

Cruiser

Canoe Cruisers Association of Greater Washington, DC, Inc.

The Chairman's Cockpit

It is with a heavy heart that I need to report the drowning of Nancy Kell. Though she was a CCA member, she was better known as a leader of the very active Mason Dixon Club. I watched Nancy grow from an enthusiastic newbie to a paddler well versed on the Upper and Top Yock, Middle and Main Tygart, as well as being an international paddler in Mexico and Ecuador. The link to the accident report is: <https://www.americanwhitewater.org/content/Accident/detail/accidentid/46312s>.

If anything should come of this tragedy, it should be the demise of cow tethers. The obvious potentially fatal danger of having a rope dangling from the life vest far outweighs any minor advantages they offer.

The government's answer to the CCA lawsuit is due March 11. Stay tuned! In the meantime, Trump's legions have removed another set of trees from the water's edge of the golf course. To make matters worse they left the trunks and branches IN the water. The dead wood will wash directly into the GW Canal creating life threatening hazards in the next high water. Printed elsewhere is the response from Democracy Forward and the Canoe Cruisers Association. Please read with care and sign the petition offered by the Potomac Riverkeeper.

All winter long I read with envy the trip reports from the cold weather paddlers who seemed oblivious to ice flows and ice cream headaches in January and February. Finally, the first of March came and I joined the intrepid winter crazies on Ed Gertler's icebreaker trip on Sleepy Creek. It was WONDERFUL to be out on a 15 mile workout. The glory was spoiled at the horrendous takeout. A snowcovered/soppy muddy hill almost stopped us and left our boats and gear dripping orange gluey mud. The trip was in affect extended to the next day as a scrubbing party worked hours to remove stubborn orange smears from everything that was touched.

Have you ever had a mysterious leak in your boat? No matter how sealed, water ends under the seat. Not a whole lot. Just enough to get your butt wet. I finally found the culprit. The top of my sprayskirt is not watertight!. As an experiment, I sprayed NIKWAS TX.DIRECT spray-on waterproofing inside and out. Bought at REI, it worked beautifully. The water beaded up on the skirt rather than dripping through. And you can use any leftovers on your dry top or dry suit.

Take care. SYOTR Barb

HEAR YE! HEAR YE!

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Canoe Cruisers Association
c/o Virginia DeSeau
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Chairman: Barbara Brown potomacb3@gmail.com
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Address Corrections: membership@canoecruisers.org
Newsletter: Joan Goodbody jodyg13@hotmail.com
Web Site: Susan Sherrod webmaster@canoecruisers.org
Instruction: Charlie Duffy: Pool Rolling: Ron Ray

CCA Meetings 7:30 pm

**Clara Barton Community Center,
7425 MacArthur Blvd.**

Cabin John, MD

Directions: <http://www.canoecruisers.org/meetings.html>

CCA Programs Coordinator:

Ed Gertler: 301 585 4381 e_gertler@yahoo.com.

CCA Meeting 7:30 pm

Monday, April 29, 2019:

**Screening of "The Canoe"
By Goh Iromoto.**

**Monday, June 24: Speaker: Matt Rinehimer
from Maryland DNA speaking on eels.**

Monday, September 30: TBD

Monday, October 28: TBD

**Friday, December 6, 2019: Annual Swap Meet
And Holiday Party**

'The Canoe': A Film Celebrating the Simple Joy of Paddling

The canoe may be the most iconic watercraft of all time, so it's easy to understand why filmmaker Goh Iromoto paid homage to this vessel in his recent film, *The Canoe*. The story is told from the perspective of paddlers across Ontario and underscores the connection between the human spirit and paddling canoes. As an avid canoeist himself, Iromoto wanted to dedicate a piece of work to the activity that has given him so much in return. He writes this to his viewers, "To all the paddlers out there (and to those who want to start), this film is for you. Keep on paddling."

[Review from <https://www.outsideonline.com/2176226/canoeing-canada-longstanding-tradition>]



Special Olympics Looking for Kayak Coach

From Joanne Garlow, Assistant Coach, Montgomery County Special Olympics

I am one of the sea kayaking coaches with Special Olympics Montgomery County Maryland. We are looking for folks who love to kayak to get involved with our team. It's really a great experience – we kayak every Saturday morning from 9am – noon in the summer months on Lake Seneca in Black Hills Regional Park and it's just beautiful there! The team has about 18 athletes most of whom have been kayaking for years so we end up spending many practices just padding around looking for turtles and birds. But these are also serious athletes who work hard for the two competitions in August where they go for the gold! It's a joy every summer but the current coaches have been doing this for over ten years and we are looking to expand the coaching team.

Training in coaching kayaking and in Special Olympics is available so no experience necessary. The team has kayaks for the volunteers so you don't need your own.

Interested persons should contact head coach Alan Seifert at kayaking@somdmontgomery.org or 301-654-8888.

And thank you for your consideration!

Joanne Garlow, Assistant Coach

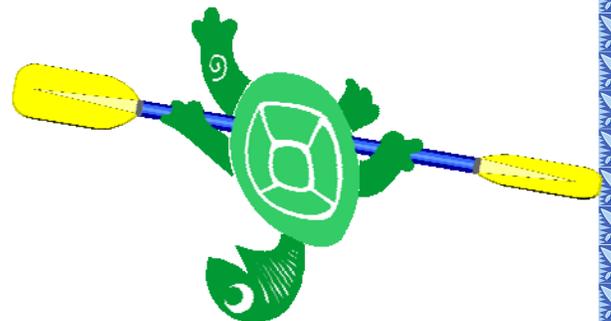
Rolling Classes Tuesday evenings:

January 8 through Tuesday April 9, (except March 19, pool closed) 7 - 9 PM

At Piney Branch Elementary School,
7510 Maple Ave,
Takoma Park, Maryland.
\$20 per night.

If you have any questions, please text Ron Ray on 301 974 1004.

Note: If Montgomery County schools are closed or evening activities cancelled due to weather or other problems, the pool will be closed. Any updates will be posted on **Paddle Prattle** on Tuesday afternoon as information becomes available



Date: 2019-02-24
River: Red Creek
Victim: Nancy Kell
Reports by: Ken Durr and Bill Durr
Location: about three miles west of Laneville, WV
Water level: Medium-High (AW reported 465 CFS – Green level)
Difficulty: II+ (at that point in the river)

Report by Bill Durr:

Put in at 12:15 on Red Creek with a group of experienced boaters and day was going well. Eventually our group came to a gravel bar that forms a rapid with a channel on the left with lots of wood (38.975187,-79.458631). The wood blocks most of the channel and the river constricts. At the top of the rapid there is a small eddy river right that you can catch and walk the rapid or set up to run the narrow channel far river left. Above the river left channel is an eddy that has a large strainer in it with a decent amount of space behind to catch and run the channel. I went first and ferried to behind the strainer and continued down the far left channel. Caught an eddy river left, immediately below the last part of the channel. From this eddy I could not see all the way to the top.

