



Cruiser

Canoe Cruisers Association of Greater Washington, DC, Inc.

The Chairman's Cockpit

There is a new rapid on the GW loop. Below Jacuzzi, at the corner, a pile of debris has in effect dammed the river creating a sharp chute. It's curious and fun.

However, the debris is starting to break up. When it disintegrates, enough that the water will flow through the wood, our fun new rapid is going to become potentially dangerous. The chute will be full of obstructions.

Sometimes it is hard to put an asterisk on river classifications. Practiced Novice if there is no debris. PN if river is under three feet. PN when the river is warm. We don't really want to be a club of asterisks, of either/ors, of one kind of boat or another, skilled/unskilled. We want our standards to be straightforward and logical. CCA's trip leaders have the responsibility to question potential participants as to their equipment and experience just as the participants might wish to query the qualifications of CCA's leaders. It doesn't take an asterisk to know that conditions vary: river levels; weather; seasonal changes. The leader's experience will take this into account.

Under Trips and Events on CCA's webpage, there is a wealth of information regarding

Trip Guidelines; Trip Difficulty Codes and River Difficulty. All CCA members should take the time to read them carefully.

So let's do a little "hard knocks." Example: paddler says he "doesn't need a helmet."

He's in an open canoe or kayak with an open cockpit and will eject with his head above the water. Even though helmets are "required" in whitewater, the leader relents. Our bareheaded participant finds himself pinned against a rock and a log, with his head barely above water, highly susceptible to dangerous pressure and sharp rocks.

Another example. new participant insists his open cockpit non whitewater kayak doesn't need floatation. After they pin, three people and ropes are needed to pull the flooded boat from the debris pile. It took almost the same amount of effort to extract the paddler.

Enough said.

This well watered summer has been amazing!
SYOTR Barb

Points to ponder

Recreational Boats: Are you pro or con? Analysis on pages 3-4 by John Snitzer

Access developments: Are we doing enough? What more can we do? More information on page 6 by Alf Cooley

Patapsco River's Bloede Dam: Are you happy about this? Article on page 7.

A trip with lessons: Tearcoat, a tributary of the North River: page 8 by Barb Brown

If you If you have taken Red Cross certified CPR, First Aid or Wilderness First Aid in the last four years, check out page 11

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CCA Meetings 7:00 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 Meetings 7:00 pm

2018 schedule.

Sept. 24, Monday, "Trail Magic

Oct. 29, Monday, Grand Canyon author Tom Martin

Dec. 7, Friday. Holiday Party and swap.

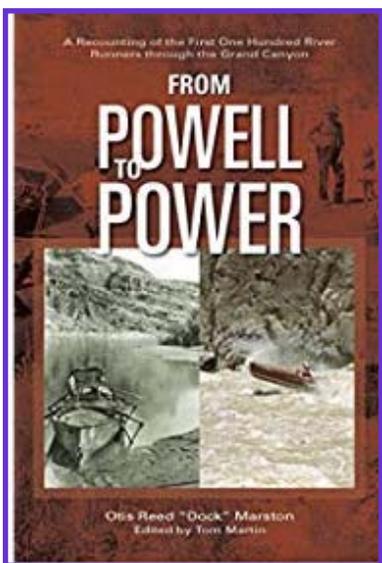
Our feature entertainment is "Chasing Niagara" an engaging fantasy movie about a dude who aspires to challenge mighty Niagara Falls. So come one and all, bring your friends and neighbors. No paddlers were killed in the making of this movie.

September 24 Meeting

"Trail Magic": Two observations -- 1) most of us are not just paddlers, but outdoors persons, and devote some time hiking, camping, skiing, etc. and 2) we appreciate eccentric individuals, maybe because that description that fits a few of us. So this evening we screen an excellent documentary Trail Magic, The Grandma Gatewood Story, which is the tale of the first woman to solo through-hike the Appalachian Trail (at age 67 no less, and after raising 11 children). Fall is a great time to take to the woods. Let this movie charge you up.



Grandma Gatewood.
Stock image



October 29 Meeting

We are privileged to have a speaker coming to us from Arizona to tell the story of early river running through the Grand Canyon. Specifically, Grand Canyon author Tom Martin will present a 50-minute, behind-the-scenes look at Otis "Dock" Marston's book "From Powell to Power: A Recounting of the First One Hundred River Runners Through Grand Canyon." This will be a unique presentation, so let us make his slog out here worthwhile and give him a big audience. For more details on the subject and the speaker, please see the CCA website.

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.

Rec Boats discussion synopsis.

Behold: The Future

Recently there has been an interesting email discussion of “the rec boat question” among a group of long-time hard-core paddlers. What do we do with folks who come to paddle with these new-fangled boats? These mass-market hybrid “recreational” boats are popular and are showing up on the river at more club trips and classes. They are seen everywhere on car rooftops. Initially, there was skepticism about rec boats in my paddling cohort. Rec boats are slower than touring boats and less maneuverable than whitewater boats. Who wants a “jack-of-all-trades” boat that does nothing well?

