



cruiser

Canoe Cruisers Association of Greater Washington, DC, Inc.

The Chairman's Cockpit: Coronavirus

I gravitate between being scared and relishing this creative opportunity.

Every few hours my attitude changes and it seems I keep doing things for the "last time." No more skiing. Tennis bubbles are petri dishes. No pizza with friends after paddling. My daughter in Spokane is exhibiting minor symptoms but there are no tests, no way of finding out. Every day we stay healthy may keep the hospitals under control.

However, it is certain that paddling on the germ free Potomac is not only good for us but will make us thrive and survive. I lived this philosophy on Sunday (Violettes/GW) and Thursday (Anglers to Lock 10). So far so good!

Just FYI, without any rewatering, Marilyn Jones and I paddled the Canal from Blockhouse Point to Violettes. It was low and shallow, but we both made it ALL the way without exiting the boats!

What has CCA done?

Downriver Race postponed until September 26: With the health and safety of everyone in our CCA Family foremost in our minds, and to adhere to federal and state government directives, we will postpone everyone's favorite annual race until Saturday, Sept 26th. We will re-evaluate this date with possible additional changes as appropriate at that time. These are uncertain times, friends, and we are following best practices. For now, please mark your calendars with the new date, and please take care!

Jennifer Sass

Pool Rolling (thank you Ron Ray) has been cancelled for the season, following school closing policies.

Meetings at Clara Barton will be suspended. Again, we follow the school schedule. The next meeting should have been April 20.

The Alice Ferguson Clean-up has been cancelled.

What continues?

CCA publications are in process. Thank you Gus Anderson for editing the *2020 Roster*. We look forward to seeing a magnificent book. Thank you Joan for the *Cruiser*.

It makes no sense to cancel trips but let's be cautious depending on individual risk factors. Many have mentioned that shuttle free circuits or park and play take away close social interaction.

Grist for thought from our Board:

Jen Sass - "CCA leadership can and should take precautions to help keep CCA trips safe for participants."

Jan Wolf - "But should a shuttle driver offer a mask and/or hand sanitizer to "anyone who would like one," I would consider it a bonus. I would also be extremely grateful, as I only currently have one P95 and some dollar-store dust masks, and only a few tiny hand sanitizer bottles in my possession. (I do, however, wash my hands and cough or sneeze into my sleeve.)"

Anonymous - "Trips are still on, encourage self-responsibility. Don't come if you are ill, please follow good hygiene, per public health sources. Any trips where the organizer wants to take more precautions can be advertised as such, and folks wanting those precautions can gravitate towards those trips."

Mark Brenneman - "The obvious no shuttle trips are Little Falls (a bit on the high side right now), Anglers or Carderock attainment, Feeder Canal and Violette's Lock. I'd be happy with any of those options and could organize the "trip" if you don't feel comfortable with it."

Susan Sherrod - "In the famous words from "The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy"; Don't panic. In the famous words from "Hill Street Blues"; Be careful out there."

Miki Komlosh - "I have decided not to go forward with community/family list and paddle in this time since there is no way we can keep the social distancing with kids. Even my 11 YO that completely understand the situation cannot resist getting close to other kids. We will resume all activity once we can."

Cheers
SYOTR Barb

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New C&O superintendent —P 9

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 Meetings 7:30 pm

April 20: Cancelled

June 29: TBD

September 28: TBD

October 26: TBD

December 4, Friday evening: Holiday Party

Here is hoping that the April 20, 2020 meeting program will be shown at a later date: it sounded so interesting.

The Great Ride.” It is just amazing how many of our fellow paddlers also enjoy the outdoors by biking. And where better to blissfully roll along than on the 300-mile plus path of the C&O Canal Towpath and Great Allegheny Passage, a route intertwined with our beloved Potomac, Casselman, and Youghiogheny rivers. Pittsburgh’s WQED has produced a delightful documentary on this path called “The Great Ride”, and we invite you to enjoy it with your friends this evening.

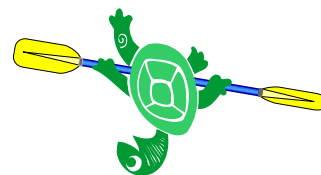


Stock photo.

Rolling Classes have been cancelled for the rest of the season due to the Montgomery School System being closed.

Thanks to Ron Ray for the great work.