The group started to come down the channel. I saw Ken catch an eddy about half way down and heard whistle blasts. I saw Nancy's boat floating down the rapid upside down with no movement. Got out of my boat and proceeded up the river left bank. When I got to Ken I quickly looked, but didn't see anything in the channel and heard that no one had seen Nancy come out of her boat. So I got in my boat and proceeded to try to catch up to her boat.

Came to the next rapid where the river splits around an island and took the left channel (38.975591,-79.46172). At the bottom of it I saw Josh and he was blowing his whistle. Got out on the island and went to him. Josh said that he was chasing Nancy's boat and it and the other paddlers in our group went down the right channel. We went up to try to look down the right channel. Got to a spot where we thought we saw the right channel and did not see any boaters or boat. I started back to my boat to proceed downstream, this is when Josh started blowing his whistle (about 8 minutes after leaving to chase the boat). He was heading upstream and into the water. Nancy had been floating down and he got her to a gravel bar next to the island. She was unresponsive and we started CPR and rescue breaths. Ken arrived after about 3-5 minutes and we paused to get Nancy fully out of the water and brought her over to the island. Continued to administer CPR and breaths. Charlie arrived and Ken went to get help. Continued CPR 40 minutes total but Nancy never became responsive or regained a pulse.

Things that were helpful:

- Two members of the party involved in the rescue/recovery knew CPR. Josh Barza is WFR certified.
- Very experienced paddling crew.
- Strong teamwork.
- Good group gear, especially long ropes.
- Fast response time from the Tucker County Police & EMS Teams.
- Great assistance from the local landowner.

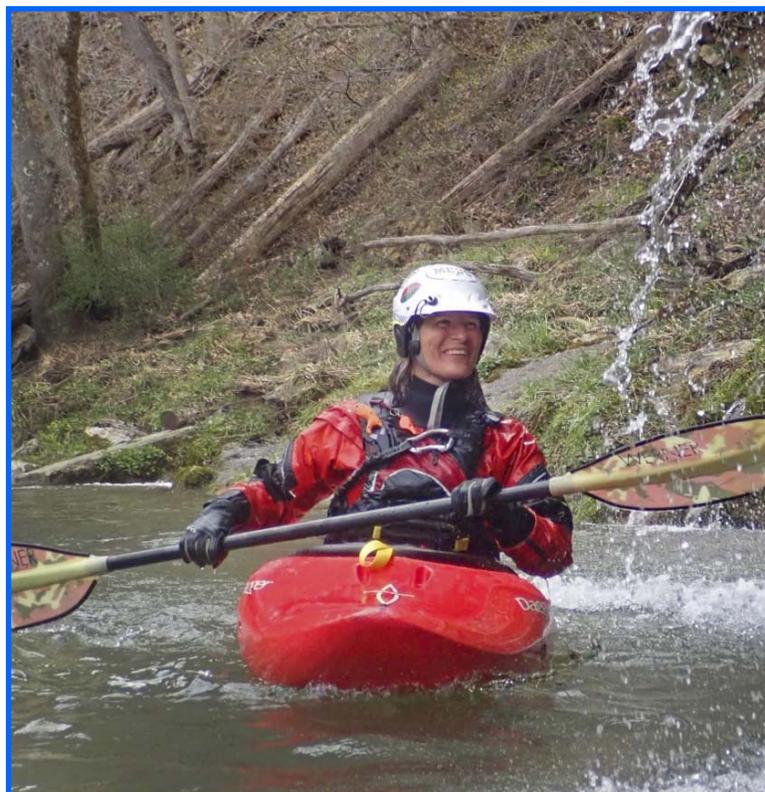
What could have potentially been done differently?

- ▶ We should have had one person in the party stay with Ken.
- ▶ We could have considered that because Nancy floated out of the eddy she likely hit the channel at the far left and that that was the place she was most likely to have snagged, and so could have looked harder there earlier.
- ▶ Eddy top of the rapid, river right and portage the rapid. There was a very easy portage through a grass field.
- ▶ Stop/Gather/Discuss before running a rapid with a strainer at the bottom.
- ▶ Ken could have used a rope to self-belay/wade to Nancy. The rope could then be used to secure Nancy via a carabiner to prevent floating downstream.

Finally: This incident suggests reconsideration of the widespread use of tow tethers.

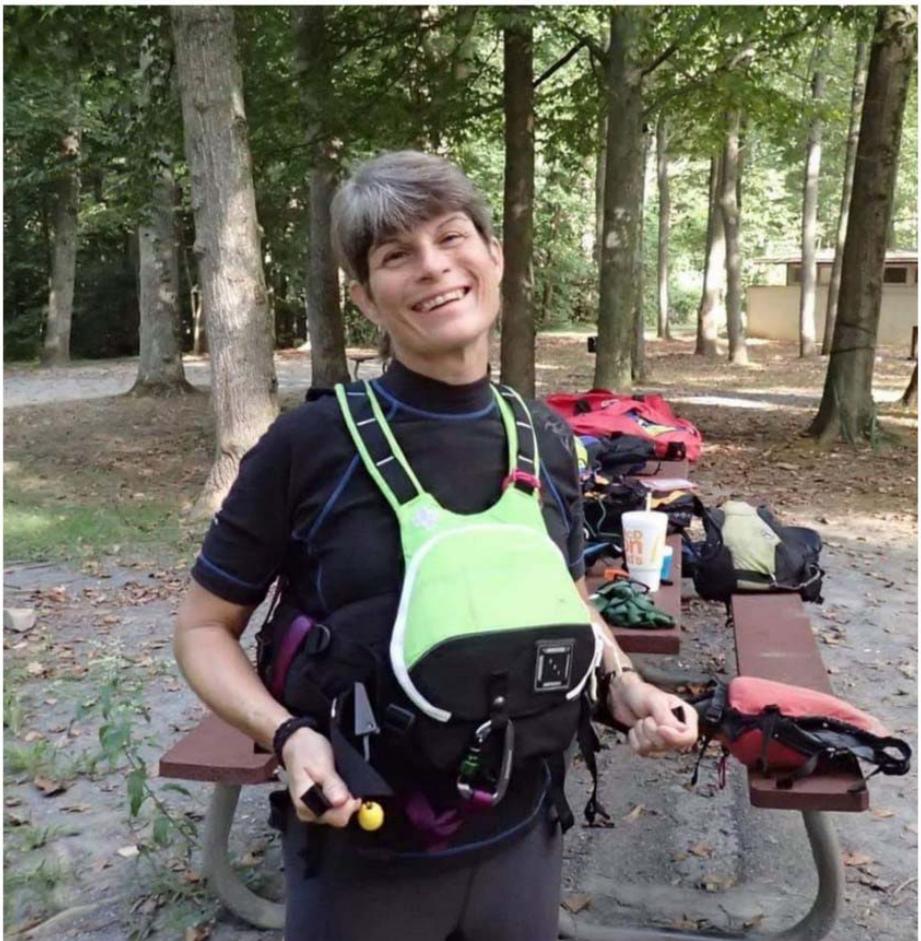
CCW: Any loose-fitting tethers should be removed AT ONCE!