Lots of people, it turns out. Rec boats are light and user-friendly. They are stable. They track well, eliminating the question that everyone asks in their first kayak class: “How do I make this thing go straight?” They are comfy and convenient, with features like cup holders, high-backed seats, and watertight compartments. Some are sit-on-tops or have large open cockpits, both more comfortable for people who don't like feeling confined. They are readily available. Probably the most important detail, they cost much less than traditional whitewater boats, well under the \$1000 or more that is typical for a new, state-of-the-art whitewater or touring kayak.

How should we view these upstarts?

First, we should recognize that these boats have limits. Rec boats are like bicycles with training wheels, easy for the beginner, limiting over time as they progress. The features that make them so easy to paddle require compromises. The initial stability comes from extra width, and the tracking ability comes from some sort of keel or keels, often full length. This makes the boats slow and hard to turn. Lightly built, often without pillars, these are generally not strong boats. The big cockpits, hatches, and large surface area mean that in a pin, they could wrap on a rock like foil on a baked potato. They often do not have robust attachment points for retrieval. They often lack drain plugs and can be hard to dump. I paddled a rec boat that had a rim folded under around the cockpit rather than full-thickness coaming. The folded edge was grabby and seemed like a foot entrapment waiting to happen. For paddlers without spray skirts or flotation, rec boats take on water on long rapids and become less maneuverable over time. Clearly these are not the best boats for serious creeking in March or on a big, hard water run.

But most people don't do that kind of paddling. People want to paddle across that lake on a sunny day with their kids; they appreciate the dry hatch for lunch and a jacket. They want to explore the local creek and have a boat to paddle in the sound or the salt marsh when they go to the beach. All wonderful rec boat trips. In our area, many beginner whitewater runs are perfect for rec boats. The Violettes Lock loop, Antietam Creek,

Seneca Creek, Goose Creek, the Monocacy River, and huge parts of the Potomac are safe, easy, inviting paddles.

Looking back, none of us started our paddling careers on Great Falls or the Gauley either. We started on easy water in boats like big old 17' Grumman's with standard keels and those special rock-adhesive hulls. Or basement fiberglass/duct-tape kayaks of unknown integrity stuffed with beach balls. I could recount a youthful trip on Accotink Creek in a blue plastic kiddie pool with 2x4 paddles, but I won't.

Salient point: These people are our brethren. They are interested in the same things we are--boating, enjoying nature, being with friends, and getting some exercise out in the fresh air. In their midst there are individuals who will someday be passionate about Wild and Scenic Rivers or obsolete dam removal, about protecting clean free-flowing streams, about exploring some unpaddled remote river, and yes, about running Great Falls and the Gauley. Some of these folks will run up against the limitations of rec boats and change to traditional kayaks and canoes. Rec boats make our sport easily accessible to huge numbers of people at a time when, look around, the rivers aren't as crowded as they used to be. What is to be done? How do we greet these people? Can we bring them into the fold? A primer.

Put safety first. A rank beginner in a rec boat does not have the experience and judgement to make good calls about safety. You do. In a trip or a class, insist that paddlers have proper gear. **EVERYONE MUST WEAR A SUITABLE PFD. NO EXCEPTIONS. EVER.** From the Charlies (Walbridge and Duffy) we know that lack of a proper life jacket is the Number One cause of drowning deaths year after year. Helmets are sometimes necessary even on easy trips. All boats should have some sort of flotation. Hypothermia is often the biggest risk of a paddling trip and beginners don't know about the problems of blue jeans and hoodies on a nice day on 50 degree water. These folks are often new to our sport; we should look after them and be supportive when we can. **Trip organizers can make the go/no go call if there is an unsuitable boat or an obviously unsafe situation, just as they do now.**

Teach. We are a community that learns from our elders. More than just how to make a boat go where you want it to, we all learned how to read water, find good places to paddle, how to plan and organize a trip, from someone who had been paddling longer than we had. The good paddler needs to know how to stay safe on the river, what to do when there is a problem,

and where the best pizza is made near the takeout. We owe it to people coming into our sport to pass on what we learned from others. Remember that safety is a group property and is more a function of the paddler than of the equipment. Teaching beginners in rec boats makes us all safer.

Improve the breed. There are rec boats and there are rec boats: safe, well-designed and well-built beginner boats versus flimsy boats that shouldn't stray from the swimming pool. Refuse (gently) to let people in unsuitable boats join organized whitewater trips. We can encourage paddlers to use better boats, ones with safety features and better handling characteristics. Kayaks evolve rapidly. Inviting rec boats into the whitewater mainstream will increase evolutionary pressure on the population.

Embrace the rec boat paddler. We are not the gatekeepers of the whitewater world and rec boats are coming. We should welcome them. There are lots of nice and interesting people out there who will be able to join our community because of the availability of inexpensive, user-friendly boats. A larger, more diverse paddling community will be full of friends we haven't met yet and will be more able to protect the rivers and the wild areas we cherish. Kayak as synecdoche. Keep in mind that it is only a matter of time until you see a rec boat paddled past you or surfing a great wave, elegantly, on your favorite stream.

