doing.” But in addition, with all the social events, “you don’t even have to get on the water to have a good time.” He marveled at one WCCer who was just sitting on the dock in an Adirondack chair, sipping coffee and watching the world go by. “It’s a magical place, and if it could be rebuilt, it would be really amazing.”

## WCC History





*A train runs on the Georgetown Spur rail line*

## The Boathouse of 9 Lives

*By Chris Brown*

At its fall 1906 Board of Governors meeting, the president of the recently organized Washington Canoe Club, **Willard Fracker**, spoke up: "Gentlemen, I have some very troubling news. The B&O Railroad is planning to move ahead with a spur from its mainline in Silver Spring into Georgetown. The tracks will come directly through our boathouse."

Such is the beginning of an imagined, fraught conversation at the WCC Board meeting over a century ago...and the beginning of a remarkable tale of survival and resilience. The news shocked a membership that, just a year earlier, had mustered the funds and applied muscle and sweat to complete their Victorian boathouse, soon to become a landmark on the Potomac shore.

**This calamity was the first of many we've faced and weathered.** Consider:

**1910** – B&O Railroad completes its 11-mile Georgetown Spur rail line, managing to just squeeze it between the WCC and C&O Canal embankment.

**1918** – A huge ice jam on the Potomac crushes the boathouse next door, but WCC sustains only minor damage.



**1930s-40s** – Several devastating floods over a 10-year period inundate WCC to the second floor, but our

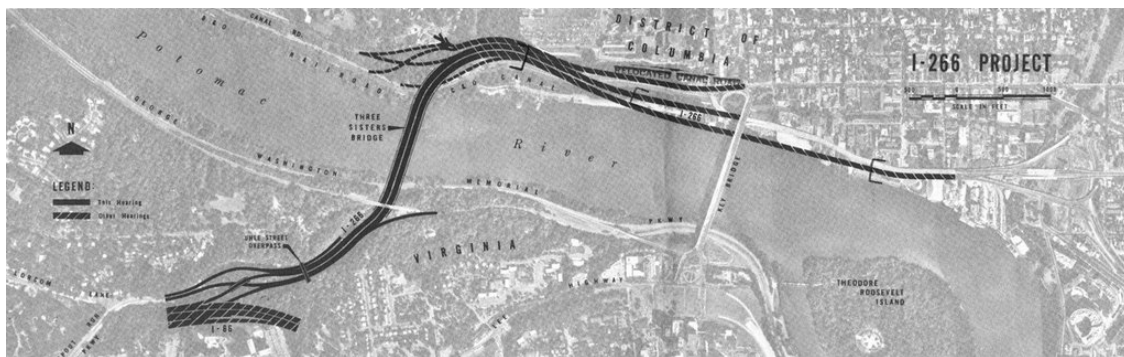


"flood-resilient" structure allows floodwaters to flow through and the building sustains only temporary damage.

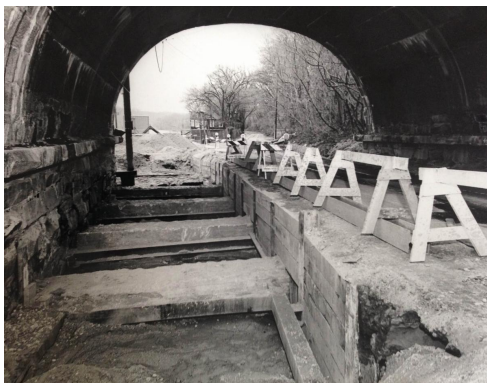
**1939** – After almost 40 secure years with leases or other arrangements with the C&O Canal Co. and B&O Railroad, the club has a new landlord – the federal government – and unaccustomed uncertainty. The feds (eventually, the National Park Service), which purchase the canal right-of-way, give WCC a series of leases and short-term special-use permits for the next 60+ years.

**1961** – Dempsey's Boathouse, adjacent to the WCC, suffers a catastrophic fire and burns to the ground; our boathouse is licked by flames but miraculously avoids the conflagration.

**1960s** – A major interstate highway (which includes a 4-lane bridge at the Three Sisters and entrance ramps running through the WCC) is planned. The club joins other groups to strongly protest, and the project is eventually dropped.



*The proposed Three Sisters Bridge*



**c. 1970** – The local water and sewer authority cooperates with northern Virginia to build an 8-foot diameter sewer line, the Dulles Interceptor, down the Maryland and DC bank of the Potomac (to carry wastewater from the new airport to DC's Blue Plains Treatment Plant). The WCC boathouse is squarely in the path of the new pipe. But, again, we dodge the bullet; the alignment is altered to run the pipe in front of the club (where it sits today).

**Early 2000s** – A series of events leads the National Park Service in 2010 to declare our boathouse "unsafe for occupancy" while also asserting it owns the structure (a structure we members built, maintained, and paid taxes on for over a century!). It is a moment of great peril, with the very viability of our historic home on the Potomac waterfront in question. Strong disagreements ensue; some members resign. Ultimately, we negotiate a long-term lease, assuring our continuity on our riverside spot for the next 60 years at least.