Nancy on the Cacapon by Barb Brown.



Nancy Kell Memorial Paddle, Saturday March 30, 2019

We will be gathering to run Millville section of the Shenandoah in Harper's Ferry WV, Nancy's home river in her honor. Feel free to bring flowers to release on the river. Meeting at the Millville put in @ noon to be on the river @ 12:30, taking out at Wayside. If river level is high alternate run will be posted. Parking and shuttle will be graciously provided by River & Trail Outfitters so please park at the put in. RSVP to the CCA website if attending the paddle. A Celebration of Life will follow: details will be provided. [Go to canoecruisers.org, click on trips and events and click on March 30.]



Nancy Kell photos were part of Memorial Invite from Bonnie Wisdom

Consider being a safety boater for the downriver race if not racing.

Safety boaters needed for CCA Downriver Race on May 11, 2019 (backup is May 18).
Volunteers should be comfortable rescuing boats and swimmers in Class 2/3 white water. Throw bags required, swiftwater rescue and first aid/CPR preferred.

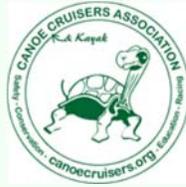
If interested, please contact Ron Ray at ronaldaray@verizon.net.

Remembering the 2018 Downriver Race.
Photos submitted by Barb Brown in 2018



CCA POTOMAC DOWNRIVER RACE SATURDAY, MAY 11, 2019

Backup date is May18, 2019
Howard Morland, CCA Downriver Race Chair
Mike Corcoran, PWRC President
Star Mitchell, Sycamore Island Liaison



The CCA Potomac Downriver Race is hosted by Sycamore Island and co-sponsored by Potomac Whitewater Racing Center. It is one of the longest running whitewater races in the nation.

Online registration only. Advance registration is \$20, day of race the registration fee will increase to \$30. Note also that \$5 per paddler must be included in the fee for insurance unless the paddler is a member of the ACA (American Canoe Association). We are working with ACA to have their waiver online. **Tandem teams must register and pay as two individuals.**

Register at: Potomac Downriver Race https://canoe-cruisers.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=394800&module_id=205240

This Maryland Canoe & Kayak Racing Series event begins at Rocky Island on the Potomac River just above Wet Bottom Rapid and continues for 7.5 miles to Sycamore Island. The race also will be a USA Wildwater Ranking Race. At the end of the race, a free T-shirt and a free lunch will be given to all workers and racers, and there will be a ceremony with awards and prizes for the winners. (If you do not attend the ceremony, do not expect to receive the above! No awards will be mailed!)

Sign-in begins at 9 a.m. and ends at 10:30 a.m. Great Falls Tavern/C&O National Park in Potomac, Maryland, followed by a **mandatory meeting for all racers. The race start time is 12 noon for all racers.** If the Little Falls Gauge is over 5 feet, the race will start at the Old Angler's Inn put-in. And if the gauge is over 6 feet, the race will be postponed. Notice regarding any changes will be posted on the CCA, PWRC, and MCC websites. **You will be notified of changes by email if you register in advance.**

MASS START THIS YEAR! We will join the tradition of the other local river races and make a mass start. Everybody will start together at noon GPS time. Your race time will be when you cross the finish line.

This is a race for any whitewater paddler from the pros to parent/child tandem teams, but this is **NOT A NOVICE RACE.** All participants should have experience in, and be comfortable with, **Class III rapids.** Participants may enter with any type of a boat provided it is properly outfitted **with adequate flotation** (air bags) and all occupants of the boat are wearing a **helmet and a PFD (life jacket).**

If you plan to paddle the race, **PLEASE PRE-REGISTER** to help with planning. Please do not bring two cars to the race, parking very limited at the take-out and a shuttle will be provided.

VOLUNTEERS are needed for safety boats, for helping at the sign-in table at Great Falls, at the finish at Sycamore Island and to run shuttle for the racers. Volunteers will receive the gratitude of the racers, a sense of participating in an important annual river event, a race T-shirt, and lunch.

Anyone interested in helping out with this year's race should contact **Howard Morland at 703-525-1429** or e-mail hbmorland@aol.com. **DO JOIN THE FUN!!**

The ACA Waiver and Insurance Form must be completed for each participant. To save time at registration please fill out the form and bring it with you to the race. If you are not an ACA member, a \$5 insurance fee must be paid. If you are an ACA member you must enter your ACA number on the insurance form. See website to download the forms. [ACA Adult Waiver and Insurance Form and ACA Minor Waiver and Insurance Form]

Trips - Coordinator Training and Launch of Weekend Outings ;

21 Feb - 6 Mar '19 by Alf Cooley

This year brings improvements - we hope - in running our Weekend Paddles. The goal is to have a posted paddling trip every weekend during the paddling season. Again we have the cross-listing arrangement with our sister clubs, the BRV and MCC, which will contribute. We have got 27 paddlers to sign up to coordinate trips on this year's weekends. We are particularly happy that many of these are new to the game. 17 coordinators came to the "Workshop" Alf Cooley hosted at Barb's on Feb 10, where we emphasized safety, group cohesion, building Club membership, and how to use the CCA website to facilitate choosing brooks and running trips. Please check out the two new documents (with links) called Coordinators Info and Workshop which we've posted on the CCA Website at: "Messages" then "Paddling Trips". See: <https://www.canoecruisers.org>

By the time this Cruiser is issued, all you CCA Members should have received the first e-mail invitation to come out on a trip. We hope you can make it out on the water with us, if not now, then later in the summer.