SYOTR

John Snitzer

Based on the thoughtful opinions of Barb Brown, Pam White, Ron Ray, Alf Cooley, Joan Goodbody, Susan Sherrod, and Ed Gertler. Misstatements are the fault of the author.

[Italics and bold added by editor]

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Examploes from Dick's webpage

Clearing Seneca Creek, by Barb Brown

Under Mike Martin's organization, CCA and Seneca Creek State Park personnel paddled Black Rock Mill to Berryville Road. This was a scouting trip to try to determine what was required to clear the river so it could be paddled safely and confidently by recreational paddlers. It turned out that the Seneca Creek personnel were essential in clearing and portaging many places on the stream that is still recovering from the recent high water. It was a wonderful if physical trip, notable for finishing after dark! Paddlers: Mike Martin, John Snitzer, Ed Gertler, Kay Fulcomer, Barb Brown (photographer) John Ford, Devin and Bryce.



Devin and Bruce, Seneca Creek Park Personnel, essential in clearing obstructions so we could paddle through



A new big one requires major portage, Mikke Martin and John Ford, new Supervisor at Seneca Creek State Park pulling Kay's canoe over

Then, Seneca Creek Floods carved the right back to the big one until there was an open passage. Kay Fulcomer paddling.





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Access Developments from Mid-May to Early Sept, 2018

Alf Cooley submitted the article

Over the Summer, our contacts with the authorities on our three major projects - the C&O Canal rewatering construction, the re-opening of Goose Creek to paddlers, and clearing Seneca Creek of large fallen timbers - proceeded with glacial speed. One reason may have been that with the glorious rains, we were out on the brooks rather than tending to our knitting. Another was that the authorities responsible for two of these venues were busy with other affairs - for instance, the C&O was buffeted by the high Potomac. So, what transpired?

C&O - With the exception of Widewater, the Canal down from Violettes is dry. In mid-July we asked the National Historic Park authorities to rewater the Pennyfield level, which would allow the George Washington Canal section to be run as a loop, without need to set up a shuttle. Currently the little water being allowed in at the top (Violettes Lock) simply dribbles out the side at Pennyfield. The Park people initially thought it possible, but are still consulting the working level folks to see if there are any problems for a fix. For the Autumn we are preparing four other projects - both riverside put-ins/take-outs (Lock 10, Dalecarlia/Little Falls, and Violettes) and a "longitudinal" project (refilling the 0.3-mile Level 16 above Sandy Beach) for their consideration.

Goose Creek - Here we seek to ascertain where the Loudoun County Parks intend to build a promised put-in that will restart boating on this once oft-paddled creek. In mid-August, we visited what we had heard was their intended spot, found at the end of a cul-de-sac a pathway leading down to the creek - but the interface with the creek was woefully lacking (12-foot sheer drop). Another inquiry through the County government came up with a reply that they intend to "develop this coming Spring" a put-in in a much better (less flatwater paddling) spot near the Dulles Greenway bridge, near one place we've already visited. We're following up.

Meanwhile, the CCA has run five trips down the Goose - at flows between 633 and 381 cfs - from an impromptu put-in at Sycolin Rd. While this is a sweet deal for us, our goal continues to be to reopen the creek for the whole boating community.

Seneca Creek - This is the most promising effort for a new Seneca Creek Park superintendent is eager to coordinate stream-clearing activities with us. Barb, John Snitzer, Mike Martin & Kathleen set out in mid-July with canoes and saws to cut their way through four river-wide obstructions, but were frustrated by the size of the boles to be sawn through. Right afterwards came a 12-foot wall of

water that rearranged the cross-stream tree-trunks. They returned at the end of August with the new superintendent of the Seneca Stream Park, finding fewer obstructions, but still too many to allow the creek to be a family destination. We & the Park are looking to solve this.

People interested in participating in these and other access projects, please contact Gordy Lang, John Snitzer, Alf Cooley, Jack Findling, Barb Brown, Mike Martin, Jack Fulcomer, or Pam White.



Editors Note on Access to Potomac River near the Trump Golf Course.:

I am sure many of you have heard about the lawsuit from Democracy Forward and that the CCA has agreed to be the plaintiff.

The basic premise of the action is that "The Administration needs to listen to the hundreds of river users who opposed this rule" and that the reason for the suit is that the Trump administration's decision to ignore public comments and illegally restrict the people's right to access the Potomac River is not lawful.

During September much will be done on this. Please check the CCA website for further developments.

The Cruiser will do a more in depth article in the next issue.



Patapsco River's Bloede Dam removal started. (information from Maryland.gov Department of Natural Resources Site.)

Bloede Dam Project

Problem: The Bloede Dam is located within the Patapsco River State Park and was built in 1907. The dam is a public safety concern (deaths have occurred), an obstacle for fish passage, and it fragments river continuity and aquatic habitats.

Responsibility: Bloede dam is owned by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources.