**2020s** – DC Water, under court order to clean up the Potomac, plans a 5.5-mile "Deep Tunnel" which will start right downstream of WCC. Work begins in February 2025 on the multi-year project, which severely disrupts club access and parking.



And now, our latest challenge: Our iconic boathouse, deteriorated and dilapidated after 120 years, needs major repairs and rehabilitation. Architects and engineers are finalizing plans, and the club is raising \$1 million to undertake the restoration.

### **Are we up to the challenge? Yes!**

Given its location, the WCC boathouse will inevitably, and forever, face existential threats. But our history shows that with our steadfast members and dedicated leaders (and with occasional divine intervention), we will persevere, survive, and thrive.

Do you have historical photos or have a story to share with fellow WCC members and friends? Don't hesitate to send them our way. Reach out to the Newsletter Team at [newsletter@washingtoncanoecub.org](mailto:newsletter@washingtoncanoecub.org).



*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.

## **Team Announcements**

**WCC Coaches:** Rachel Shackelford, Lisa Ramm, and Cheryl Zook (Women's Outrigger), Ivan Gale (Men's Outrigger) Nate Day (Novice Outrigger), Joe Cafferata (Rec Outrigger), David Podloch and Gavin Ross (Junior's), TBD (Master's Kayak), and Kathy Summers (SUP)

## **The 2025 Racing Season**

WCC coaches, teams, and individual competitors have been training hard and organizing participation in this season's competitions. Getting teams and boats to away races requires extensive coordination and support, so we extend our heartfelt thanks to everyone who contributes to and participates in our racing programs!

## Calling all athletes! Want to compete with the outrigger teams?

You've all seen the big canoes on the dock, but have you ever wondered what it would be like to race in one? Perhaps you've joined the recreational group on Mondays but would like to take the next step. The WCC Outrigger teams are seeking athletes with a desire to compete. While no experience is necessary, a willingness to learn and work hard as part of a team is essential. If interested, contact [Nate Day](#) to join the WCC Novice team.



*Ready to race! Members of the outrigger teams transport WCC canoes to the Anacostia Community Boathouse for the Monumental Outrigger race last weekend.*

## RACE RESULTS

### NCA Monumental Outrigger Canoe Race 2025

WCC women's crews dominated the competition, taking first place in both the unlimited and spec boat classes, plus second place in the masters unlimited division.

The WCC men's crews also performed well, finishing third and fifth in their respective races.

Our mixed crews had an outstanding day, claiming first place in both the open and masters unlimited classes, as well as first place in the spec boat class with the WCC novice mixed crew coming in second. Congratulations to all!





## WCC Juniors

**Alistair Leith** and **Anwar Akshurin** competed at team trials in California, with Alistair earning qualification for the U23 World Team.

Three paddlers traveled to Seattle for OHR Trials and the Ted Houk regatta, where **Graham Leith** made the OHR national team.

## General Clinton Canoe Regatta



*Photo by Bonnie Havens*

**Grand Prix Relay:** WCC fielded 30 paddlers across five teams, finishing 1st, 2nd, 3rd, 7th, and 10th. The club swept the podium and claimed all the beer prizes! First place went to an all-Rhodes family team featuring **Kelly, Blaise, Sam, Erin, Luke, and Becca**.

**Clinton 70-Miler:** Three WCC paddlers tackled the grueling 70-mile race. **Martin**

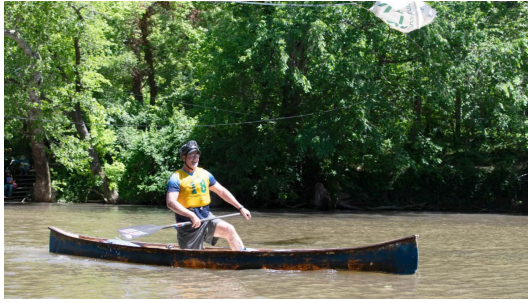


## Little D on the Monocacy

In May, 23 WCC members paddled for a good cause at the Little D on the Monocacy race. **Sam Rhodes** claimed the top spot, with many other club members placing in the top 10 in their respective events.



and **Kelly** finished in Pro Endurance with a time of 8:06, while **Nate Gueltzau** completed the Open division in 12:00.



### Potomac Downriver Race

**Gavin and Jim Ross** delivered impressive back-to-back performances, finishing 5th and 6th respectively, both under the one-hour mark. **Hugh Hilliard** also represented WCC well, placing 14th.



### Suwannee 230

**Nate Gueltzau** added another long-distance victory to his impressive season, taking 1st place in men's tandem canoe with a time of 85:37.

## 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 text on the sleeve. If an item has a printed logo, you can get your name 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 at [Newsletter@WashingtonCanoeClub.org](mailto:Newsletter@WashingtonCanoeClub.org).

***We love hearing from you!***



### Washington Canoe Club

Friends of the Washington Canoe Club is an IRS recognized 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization.

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