Place: Takoma Park/Piney Branch Pool



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.

CCA Potomac Downriver Race

Hosted by Sycamore Island and co-sponsored by
Potomac Whitewater Racing Center.



Saturday, September 26, 2020

Registration is Online Only.

Advance registration is \$25,
day of race the registration fee will increase to \$30.
Tandem teams must register and pay as two individuals.

Register at: <http://www.canoe cruisers.org>



Sign-in begins at 9:00 AM and ends at 10:30 AM. Hard cut-off.

A mandatory meeting for all racers starts at 10:30 AM.

The race start time is 12 noon for all racers. Plan accordingly.

Lunch and a T-shirt will be waiting for you at the island.

The Award Ceremony will be held at 3:00 PM.

Earlier if everyone paddles fast.

CCA Trip Coordinators Workshop by Ginny Quam

On Sunday, Feb. 16, 2020, 25 experienced, new and potential trip coordinators met at Barb Brown's house for the annual Trip Coordinators Workshop which included some great food and refreshments.

With a reminder of Safety - Responsibility - Liability, Alf led us through the different kinds of trips and the steps a trip coordinator takes to plan, execute and wrap up a paddling adventure. CCA offers many kinds of trips to include family, releases, campers, attainment, safety workouts, and the popular recurring Wednesday evening, Thursday, Sunday trips as well as more spontaneous pick-up trips.

With Susan behind the wheel on the CCA website, Alf began with the first step, choosing a stream. We reviewed the tools available on the website to check water levels, temperatures, find meet up places, look at old trip reports, maps and ranked streams all to assist in selecting the venue.

Step two is to advertise your trip, collect paddlers and get ready to go. We reviewed how to post your trip on the CCA calendar and the importance of communicating key information about the trip and the people. On trip day, make sure you can call or text the group and vice versa. Get everyone together at meeting place and set shuttle. This is an excellent time to make sure everyone has all their gear.

Finally, step three, on the river. Have a riverside pre-paddle discussion. Introductions, route, lunch spot, hazards, signals, set probe and sweep, accidents. You can set up buddies and/or make sure each person stays in view of the person in front and behind. Be safe and have fun.

Lastly, step four is to complete the after action. Post a trip report, a river hazard report (photos are good), and report any problems to the Trips Committee, let everyone know about good eateries or other finds.

A Warm Thank-You to Last Year's Trip Coordinators

Trips are the lifeblood of this club. Another article details how in 2019 almost 1,000 paddlers went on 120-odd CCA trips or outings. To make this happen 35 people stepped up to coordinate these trips. They chose the stream - researched the water level - put out the notice to the relevant group of paddlers - brought the crowd to the riverbank - organized a safe gaggle on the river - and brought them back alive. At the Holiday Swap Meet on December 6, we recognized the initiative these coordinators have shown in their several trips, bestowing on those that would accept it the CCA's blue turtle T-shirt. We urge you others to step forward next year.

Here they are: (* = new coordinators this year)

Thursday Paddlers: Mark Brenneman, Larry Lempert, Wayne McDaniel, Dave Cottingham, Barb Brown, Bob Maxey, Jenny Thomas, Kim Buttleman, Gus Anderson, John Snitzer, Tim Tilson, Alf Cooley

Sunday Morning Paddles: Pam White*, Peter Ryan*, Ginny & Gary Quam, Tim, Wayne, Barb, Alf

Weekends: Jen Sass*, Ed Gertler, Zofia Kosim*, Beth Koller, Katherine Mull, Hendrik van Oss, Paul Schneider*, Mike Martin, Dave Cooke, Susan Sherrod

Pick-Up Trips: Jim Long, Jim Scott*, Frank Fico, Ron Ray, Vitas Edukavitas, et al.

Wednesday Evenings: Mikey Baummer

Family Paddlers: Miki Komlosh, Nathan Williamson*, Tom Hackman*, Barb

We did joint trips with the Blue Ridge Voyageurs and the Coastals, so your names are here, too. Interested in coordinating a trip next year?

Please look at:

[https://canoe cruisers.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?](https://canoe cruisers.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=394800&module_id=223946)

[page_id=22&club_id=394800&module_id=223946](https://canoe cruisers.clubexpress.com/content.aspx?page_id=22&club_id=394800&module_id=223946) for what's involved contact Gary Quam: gquam64@gmail.com or Barb Brown @ 301765-9115.