Process: A feasibility study was commissioned to evaluate the dam's negative impact on the ecology of the Patapsco River and issues of public safety. After a thorough analysis and public input (2011-2012), the Department and project partners made the decision to move forward with the Bloede Dam removal with passive sediment management.

Goals of the Bloede project:

1. **Restore Fish and Aquatic Organism Passage** The Patapsco River once supported large runs of shad, herring, and American eels, but the construction of dams has blocked these historic migrations. The fish ladders constructed in the 1990's have proven to be ineffective at passing fish – especially American eel.
2. **Improvement of Public Safety** The Bloede dam is a significant public safety hazard, several deaths have occurred at or near the dam.
3. **Consider Historic, Cultural and Recreational Values** The Bloede Dam was built in the early 1900's and is part of the Patapsco's rich history. It is also a major feature of the Patapsco Valley State Park. Similarly, herring, and shad were once abundant and a staple of settlers in the Patapsco Valley. The cultural significance of each of these will be commemorated as part of this project and recreational boating and fishing values promoted.

After years of planning by the Patapsco River Restoration Partnership, Bloede Dam the first blockage on the Patapsco River was breached on September 11th! For the first time in over a hundred years, the Patapsco River is no longer flowing over the dam but around it.

A full view of the historic 1906 slab and buttress dam was revealed as the water stopped flowing over it. A team from the Historic Buildings Survey and Historic American Engineering Record of the National Park Service arrived at the dam site to scan, measure, and photograph it. This information will provide comprehensive historical documentation of the Bloede Dam for the Library of Congress. In addition, the team will create a 3-D model for a new park visitor center.

The breach created by an explosive blast is the first step in removing the physical structure. As the water, sand and gravel move out of the impounded area above the dam, the construction crew will begin to mechanically remove the concrete piece-by-piece over the next few weeks. Photos of the removal process will be posted on this web site as work progresses. The dam construction area in Patapsco State Park will remain closed to the public during this work.

We aren't done yet! The restoration project still has plenty of work to do before the project is completed in 2019. The breach is one big step for the Patapsco River and one giant leap for aquatic resources and public safety.





Trip Reports

The Tearcoat, a tributary of the North River by Barb Brown.

The Tearcoat is a tributary of the North River which is a tributary of the Cacapon. Ordinarily it's a breathtaking class 2 plus, up rarely. [Thurs, May 17, 1000 cfs.] Steve Ettinger liked it so much, he immediately ran it a second time! We should have been more suspicious when at the put-in, the water was well up the trees. The high water created a pounding Savage-like thriller. Larry Lampert as probe spilled in a river wide ledge and separated from his boat. Gisela also spilled but rolled and Barb did one of her three minute braces as she bucked and typewritered managing to stay upright and pointed downstream. It still took determined stroking to keep from being sucked back in. We were so close to having three swimmers washing down what now could only be described as a gorge!. Reality was, we only had one loose, misbehaving C-1. There were no breaks; no eddies. Gisela finally corralled the C-1 just upstream of a cliff with a pinning "cave" reminiscent of Mexico. Thank the river gods we had no swimmers heading into that thing. The boat was emptied but the stream was too wide to rope it across so it was set free to dance down the rapids with more finesse than the manned boats. Its freedom came to a sudden halt when it chose a tree guarded braid. Disappearing out of sight under the wood, it severely pinned against a downstream hemlock. Lesson learned!!!! With great effort, the boat was unpinned and tied, waiting for its owner to find it in the wilderness. Four miles later after continuous pounding rapids and four carries over terminal strainers, we cheered to finally reach the mouth and the junction with the flooded North River. Vaguely we remembered stunning cliffs in a wilderness setting. All agreed we wanted to comeback with at least half the flow.

Chapter 2 will be forthcoming when Larry and volunteers retrieve his now very lonesome Ocoee.

Paddlers: Larry Lampert, Barb Brown, Gisela, Gus Anderson, John Snitzer, Mark Brennehan and David Cottingham. Virginia ran the first mile.

David Cottingham noted: Jimbo from Flying Buck distillery was our savior. We chatted with him at the put-in. He then talked with a friend who is a homeowner who allowed us to park cars in his driveway at the takeout, which is all private property. We all sampled the moonshine and barbecue sauces at Flying Buck following our paddle. Many thanks to Jimbo.

John Snitzer observed:

PI & TO were 2:00 and 5:00. Seemed longer. I asked around on estimates on flow and the answers I got we're in the 800-1000 cfs range. Don't think I asked Mark.

This was a powerful creek at that level. I was dodging holes then hunting eddies for a chance to calm down. Pushing/pulling Larry's boat out from under the hemlock was tiring. What were discrete rapids Sunday had been continuous on Thursday.

If not for the mishap at Swimmer's Ledge it would have been an exciting but straightforward paddle with the added suspense of the unknown strainers.

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Good twofer run since when Tearcoat is up, everything is up.