Save for the indefatigable Thursday Paddlers (listing now 340 blades). Actual trips this February and March have been near nil - it is too bloody cold. Nothing of course could deflect Ed Gertler from his annual 15-mile "Icebreaker" on West Virginia's Sleepy Creek. (See page 16 and back cover). In the last Cruiser he engaged in a tongue-in-cheek promotion of the trip invoking the spirit of the Nation's Canoeist-in-Chief George Washington, and the effort paid off - as we collected no fewer than 6 boaters. For the TR see the CCA website's Trip Reports section. Thursday's trips got off to a rocky start. Their first was canceled due to cold weather. Later Thursday trips on the Patapsco, and GW Loop (to look for Trump's latest arboreal depredations) had a total of 12 participants - Check out their trip reports on that part of the CCA Website.

In late April's warming days, the Sunday Paddlers, now under Wayne McDaniel's and Tim Tilson's aegis, will begin taking out paddlers on a series of morning trips on the George Washington (Violettes Lock). To get on their mailing list please email: trips@canoecruisers.org.



2019 Event Schedule

Mark your calendars!

April 6: Top Yough Race (Oakland, MD)

May TBD: Family Day & Intro to Paddling (Poolesville, MD)

June 8: Little Falls Race #1 (Brookmont, MD)

August 10: Little Falls Race #2 (Brookmont, MD)

August 17: Great Falls Race & Potomac Festival (Potomac, MD)

November TBD: S-Turn Giant Slalom (Great Falls, VA)

Great Falls Foundation report that 2019 Attainment Race was a great success and they had a great turnout.

This was the first event in the 2019 Paddle-the-Potomac race series, and the first opportunity to accumulate points for the 2019 President of the Potomac competition. [Click](#) to see the current standings!

Local Paddlers, the US Air Force, and the National Park Service Partner to Re-Open Potomac River Access Below Great Falls

By Chuck Thornton, President, Great Falls Foundation
March 2019

Mother Nature was generous in 2018. With record rainfall across the region, the Potomac River reached flood stage (>10' on the Little Falls gauge) four times. While many paddlers have enjoyed the big water, flows over 150,000 cubic feet per second will pick up everything along the shoreline, including plastic, trash, sticks, and even huge tree trunks. As the water recedes following each flood event, the river often deposits that debris in ravines and other enclosed spaces along the shore.

During the first three floods of the year, that's what occurred in the ravine that accesses Fisherman's Eddy from Great Falls National Park in Virginia. The river left behind several large logs and a mess of small sticks and plastic, prompting the National Park Service to close the ravine in Spring 2018.

Given the area's topography, the closure of Fisherman's Eddy resulted in highly restricted Potomac River access from the Virginia side around Great Falls and through Mather Gorge.

This also limited the operational capability of NPS's Potomac Paddler Volunteer Corps – which provides river safety patrols and messaging to the public.

Since Fisherman's Eddy's closure, NPS and local paddlers had been in discussions regarding various options to clear out the debris in order to re-open river access. Given the extensive debris and liability concerns, NPS declined to permit volunteers to organize clean-up activities. For their part, NPS's George Washington Memorial Parkway, which manages Great Falls Park, had planned to contract for professional services, but repeated high water events and budget restrictions stymied those plans. Finally, in December, Mother Nature again provided the goods and much of the significant debris washed away during the fourth and final flood event of the year.

On Saturday, February 9, 2019, Ranger Andrew Turner of the Great Falls Park staff organized a volunteer clean-up event. Approximately 15 members of a U.S. Air Force leadership program from Joint Base Andrews and 12 local paddlers started working in the ravine at 8:00am. The weather cooperated with sunshine and relatively warm temperatures, and everyone enjoyed themselves. We bagged the smaller debris, and moved the larger sticks and logs up on the



Before photo by Andrew Turner

bluff for the maintenance crews to retrieve. By 11:00am, the ravine was cleaner than it had been in years!

Great Falls Supervisory Ranger Kristen Maxfield came out to inspect the ravine and, so impressed with our work, declared the Fisherman's Eddy ravine immediately open. Therefore, we tore down the 'Closed' sign, put on our gear, and went kayaking.

This event was a great example of the cooperative relationship that local paddlers have established with the land and resource managers along the Potomac River. We appreciate our partnership with the National Park Service --- and be sure to check out Ranger Turner's fun video here: <https://gopro.com/v/ZN0rb6dB0J058>.



After photo by Collin Swan



Group photo by Andrew Turner

Submissions to the Cruiser

Should be made via e-mail to newsletter@canoecruisers.org, or directly to the editor at jodyg13@hotmail.com or submitted on disk, or typed for scanning. No special formatting is required and is discouraged, also use plain easy to read text (fonts) such as arial or times new roman. Single spaced preferred. **Photos**—are strongly encouraged and can be e-mailed (preferred), or snail-mailed. Color photos are preferred.

Advertisements: Classified Ads—The first 5 lines are free. Each additional line is 75 cents per line. Send classified ads to newsletter@canoecruisers.org; **Lost & Found**—No charge. **Give-Aways**—No charge. **Paddlers Flea Market**—on the web at canoecruisers.org—No charge. **Display Ads**—Special Rates are available regular prices: Quarter page \$40, half page \$75, full page \$150, insert \$300-\$450. Display ads can be submitted via e-mail, 3.5" disk or CD-R. Hard copy ads will be scanned. Advertisers receive a link on our web site. For additional information, e-mail newsletter@canoecruisers.org, or advertising@canoecruisers.org or call Joan Goodbody, editor at 703-887-5013. **Payment**—must be received prior to publication. **Mailing Address**—Cruiser Editor, Canoe Cruisers Association, c/o Virginia DeSeau 1105 Highwood Rd., Rockville, MD 20851 or direct to editor at: 7829 Curtis Lane, Spotsylvania, VA 22551.

The Lawsuit and other information:

Last fall, after the Department of Homeland Security and the US Coast Guard designated a section of the Potomac River near the Trump National Golf Club a “permanent security zone,” a group called the Canoe Cruisers Association of Greater Washington did what many locals do best: [it sued](#).

Now that the President’s golf course has again [angered environmentalists](#) by cutting down trees and discarding them in the river, we wondered: What ever happened with the paddlers’ lawsuit?

As it happens, the administration is set to answer the complaint by Monday. A spokesperson for the attorneys representing the Canoe Cruisers Association says that while the group doesn’t know how the government plans to respond, it often files a motion of dismissal in cases like this.