Features of the Website

Here are some new stuff we've put on the CCA website. We want to enhance the website's usefulness as the go-to resource for the Washington paddling community. We welcome your ideas; please send them to webmaster@canoe cruisers.org.

1 - A direct link to **Paddle Prattle** is now on the CCA homepage - on the line of handy links starting with weather forecasts and river level forecasts. This gets you fast to the area's breaking news site, kept up by the Monocacy Canoe Club.

2 - **C&O Canal Levels** - started in August, this site (at Message Board, Paddle Posts) keeps you up to date as to whether critical parts of the lower Canal are watered - particularly Level 4 for returning up to your car after running Little Falls - and Level 22 for doing the same after going down the George Washington Canal from Violettes Lock. (BoGeorgetown level is very low:

Pennyfield level is dry.) Other parts of the lower Canal right now are dry.

3 - **Gauge Geeks Forum** - started this November (also at Message Board, Paddle Posts) as a place where those interested in gauges and water levels can post their observations and discoveries in the question of how best to measure or predict water levels in our area streams.

4 - **River Access Issues** - This sub-site is on a button started this August as a place paddlers may see what the Club has been up to - and what it plans for keeping river access open and establishing new places to get into area brooks. Also has the details of how we are urging the C&O Canal to pay more attention to boaters' needs, and particularly for reopening more sections of the canal for boating. Also, Seneca & Goose Creeks, Weverton Crossing.

Reminder of Other Parts of the Website -

- **Trip Reports** - over 90 trips posted this year - second button down on the left side of the homepage. See what other paddlers have been doing and whom to contact if any doubt about what stream

Trip Reports:

Violettes Lock Loop

John Snitzer, posted 1/13/2020.

With a warm (64 degrees) blustery day, more April than January, we attracted thirteen for the Violettes Lock Loop. Alf, Gordon, Lisa, Gus, Mark, Cotton, Gary and Ginny, Barb, Rich C, Wayne, Peter, and John S did the split trip. After running down the GW Canal, a few eager paddlers, including those prepping for exotic winter trips to the tropics, then attained back up through Seneca Breaks to Violettes Lock. Most of us took the easy route and paddled down to the shuttle takeout at Pennyfield Lock. With some planning it would be possible to have everyone's car end up at their destination. Alas, nobody had the Violettes Loop App, and shuttle perfection eluded us. All paddled elegantly. Dry hair day. The attainment was described as "tough but rewarding."

Fine day on the river. 3.4 is a comfy but interesting level. The piles of woody debris have created new waves and eddies in spots. The ferns and mosses on the rock outcrops on the Virginia shore were bright dark green in the warm weather. The gulls that have been sitting on the river at the lower crossing all winter were fishing today. No eagles. There was a group sentiment that we are lucky to have January days in the sixties for getting out on the river. The larger implications of unseasonable weather were noted.

A check of the water level in the C&O Canal revealed the downed tree at Blockhouse Point to be two or three inches out of the water - the Canal, while passable up to Violettes would be shallow toward the top. (Two paddles in the Violettes Feeder gate were open.) Over in the GW Canal, the blockage in the right channel after Jacuzzi Rapid is even firmer - the passage Ron Knipling is styling on the CCA homepage is totally blocked - and the water runs down two good passages to the far right, which we could try in future runs. Fluffy looking with bones.

Several adjourned to Watershed Cafe in Poolesville following.

The good idea that came out of the trip is the idea that these fine winter paddling days will not last all season (note we have had regular trips since the regular season closed down at Thanksgiving) but now that we're in the habit of getting out for some fresh air on weekends, we

might add walking to our agenda. There are many days too cold to paddle when a walk in the woods would be perfect. There will be an email query follow up on this idea.

Catoctin Creek Trip: 12 January 2020

A glorious 70 degree January day drew us to Catoctin Creek which registered 600 cfs after the heavy rains the night before. Thanks to Rich Conde who negotiated the shuttle labyrinth, Sumantown Road to Ausherman Road like a pro. We parked at the Catoctin Creek Nature Center for the putin. The river was coffee colored and boisterous for Catoctin Creek, even tho it was dropping. One strainer at the bottom necessitated an easy portage. Dinner at the China Gourmet in Frederick ended a perfect day.