Ecological notes. The golden ragwort was in flower along the stream as we're a few pinxterbloom azaleas. The number of baby hemlock and pine seedlings suggests that local deer hunting keeps the population in check. Unfortunately, the banks are thick with exotic multiflora rose and Japanese barberry which coordinate with indigenous greenbriar to chew up portaging paddlers. The gorge has wonderful cliffs that I would like to see sometime when the stream does not require 100% concentration. Trip was rated 10/10.

Return on Sunday, May 20th to pick up the lost canoe::: J Snitzer: I checked my watch. Put in at 2:00, take out at 5:00.

Different creek at 300 +/- . The geometry of swimmers ledge was pretty interesting.

We had two carries yesterday, the first just below put in and the oaks about 2/3 down that we carried on R left. The one at the boat-pin hemlock we avoided by running left around the island. We lined boats under rather than carrying around.

But I thought we had four carries Thursday. Am I mistaken?

Had a nice run starting 11:30. Waites was in the low hundreds, 130-120 ish and level on Tearflesh, I mean Tearcoat was down 15-20" from Thur when Waites was in the 500s. Back pocket guess, we had 300 cfs. Beautiful creek. Saw wild geranium in flower and a nice variety of ferns including a patch of Maidenhair fern, which is rare.

The geometry of Swimmers Ledge was obvious yesterday. I think of ledges as crossing flow, 90 degrees to direction of travel. So backwash comes directly upstream. No side to side component. If you're using the clock face as a reference and paddling to 12:00, ledges run 3 to 9 and the backwash is to 6. The place where we had problems, the ledge runs 2 to 8 and the backwash coming back upstream was funneled along the face of the drop so there was a powerful push towards 8, an acute angle left turn, which flipped Larry and gave Barb and Gus memorable surfs.

Started as C-2 and K-1, finished as 2 C-1s and a K-1. Compared to the maelstrom of Thursday, the stream had more going on, more ledges, eddies, and required maneuvering, less power, fewer boils, and no suspense about strainers around the next corner.

No idea how robust the correlation with Waites Run is, but if it is strong, I would reset canoe zero above Waites = 50. Maybe 80 or 100.

I came home after Tearcoat Ck, but Larry and Phil headed down to Passage Ck which was in the 800s at 2:00 in the afternoon.

I've been thinking about the initial swim and walkout and trying to figure out if we took the best option. I think a post mortem would be of benefit so that we could make better decisions next time this happens. We came home, eventually, with all our gear and no significant injuries so we get good marks, but I wonder how we might overcome the problems of communicating upstream once separated.

Lower Gunpowder Falls, Thurs. 16 Aug. by Jenny Thomas,

It was a small group of four on the Lower Gunpowder on Thursday. Three kayaks (Tony A., David C., and Jenny T) and one lone OC-1, Kim B. The level was a very pleasant and fun 9 inches on the bridge gauge. The virtual gauge was right at about 600 cfs.

Kim and I had only run the Lower Gunpowder in recent history once and didn't remember much about it. David had never run it before and so the on-river leadership fell to Tony, a regular in these parts. We were pleasantly surprised with the numerous fun rapids and noodled our way at a relaxed pace. We probably spent a total of 4 hours on the river. We were the only people out there, except a few groups of waders and swimmers we encountered along the way.

The traditional take-out at the end of the whitewater run is closed. Our take-out was at Mariner Point State Park, which means we paddled 2 1/2 to 3 miles through the tidal portion of the Lower Gunpowder crossing over to the Little Gunpowder (see Larry Lempert's trip report from earlier this month to get a great description of how to get to the take-out). Larry's description was spot on, but we chose not to take the immediate right from the left channel just after the island so there was some wandering around that occurred. Of great importance, should you take this route, is to check the tide to make sure you are on an 'outgoing' rather than an 'incoming' tide. We were on the former. An incoming tide would be no fun, like attaining for three miles. Tony joined us today mostly to explore this take-out option. On the whole, the group wasn't that excited about the additional flatwater mileage (perhaps because of our extra wandering) even though the scenery and birds were great (lots of busy ospreys). It would have been fun to run the whitewater section twice, checking out different routes through the rapids. All in all, it was a great way to spend a hot, summer day.

Wednesday and Thursday Paddles by Alf Cooley

During the last three Summer months the Club was responsible for calling out about 40 trips. This doesn't mean that we organized them from the ground up – far from it. In the first place a number of members on the shortest of notice asked us to post a Pick-Up trip on the Club website and send out an email blast to the 150 paddlers on that list. About 20 of the trips were conceived and run by the Thursday Paddlers, a group of 13 coordinators with a mailing list of 345 names (topping the CCA's membership list of 256). Sunday Paddlers and Wednesday Evening Paddlers were also in this trip total.

The heavy rains of this period wiped out numerous trips – for instance with the Potomac never dipping below our 3-foot max level, we were unable to send a single trip down Little Falls. And the annual Calleva/CCA New Families Paddling Day at Seneca Creek was drowned out at the last moment on both our attempts to recruit volunteers and families for the occasion(s).