The suit argues that previous administrations—and, for a time, this one—gave advance published notice of short-term closures of the two-mile stretch of Potomac River embankment that forces boaters to navigate through potentially high, rough waters over the lip of a rubble dam located at the Seneca Breaks. But with Trump’s last-minute drop-ins to his Loudoun County golf club, the paddlers said, the government abandoned giving river users a head’s up.

Cruisers attorney **Nitin Shah** told *Washingtonian* last fall that the federal government’s actions not only put rowers at risk, but also impacted surrounding businesses like the Canoe Cruisers Association, which can no longer teach swift-danger rescue on that particular stretch of the river.

In December, Maryland District Court granted a request from the Department of Justice to push its’ legal response to March, explaining that lack of appropriations from the partial government shutdown hindered its operations. In turn, the DOJ was allotted a 45 day timeline after Congress has restored funding to answer allegations that closing the river like this doesn’t “provide adequate notice to the affected community regarding when it will be in force, lacks an end date, and exceeds the scope of DHS’s statutory authority.”

The Canoe Cruisers Association says the current flap over the club’s tree removal has echoes in the way the government closes the river. “Much like the administration’s unlawful decision to cut off paddlers’ legal right to access the Potomac River when President Trump is playing golf at his private resort, this is a slap in the face to the many hundreds of people who seek to use this section of the Potomac for recreation, including canoeing, kayaking and fishing,” an association spokesperson says in an emailed statement. “Discarding the trees in the river creates dangerous conditions for families, children, veterans and countless others who boat this stretch of river.”

“We look forward to hearing the administration’s explanation of why it chose to violate the law and deprive people of their legal right to access the Potomac River,” says **Barbara Brown**, the association’s chairperson.



A number of trees were cut down at the Trump National Golf Club near Sterling in February 2019. On March 6, Loudoun County said the golf course had violated zoning regulations. (Dean Naujoks/ Potomac Riverkeeper Network)

By **Patricia Sullivan**

The cutting and disposal of a dozen mature trees into the Potomac River nearly two weeks ago at the Trump National Golf Course violated Loudoun County’s zoning ordinance, the county said, and could cost the organization at least \$600.

The downed trees were spotted Feb. 23 by Steven McKone, director of the Calleva River School, as he kayaked the river. Subsequent paddlers and boaters saw about a dozen stumps 14 to 24 inches in width, and large tree trunks in the Potomac.

The removal of the trees from a flood plain along the river requires a permit, which the golf course did not obtain, county officials said in a news release Wednesday, and violates three sections of the zoning code.

The county ordered the golf course to stop all activity in the flood plain until it obtains the necessary permits.

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Potomac Riverkeeper Network

The “Like Page”

February 27 at 5:00 PM ·

Mr. Trump, you owe us 512 trees for all those your golf course cut down! The Trump National golf course on the Potomac became notorious in 2015 when they cut down 500 trees to get a “view” of the river, and unbelievably, it wasn’t illegal in Loudoun County to do this. Now they’ve done it again, cutting dozens of large trees right on the riverbank and dumping them into the Potomac! We need your help to make sure this doesn’t happen again! Sign our petition and urge the Loudoun County Board of Supervisors to adopt Virginia’s Chesapeake Bay Preservation Act and enact sensible regulations that prohibit this kind of reckless clearcutting in the riparian zone along the Potomac River. Sign the petition here! <http://ow.ly/bvpJ30nRmHV>

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More on the Lawsuit and updates on next page.

Page 11 right column.



An Evening of Remembering by Alf Cooley

On Feb 25, this year, Risa Shimoda of River Management treated a group of paddlers to an evening of reminiscing on the Wild and Scenic Rivers System - which passed the Congress unanimously and was signed into law by LBJ in 1968. That was toward the end of the USA's dam building frenzy resulting in 17% of our rivers blocked by 70,000 barrages - and as the ecological movement got under way. To be included, a stream must have "outstandingly remarkable" natural, cultural, recreational or other values in a free-flowing condition for the enjoyment of present and future generations."

What does a W+S designation get for your favorite river? No money, but a prohibition of any dam construction and a promise that its water quality will not be allowed to deteriorate. Recreation, Risa noted for her paddling audience, is a protected value.

She showed a jolly movie with much retro footage of kayakers wiping out, salmon jumping falls, a grizzly boxing an automobile, many '70's moustaches, a shout-out for "enlightened bureaucrats," Gov. Jerry Brown, and even a clip from the infamous film, "Deliverance."

The eight streams so designated then have expanded to 209 rivers or sections thereof running 12,700 miles in 40 states. With 56 W+S rivers, Oregon has the honor of calling itself the Wild and Scenic Capital of the World. At the other end of the spectrum with no W&S rivers at all are Maryland and Virginia - O shame! West Virginia has but one - the Bluestone, and Pennsylvania features six - the Delaware [3 sections], Allegheny, Clarion, and White Clay Creek. [Virginia has a state Scenic River designation covering 33 rivers - one of which is Goose Creek - but that confers nothing but an empty honor.]

LAWSUIT UPDATE -

The Government's Response to CCA's lawsuit regarding Potomac River Access at the Trump Golf Course. Democracy Forward's statement: Below "is the government's motion for summary judgment and an accompanying declaration by a Coast Guard official. Interestingly, the declaration states that the Coast Guard has decided to issue a revised rule considering and responding to the public comments this summer. This is a positive development, but of course the Coast Guard has made promises before so our optimism should remain guarded for now. The other legal arguments made in the motion are as expected. Our lawyers are preparing a response, which will be due March 28."

The links below are the Government's motion for summary judgement and an accompanying declaration by a Coast Guard Official. *Cut and paste the https address into your web browser. Will not let hyperlink since https.*

[CCA vs USCG Case No 818-cv-2914-PJM.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/ClubExpressClubFiles/394800/documents/CCA_vs_USCG_Case_No_818-cv-2914-PJM_1302648036.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIB6123VLJX7E4J7Q&Expires=1553105988&response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3DCCA_vs_USCG_Case_No_818-cv-2914-PJM.pdf&Signature=aFs%2BYI3rP8VY5Zfmb%2BbSeqQfhTE%3D) [https://s3.amazonaws.com/ClubExpressClubFiles/394800/documents/CCA_vs_USCG_Case_No_818-cv-2914-PJM_1302648036.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIB6123VLJX7E4J7Q&Expires=1553105988&response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3DCCA_vs_USCG_Case_No_818-cv-2914-PJM.pdf&Signature=aFs%2BYI3rP8VY5Zfmb%2BbSeqQfhTE%3D]