By the same token, a number of not-so-ordinary creeks came up and stayed up – Sideling Hill Creek was

amazing in its repeated days of canoeability. Upper SHC, the Covington, Virginia Catoctin, Tearcoat Creek (with boat-wrap and later rescue expedition), Shade Ck (PA), Brocks Gap and the Patapsco's Gaither Gorge in an utter downpour were among the quarter's achievements. The huge rains filled Baltimore's deepened Loch Raven Reservoir, which, with the help of the Greater Balto Canoe Club's on-line gauge for the section, enabled us to put two trips down the Lower Gunpowder Falls, which we hadn't been able to visit for years. We had a couple of campers – to the Lower Yough and out to the Greenbrier in West Virginia.

Because of high water Mikey Baummer's Weds Evening Paddles got started only on 16 May and were washed out several times thereafter. Thursday Paddles have had two or three expeditions on the same day – usually closer-in trips scheduled when a far-ranging Lower Yough trip was in the offing. Sunday Morning Paddles often were displaced from their usual George-Washington Canal venue to Antietam, Virginia Catoctin, Seneca, and Goose Creeks, which gave variety to their offerings when the Potomac surged.

More-often paddled streams in this quarter were: Kellys Ford, Stoneycreek, Moorefield Canyon, So Fk Shenandoah, Thornton, Mid Yock, Upper & Lower Antietam, Anglers to Lock 10, Catoctin Md (Middle Creek section), the Staircase, and the Lost. Because of the high levels drawing us off to these smaller, rarer streams, we had no Little Falls run during this quarter.

How many individual paddlers came out on all these trips? Hard to say. For the Thursday Paddlers, at least, Mark Brenneman reckons that: from season's beginning, 14 trip leaders had done 39 trips with 278 participants. And among the many folks coming out on multiple trips, they'd hosted 80 individuals on 24 distinct streams.

Any reader wishing to join the mailing lists for the Thursday, Sunday, or Pick-Up Paddles should send his/her name to trips@canoeCruisers.org. There's no list for the Weds Evening Paddles – simply stay abreast of Mikey Baummer's postings on Paddle Prattle. **Sadly they are over.**

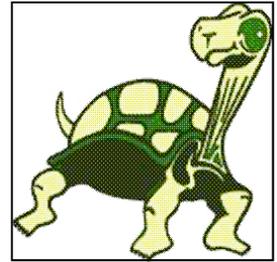


Angel Acosta on Catoctin Creek, VA side, paddled twice this year.

Mike Martin, kay Falcomer and John Snitzer on idyllic Seneca Creek



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.

Wednesday Evening Paddles - Paddle the local Potomac every Wednesday evening throughout the summer. No formal instruction is provided but experienced paddlers are always willing to help. Location will vary depending on river conditions. Check Paddle Prattle for update. Paddle Prattle: <http://www.monocacyboard.org/mboard/mboard.php> 2-Trips-PN-Class I/II Michael Baummer michael_baummer@verizon.net (703) 521-8334 **Sadly the Wednesday Paddles are over for the year**

Thursday Paddles - I - From March through November. 2-Trips-PN-Class I/II , Mainly Class II & III, ranging to 3 hours from Washington.

Save for targets of opportunity, we've hung up the paddle until Spring. To be put on our mailing list, please contact thursdaypaddlers@canoecruisers.org

See CCA website for more details.

<http://www.canoecruisers.org>

September 2018

Friday, September 21, 2018 8:00 AM Lower Yough - MCC Trip please contact Tony Allred -410 255-2895, tony.allred@verizon.net Ohio State Park 4-Trips-I-Class III

Sunday, September 23, 2018 9:00 AM Sunday Paddles - GW Loop Meet at Pennyfield Lock at 9:00 for 3-hour run - Please notify Alf so no one is left behind on the beginning shuttle to Violettes Lock. Pennyfield Lock 2-Trips-PN-Class I/II Alf Cooley alfcooley@gmail.com (703) 442-7935

Sunday, September 23, 2018 12:00 PM Mallows Bay Ghost Fleet Paddle through the graveyard of over 100 ships dating from the Revolutionary War to World War I. The afternoon start is so that we can catch the low tide. No shuttle required. Mallows Bay Park - Address is a little off. If using GPS drive a bit further down the road. 0-Trips-Family Friendly Susan Sherrod sgsherrod@verizon.net 703-725-4278

Monday, September 24, 2018 7:30 PM CCA Meeting This evening we screen an excellent documentary Trail Magic, The Grandma Gatewood Story, which is the tale of the first woman to solo through-hike the Appalachian Trail (at age 67 no less, and after raising 11 children). Fall is a great time to hike. Clara Barton Community Center Meetings Edward Gertler e_gertler@yahoo.com (301) 585-4381

Saturday, September 29, 2018 8:00 AM Savage Release - Seeking Trip Coordinator Looking for someone to coordinate

this Sat and Sunday release - single-day or the whole weekend - please contact Alf Cooley if you can organize this trip. Usually 1,000 cfs down a narrow valley - excellent boat control mandatory. Myersville McDonald's 5-Trips-HI-Class III/IV Alf Cooley alfcooley@gmail.com (703) 442-7935

Sunday, September 30, 2018 9:00 AM Sunday Paddles - GW Loop Meet at Pennyfield Lock at 9:00 for 3-hour run - Please notify Alf so no one is left behind on the beginning shuttle to Violettes Lock. Pennyfield Lock 2-Trips-PN-Class I/II Alf Cooley alfcooley@gmail.com (703) 442-7935

October 2018

Saturday, October 6, 2018 8:00 AM Canoe Slalom Nationals / Boater Cross & 8-Ball Register by 30 Sep with www.PotomacWhitewater.org Dickerson Power Plant Races Alf Cooley alfcooley@gmail.com (703) 442-7935

Saturday, October 13, 2018 10:00 AM Mason Neck State Park Bring your binoculars for some bird watching. You may spot a few Bald Eagles! A small park entrance will be charged. Mason Neck State Park 0-Trips-Family Friendly Susan Sherrod sgsherrod@verizon.net 703-725-4278

Sunday, October 14, 2018 7:00 AM Team River Runner - DC Biathlon Team River Runner's Annual DC Biathlon is a fun, inclusive, and inspiring race right in Washington D.C! The race is a one mile kayak or stand up paddle followed by a three mile run. Equipment, t-shirt, lunch, & a light breakfast is included! Washington Canoe Club - Event Coordinator: Megan Mornini Megan@TeamRiverRunner.org 301-906-1084 Races

Monday, October 29, 2018 7:30 PM CCA Meeting We are privileged to have a speaker coming to us from Arizona to tell the story of early river running through the Grand Canyon. Grand Canyon author Tom Martin will present a 50-minute, behind-the-scenes look at Otis 'Dock' Marston's book. Clara Barton Community Center Meetings Edward Gertler e_gertler@yahoo.com (301) 585-4381



From Ois Marston Colorado River Collection website

December 2018

Friday, December 07, 2018 6:30 PM Holiday Party and Swap
Meet Bring your gear to sell or swap. Bring a dish to share.
CCA will provide drinks. Bring your friends. All are welcome.
Clara Barton Community Center Social Events Edward Gertler
e_gertler@yahoo.com (301) 585-4381



GW Canal rapid created by debris, photo by Barb Brown

Results of 2018 Little Falls Race Sunday, August 26.

YOUTH

1. Nathaniel F 1:39
2. Ben S 1:51
3. Arjun P 2:03
4. Coleman W 2:18



WOMEN'S LONG BOAT

1. Jenny Collins 1:49
2. Marsea Nelson 2:07
3. Eva Mineva

WOMEN'S SHORT BOAT

1. Rachel Palma 2:01
2. Sara Reardon 2:19

SUP

1. Dan Gonzalez-Kosasky 3:10
2. David Harding 4:25

MEN'S SHORT BOAT

1. Matt Brune 1:48
2. Bill Durr & Tim Bragan 1:52
4. Cameron Perlman 1:59

MEN'S LONG BOAT

1. Geoff Calhoun 1:31
2. Nejc Poberaj 1:35
3. Collin Swan 1:4
4. Patrick Murray 1:53



Mike Martin and Ed Gertler jumping the first log on Seneca Creek
Photo by Barb Brown.



Problem with Red Cross Certifications sent by Susan Sherrod

If you have taken Red Cross certified CPR, First Aid or Wilderness First Aid in the last four years, please check with the Red Cross to see if they have your certificates on file.

You can check online at <https://www.redcross.org/take-a-class/digital-certificate>.

If you find a problem, please contact Christa Seiwert.

Christa Seiwert | Quality Assurance Specialist

American Red Cross

(206) 491-4446 cell (PST)

Christa.seiwert@redcross.org



2018 Great Falls Festival. It was a heart stopping 4'5" over both sides of the Fishladder, photo by Barb Brown

An advertisement for PaddleVa.com. The background is a photograph of a woman and a young child in a river. The woman is crouching in the water, wearing a blue shirt, a red life vest, and a tan and black baseball cap. She is smiling and holding the hand of the child. The child is also wearing a red life vest and colorful shorts. A green canoe is partially visible in the background. The text is overlaid on the image in white with black outlines. At the top left is the Appomattox River Company logo, which is a circular emblem with a canoe and two paddles. Below the logo is a silhouette of a mountain range. The main text reads: "PADDLEVA", "The Best Thing About Memories,...", "Is Making Them.", "Start Making Yours Today.", and "Shop Kayaks, Canoes, SUPs at: PaddleVa.Com 800.442.4837".

APPOMATTOX RIVER COMPANY

PADDLEVA

**The Best Thing About
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PaddleVa.Com
800.442.4837**

Canoe Cruisers Association Board Meeting – August 20th, 2018

Present: Barb Brown, Howard Morland, Star Mitchell, Ginny DeSeau, Daniel Mullins, Lisa Fallon, Ed Gertler, Risa Shimoda, Jen Sass



Treasurer - Jim Landfield

On the Balance Sheet and Cash Flow - The amount of cash in the bank is lower than last year at this time, primarily due to the fact that in each of the last 3 years the amount of cash spent for the entire year has been more than was taken in during that year.