[Short Version: CCA vs USCG Case No 818-cv-2914-PJM ex1.pdf](https://s3.amazonaws.com/ClubExpressClubFiles/394800/documents/CCA_vs_USCG_Case_No_818-cv-2914-PJM_ex1_1152506075.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIB6123VLJX7E4J7Q&Expires=1553106171&response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3DCCA_vs_USCG_Case_No_818-cv-2914-PJM_ex1.pdf&Signature=Al9rYHM0z9g0Oo2jiofNuagqpDU%3D) [https://s3.amazonaws.com/ClubExpressClubFiles/394800/documents/CCA_vs_USCG_Case_No_818-cv-2914-PJM_ex1_1152506075.pdf?AWSAccessKeyId=AKIAIB6123VLJX7E4J7Q&Expires=1553106171&response-content-disposition=inline%3B%20filename%3DCCA_vs_USCG_Case_No_818-cv-2914-PJM_ex1.pdf&Signature=Al9rYHM0z9g0Oo2jiofNuagqpDU%3D]



Highlights of the Canoe Cruisers Association Board Meeting – Saturday, Feb 9th, 2019

Present: Barb, Kathleen, John, Alf, Howard, Carlos, Kay, Susan, Ron, Miki, Gordy, Jen, Tijen Baydur

Treasurer - Jim Landfield

FY19 started off well with our revenue about the same this year as in FY18. Revenue continues to be stable so far. Big thanks to Jim for continuing to keep our financial books in good shape.

Instruction – Ron Ray, Jen Sass

We've had five Tuesday evening pool sessions, with a total of about 45 people (a few less than what we need to break even).

Ron is starting to schedule a Swift Water Rescue (SWR) class at Lock 5.

Membership - Susan Sherrod, Ginny DeSeau

We have 273 memberships – there is some fluctuation because of rolling re-registrations throughout the year. Membership has gone steadily up since we've gotten set up for taking online registrations.

Roster – Susan Sherrod, Barbara Hoover

The roster is expected out in March. Tijen Baydur is selling advertising space in the upcoming issue of the Roster, edited by Susan.

Trips - Alf Cooley, Mike Baummer, Miki Komlosh, Mark Brenneman

A whopping 27 people have kindly consented to help coordinate weekend trips for the CCA. Thursday Paddles (Mark Brenneman) have already set up four trips in March. Wayne McDaniel and Ron Ray led New Year's Day 2019 paddles on Lower Antietam and Upper Sideling Hill with 7 paddlers in each.

Downriver Race, May 11th, 2019 – Howard Morland, Carlos Ifarraguerri

Date for the Downriver Race will be Saturday May 11, 2019, with a backup date May 18, 2019. It will be a mass start this year. We are raising the registration rates to \$30 for day-of-race registration and keeping the online advanced registration at \$20. No Cash

Conservation Committee - Kay Fulcomer, Kathleen Sengstock, Ed Gertler

The Annual Alice Ferguson Downriver Potomac Clean Up will be Saturday April 13th, 2019. Kathleen and Kay will lead the group that goes to Seneca Landing (the boat ramp at Riley's Lock). There are seven groups that are being coordinated to sign one waiver per group. Barb, Kathleen, and Kay all help make this event a success – others are welcome and needed as well.

Access Committee – John Snitzer, Alf Cooley, Gordy Lang, Ed Gertler

John and Alf discovered a new washout on the Canal at our GW Canal transfer point at Blockhouse Point. Alf spoke with the Canal Trust again and Alf will follow up with the C&O's John Noel, with whom he's been working with regarding re-watering this section up from Pennyfield Lock.

John and Alf are working on getting the stairs improved at Great Falls Park MD down to Sandy Beach. Stay tuned.

Regarding possible Virginia Paddle Boat Registration Fees, on 27 Jan the VA Professional Paddlesports Association (VPPA) met in Luray to oppose the possibility that the Commonwealth might seek to levy a license fee on human-powered boats. Alf did some research and is recommending that we let the VPPA stay in the lead on this and weigh in if it heads in a bad direction.

In Montgomery County access for boaters is prohibited to the streams that are not in a state park. The county is in the process of developing a permit fee system that seems disastrous and is similar to what is happening in Virginia. Ed Gertler is monitoring the issue. Note that Seneca State Park permits boating in Seneca creek, and we don't expect this to change.

Chuck Thornton led a successful clean up of Fisherman's Eddy in Great Falls, VA. It has been closed for several years due to debris.

Other Business –

The Big Run Pump Storage Hydro Project is a proposed hydroelectric storage facility in Tucker County. The issue is being followed by WV Rivers Coalition, Friends of the Cheat, Friends of the Blackwater, and others. Jen and Alf will report back if relevant issues arise. More information is at the [FrackCheckWV webpage](#).

CCA Club Affiliation in American Whitewater (AW): Our 2016 Club Affiliation had lapsed. CCA will renew its affiliation.

American Rivers – Does the CCA want to be a River Ambassador member of the American Rivers? This was discussed and Susan will coordinate joining.

Next meeting: Susan's Home Saturday 30th March, 6:30-8:30 PM

Fisherman's Eddy By Barb Brown



AW National Rivers Inventory Paddlers

Beware: By Larry Lempert

Paddlers beware: a redesign of the much-relied-on American Whitewater website has changed the color-coding to portray some rivers as "runnable" at levels that would be dangerous for all but expert paddlers.

The redesign at americanwhitewater.org, rolled out in January and supported by a U.S. Coast Guard grant, also has suffered from programming glitches that have caused certain detailed information about river levels to disappear from the site. AW has acknowledged that there were substantial problems with the rollout, and according to an email from National Stewardship Director Kevin Colburn, has bug fixes and enhancements coming "as fast as our programming team can crank them out." But AW hasn't committed to any schedule, so Caveat Emptor is the watchword for now.

The AW Beta newsletter says the foremost goal was to make it easier to edit river pages so important information can be shared. Colburn also has said that AW aimed for better display on mobile devices, use of a modern code base to facilitate enhancements, and more prominent placement of safety information.

On a key matter of safety, however, the site used to have five informative categories: "Below Recommended," "Low Runnable," "Runnable," "High Runnable," and "Above Recommended." These have been collapsed into three less informative categories, with the former "Low Runnable," "Runnable," and "High Runnable" now forming one "Running" category. This allows some potentially dangerous misdirections for the unwary who scan pages and focus on green as a signal for Go.

For example, the Lower Yough remains green/"Running" between 4 and 7.5 feet; this is in stark contrast to the 2.0-2.5 foot levels most paddlers are familiar with and at which the rapids are described. Stonycreek shows as

green/"Running" up to 3980 cfs; if you didn't know Stony, you wouldn't know that 3980 is ripping high.