In FY18, so far, that trend has been reversed and year-to-date the cash taken in during the year is more than the cash which has gone out by hundreds of dollars (\$483). There are 2 more months to go in the fiscal year 18; there are still some FY18 receipts that have not yet been submitted (about \$500 from the downriver race).

On the Income Statement - The Revenue is down from last year for a couple of reasons. There was less class revenue primarily because less revenue for Swift Water Rescue (SWR) classes. And second, there was no advertising revenue.

The expense for this year are almost exactly the same as last year. There have been some expense that have gone up and some that have gone down but they offset each other. The increased expenses have been for the Downriver Race, promotional products and the roster. The lowered expenses have been in dues, equipment, meetings, and website.

In the next two months, there will be expenses for the Cruiser Newsletter (\$ 250), Event insurance (\$ 150), ClubExpress website fees (\$ 250). and the Downriver Race expenses from Howard (about \$500).

We are due for an independent audit of the budget this month. Barb will identify two people to look at that. Jen volunteered, and we will find another person.

Membership - Ginny DeSeau, Susan Sherrod

There will be further discussion about how to manage hard-copies of the Cruiser, Handbook, and Roster. The website is really helpful for informing members, gathering new members, and gathering payments.

Cruiser - Joan Goodbody

For the Sept-Oct issue of the Cruiser, the deadline to have things to Joan is Wednesday Sept 5th.

Instruction - Ron Ray

No Instructor Certification Classes were run this year; those were a significant revenue stream.

The standard weekend SWR Class was run in July with the usual very large turnout.

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

In the last roughly 3 months there has been a total of 38 trips, led by 17 coordinators. Several trips swamped out by too-high water (and for the second time the Seneca Creek Novice Paddlers Day).

* No scheduled Little Falls (LF) Trip - LF gauge never got down to 3 ft.

* Pickup Trips were a growth industry - 18 of them.

* Thursday Paddles - on three occasions there were two on the same day.

* Weds Evening Paddles - Mike started them on 16 May and they are ongoing.

Some of the rarer trips: Goose - 3x; Lower GPF - 2x; Covington; Sideling Hill Creek - 2x; Virginia Catoctin - 2x; Lower Yough Camper; Greenbrier Camper; Brocks Gap; Lost; Moorefield Canyon; Tearcoat Creek; Gaither Gorge.

Please step up if you want to lead a trip, and please say 'yes' if Alf calls on you.

Reminder to call the US Coast Guard number at 410-576-2525 to make sure that there is not a problem with running our Sunday trips or anytime we wish to paddle the area near the Trump Golf Course.

Steering Committee - Gordon (Gordy) Lang and Risa Shimoda have agreed to serve on the Steering Committee. This is a two-year term. Welcome, and thank you both!

Conservation and Access Committee - Kay Fulcomer, John Snitzer, Kathleen Sengstock

Access to Goose Creek, C&O Canal, & Seneca Creek are all progressing. The good news is that the new Seneca Creek superintendent is supportive of maintaining access to the creek; the less good news is that a giant Sycamore tree has come down and need to be dealt with. Barb spent a day at C&O National Park learning about the history of Weverton access (now controlled by the railway), easements, enforcement, etc.

Mark Wray has volunteered to follow events on the Catoctin Creek VA mailing list. It is a state designated Scenic River

Ed Gertler has been working to change the laws in Montgomery County that prevent paddling a boat on streams that flow through county parks without a permit.

The Tire Rodeo has been pushed back because of high water.

We are soliciting suggestions from membership for what conservation organizations that CCA could support; these are watershed groups, river conservation groups, and other conservation groups. Our contributions can be to several groups, with the total not exceeding about \$2 thousand. Kay will put a list together for discussion and approval at the next Board Meeting.

Richard Klein of the CEDS.org Community & Environmental Defense Services asked if CCA would join a letter to the Maryland Dept Environment, Secretary Grumbles regarding the campaign to halt Maryland pollution during Maryland construction activities. Kay is coordinating. Barb signed.

Nominating Committee – The Steering Committee will form a Nominating Committee. Star, Daniel, and Lisa will do this. The Nominating Committee should be five members, including a Steering Committee member. The Nominating Committee will present a slate of officers for the Sept/Oct Cruiser and meeting, and invite nominations from the public. The four elected officers are: chair (Barb), secretary (Jen), treasurer (Jim), membership (Ginny).

Next meetings: Monday, October 22nd at 7 PM at Barbs home, 10801 Admirals Way, Potomac MD



Canoe Cruisers Association

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

**First Class
Time Limit**

**Attention
Deadline for
Nov./Dec. 2018 issue
Wednesday
November 7, 2018**

Potomac Festival Party 2018

Photos by Susan Sherrod

Gimmy DeSeau at CCA booth.