Even worse, the Potomac Little Falls run was being depicted as a benevolent green/"Running" when the Little Falls gauge approached 6 feet—a far from benevolent level (at which you will NEVER EVER find me paddling Little Falls!), that the prose description acknowledges as having Class V characteristics. Fortunately, some page editing has been done to override the Little Falls misinformation, but it's unrealistic to think that individuals can catch and intervene to manually adjust all the programming-driven miscues. While it's true that the former site's runnability classifications were sometimes misleading, it's beyond argument that the redesign makes matters worse, not better.

The data that has disappeared (hopefully only temporarily) due to programming problems includes the detailed history of gauge movements throughout the day. Also, for each river, gauge information is now given in cfs or feet, but not both. While many trip planners prefer to know cfs, a lot of paddlers still relate to levels in feet, and having both is better than limiting the site to one or the other.

In addition, the site has made it much more cumbersome to get to the USGS source pages for the gauge information, although with persistence you can make it there. Even the state river gauge summary pages, the most helpful and heavily used pages on the site, are harder to get to now. Here are two tips for those particular issues:

To access a river gauge summary page, from the top menu dropdowns select River Info, then National Whitewater Inventory (how's that for a user-friendly label—NOT!), and then State Gauges to pick a state from the map or a list below.

To access the USGS source gauge, from a particular river summary page click on the Flow tab, scroll down to find and click on Gauge Location, then on the resulting page look for the link to Source Gauge's Page.

AW AMERICAN WHITEWATER

The site does render more readably on a mobile device, judging by its appearance on an Apple iPhone 7.

AW has asked paddlers to bear with them while efforts to fix and enhance the site continue and has suggested that feedback will be most valuable once the dust has truly settled (whenever that might be). If paddlers do want to provide input now, comments can be sent to info@americanwhitewater.org.

Don't hope for even a temporary rollback to the old site while work continues, though. Colburn says, "We can't switch between the old and new site because of complexities with the vast database behind the site."

Comment:

Whether the AW site has achieved its goals of making it easier to edit pages and share information, I can't say, not having used that feature previously.

With all the information it brings together, the AW site is a terrific resource and is well-deserving of the financial support that it seeks

from site users. (Although the site is open to all, it's programmed to ping you mercilessly if you don't pony up.) Because we do contribute funds it—at least I do, and I hope you do too—we certainly have good grounds for speaking up and for expecting remediation to come reasonably soon. (end)

Note on New AWW Gauges response from AWW of inquiry by Barbara Brown.

So the gauges. AWW redesigned their website so it works on mobile devices, encourages more crowdsourced content, has a modern code base for future enhancements, and places safety information more prominently. In the process of transitioning to the new site some wires got crossed and they are actively fixing bugs and enhancing design elements for a better user experience. This work will be ongoing, and they are making fixes and enhancements as quickly as possible given their small team. The gauge services of the AWW website work now, but will get much better in the coming weeks.



Thanks to the CCA for all you do to support our paddlesports community!

2019 Schedule of Events:

- February 23: Attainment Race
- April 6: Top Yough Race
- May TBD: Family Day & Intro to Paddling
- June 8: Little Falls Race #1
- August 10: Little Falls Race #2
- August 17: Great Falls Race & Potomac Festival

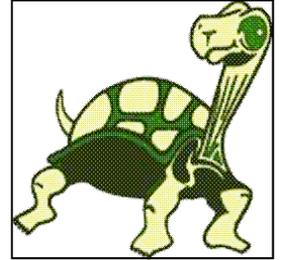
Join us!

- www.greatfallsfoundation.org
- www.potomacfestival.org
- facebook.com/greatfallsfoundation
- facebook.com/presidentofthepotomac
- president@greatfallsfoundation.org

CCA Event Schedule and Calendar

N = Novice
PN = Practiced Novice
LI = Low Intermediate

I = Intermediate
HI = High Intermediate
A = Advanced
E = Expert



WE NEED TRIPS—To have a trip listed on this schedule, send an email to trips@canoecruisers.org or contact Barbara Brown at PotomacB@verizon.net, 301-765-9115 or Alf Cooley at alfcooley@gmail.com, 703-442-7935.

Always go to CCA website for additional trips and more details.

<http://www.canoecruisers.org>

You can sign up for our Pickup Trips email list by contacting trips@canoecruisers.org.

Tuesdays: Pool Rolling - All—Tuesday nights, 8-10 pm, **Through April 9.** Cost is \$20 per session or \$180 for a season pass. Cash or Check. Correct change is appreciated. Piney Branch Pool, 7510 Maple Ave., Takoma Park, MD 20912. Pool staff prefers we use the double-metal doors opening onto the pool deck near the parking area and side street. A hose is available to rinse boats and equipment. Jeff Fox, Ron Ray, and Jerry Odhner share duties for overseeing these sessions and provide informal instruction. For more information contact Jeffrey Fox jeffandf@aol.com 202-686-4155 or 202-549-4016 cell.

Thursday Paddles - I - From March through November. Primarily paddle Class II and III creeks and rivers in WV, MD, VA and PA. A weekly email is sent out, usually on Tues. or Wed., informing our paddlers of the scheduled trips. To join the weekly email list contact thursdaypaddlers@canoecruisers.org 2-Trips-PN-Class I/II. Can also contact David Cottingham david.cottingham@starpower.net 202-966-8678

March 2019

3/28/2019 8:00 AM Thursday Paddle - Dealers Choice 3-Trips-LI-Class II/III Gus Anderson gusanderson@aol.com (703) 903-9738

3/30/2019 12:00 PM Nancy Kell Memorial Paddle. We will be gathering to run Millville section of the Shenandoah in Harper's Ferry WV, Nancy's home river in her honor. Feel free to bring flowers to release on the river. Meeting at the Millville put in at noon to be on the river at 12:30, taking out at Wayside. If river level is high alternate run will be posted. Parking and shuttle will be graciously provided by River & Trail Outfitters so please park at the put-in. A Celebration of Life will follow, details will be provided. Please RSVP to Bonnie Wisdom bonniewisdom.np@gmail.com Millville - River & Trail 3-Trips-LI-Class II/III

3/30/2019 6:30 PM CCA Board Meeting Please send your agenda items to Jen Sass at sass.jen@gmail.com. Susan Sherrod's house Meetings Susan Sherrod sgsherrod@outlook.com 703-725-4278

April 2019

4/2/2019 7:00 PM Pool Rolling Pool rolling sessions are held every Tuesday night - January through March - from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. These pool sessions are for practice only. No instruction is provided. Cost is \$20 per session plus \$5 one-time ACA fee. Boats & gear must be clean. Piney Branch Elementary School Pool Practice Sessions Ronald A Ray ronaldaray@verizon.net 301-974-1004

4/9/2019 7:00 PM Pool Rolling. Pool rolling sessions are held every Tuesday night - January through March - from 7:00pm to 9:00pm. These pool sessions are for practice only. No instruction is provided. Cost is \$20 per session plus \$5 one-time ACA fee. Boats & gear must be clean. Piney Branch Elementary School Pool Practice Sessions Ronald A Ray ronaldaray@verizon.net 301-974-1004

Saturday, April 13, 2019 9:00 AM Potomac River Cleanup Annual CCA & BRV club boaters help in conjunction with the Alice Ferguson Foundation's Watershed cleanup day at Riley's Lock. Cleanup supplies provided, but bring water and lunch. River level permitting, bring your boat for island/GW canal cleanup. Seneca Landing/Rileys Lock Conservation. Kathleen Sengstock kathleen456@verizon.net (301) 649-3917

4/13/2019 8:00 AM Bloomington Release - Sat & Sun 3-Trips -LI-Class II/III Ronald A Ray ronaldaray@verizon.net 301-974-1004

4/20/2019 8:00 AM Annual Bluebells Trip (BRV) Please contact Dean Geis 443-250-0864. On a section of the Monocacy or a tributary depending on water levels-fast moving water/class 1 1-Trips-N-Flatwater/Class I

4/25/2019 8:00 AM Pine Creek Canyon, PENNA, et al. - 25-27 April - BRV PN/I - Thurs through Sat. Please Contact Dean Geis 443-250-0864 3-Trips-LI-Class II/III

4/27/2019 11:30 AM Bloomington Release - Saturday and Sunday runs. Meet at the takeout. We can set up other meeting places if people want to carpool. 3-Trips-LI-

Class II/III John Snitzer navajuela@gmail.com (301) 349-2003

4/29/2019 7:30 PM CCA Meeting 'The Canoe' by Canadian film director Goh Iromoto. Clara Barton Community Center Meetings Edward Gertler e_gertler@yahoo.com (301) 585-4381

May 2019

Saturday, May 11, 2019 8:00 AM Bloomington Release - Sat & Sun seeking trip coordinator - Please contact Alf Cooley Myersville McDonald's 3-Trips-LI-Class II/III Alford Cooley alfcooley@gmail.com (703) 442-7935

Saturday, May 11, 2019 9:00 AM **Potomac Downriver Race** This is a 7.5-mile race. You must be proficient in class II/III whitewater. All participants must wear PFDs & helmets. All boats must have flotation. A t-shirt and lunch will be provided at the end of the race. Great Falls C&O Canal NHP Races Howard Morland hbmorland@aol.com (703) 525-1429

Saturday, May 18, 2019 8:00 AM **Potomac Downriver Race Backup Date.** This is the high-water backup date in case the race can not be run on May 11th. You do not have to reregister. Howard Morland hbmorland@aol.com (703) 525-1429

Saturday, May 25, 2019 8:00 AM Bloomington Release - Sat & Sun seeking trip coordinator - Please contact Alf Cooley Myersville McDonald's 3-Trips-LI-Class II/III Alford Cooley alfcooley@gmail.com (703) 442-7935

June 2019

Saturday, June 1, 2019 7:30 AM Great Rappahannock Whitewater Canoe Race A classic, volunteer led event on the free-flowing Rappahannock River: SUP, Kayak & Canoe - plus races for kids! Old Mill Park Races

6/24/2019 7:30 PM CCA Meeting Clara Barton Community Center Meetings. Edward Gertler e_gertler@yahoo.com (301) 585-4381

See Page 2 for dates of CCA meetings at Cabin John and mark your calendars.

December 2019

Friday, December 6, 2019: Annual Swap Meet And Holiday Party. Edward Gertler e_gertler@yahoo.com (301) 585-4381



Elisha Lynn McArthur to Ladies Of The Whitewater Community

Hey, you guys know what's Awesome? Some of us go commando, some of us double pack undies. Some of us rock lipstick, some of us rock chapstick. Some of us paddle hard boats, some of us push rubber boats. Some of us send the gnar, some of us stick to calmer waters. Some of us are 24/7 professionals, some of us are private weekend warriors. Some of us partake, some of us abstain. Some of us are fair weather boaters, some of us are any weather boaters. Some of us sparkle, but ALL of us shine!

We are All River Sisters. We all Love the River, and we all support each other and our passion for the River. And That. Is AWESOME.

Icebreaker on Sleepy Creek

2 March 2019 gleaned from report by Alf Cooley

We were six boaters- including trip leader Ed Gertler, plus Dave Stockdill (OC from Fredericksburg), and Jennifer Holcombe (Louise Morris' niece who works at River and Trail Outfitter), myself, Barb Brown and Miki Komlosh. Level was ca 3' which was low for those (Barb and Ed) who'd done it before. Snow all over at the put-in, but on the melt toward midday. Put-in at 11:45- take out at the predicted 4:45 as the day was quickly waning.

Beautiful cliffs, set off by the fallen snow. Only in-river difficulty as a single stream-wide downed white pine of 2 foot diameter right across a swift section below WV 9. Had to portage. The horror was the take-out, performed up a steep wooded slope all moist with snow and mud, which we quickly turned into footing from hell as we churned two paces upward and one page back. Eventually we made it and put our thoroughly muddy boats up on the cars.

We headed to the China House on Main St. Then Ed, Miki, Barb and I walked across the street to the Community Center and threw ourselves into the world of dance—including Contra, Square Dancing, and some Waltzes.

We got home at 11:30 so waited until morning to wash our boats and hose off our togs.

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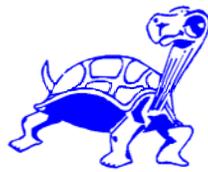


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Canoe Cruisers Association

Canoe Cruisers Association of Greater Washington, DC
c/o Virginia DeSeau
1105 Highwood Rd.,
Rockville, MD 20851

Attention
Deadline for
Summer 2019 issue
Race Issue
Wednesday
June 5, 2019

The Annual Icebreaker and Contra Dancing: Photos by Barb Brown
See short description and full names on page 16



Ed the fearless leader →

← Dave, Miki, Jennifer and Alf.

Ed, Jennifer and Miki

Miki ↓