Paddlers: Rich Conde, Robin Willett, Gary and Ginny Quam, Dave Cook, and Barb Brown



Being in a kayak was a minority - 5 oc-1s and lonely little me.



Violettes Lock in the fog: Photo by Barb Brown

The Trips Committee is - Gary and Ginny Quam (newest additions), Alf Cooley, Barb Brown, Susan Sherrod and Miki Komlosh. CCA trips are cross listed with Blue Ridge Voyagers (BRV) trips.

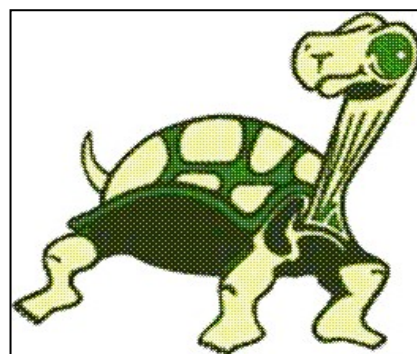
If you are interested in leading a trip, please contact someone on the Trips Committee and we can assist with any questions you have. Once logged in to the CCA website, you can go to the Trips and Events Calendar and Add a Quick Event to put your trip on the calendar.

A word on pick-up trips. If you decide rather last minute that you want to go out on a trip, you can send an email to trips@canoecruisers.org and your trip will be emailed to the pick up trip distribution list.

CCA Event Schedule and Calendar

To check on any trips or events
please check at:

<http://www.canoecruisers.org>



Thank you CCA, for all you do to
support our paddlesports community!

2020 Schedule of Events:

June 6: Little Falls Race #1*

July 18: Little Falls Race #2*

August 14-15: Great Falls Race & AWP North
American Extreme Kayak Championship

August 15: Potomac Festival

October 24: Lord of the (Russell) Fork Race

October 31: Attainment Race #2*

Join us!

www.greatfallsfoundation.org

www.potomacfestival.org

facebook.com/greatfallsfoundation

facebook.com/presidentofthepotomac

president@greatfallsfoundation.org

**President of the Potomac scoring event*

A photograph of a person in a kayak navigating a white-water rapid. The person is wearing a life vest and a helmet, and is holding a paddle. The water is turbulent and white with foam. The background is a dark, rocky riverbank.

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COVID-19 Updates: March 28, 2020

New Harpers Ferry Restrictions.

As of Friday, 27 March 2020, the Town and the National Park have closed until further notice. This includes the put-in for the Bridge to Bridge run. Also the Park exhibits in the town are also closed at this time.



There is more than one way to move your kayak to the put in.

Apparently some of members of the club are using their bike to move the boats around. What a great idea. The editor did this in SC with both her canoe and kayak. But remember if paddling alone be sure you have your phone and someone knows where you are going to be and your route and expected times for safety. Obvious that the people in these photos had friends to paddle with. [stock photo]



Great Falls Facilities Closed

C&O Canal NHP visitor centers, including the [Great Falls Tavern Visitor Center](#), [Brunswick Visitor Center](#), [Williamsport Visitor Center](#), and [Cumberland Visitor Center](#).

- Restrooms, vault toilets, and portable toilets are closed throughout the park.
- Water fountains and wells are closed throughout the park.
- Some parking areas may be closed, including the Great Falls parking area. Parking at Anglers is limited to provide access for EMS and rescue services.

Drive-in and group campgrounds are closed throughout the park. [Hiker-biker campsites](#) are fully primitive with no running water or restroom facilities.

- Fee collection at Great Falls Tavern has also been temporarily suspended.

C&O Canal NHP will [cancel permits and reservations](#) and will [not accept applications](#) for demonstrations, special events, or park site reservations until **May 10**.

All park lands remain open. Updates will be posted on this page and to the park's social media channels. For more information please visit the [National Park Service Public Health Update](#) page.



New superintendent named for C&O Canal

National Park Service News Release
FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE: December 20, 2019
Contact: Autumn Cook, Autumn_Cook@nps.gov, 202-619-7158

WASHINGTON, DC — Tina M. Cappetta, a committed team-builder and park manager with more than 31 years' experience, will serve as the next superintendent of Chesapeake and Ohio Canal National Historical Park, Md. She begins her assignment Jan. 21, 2020.

Cappetta is currently the superintendent of Fort McHenry National Monument and Historic Shrine, Hampton National Historic Site and Star-Spangled Banner National Historic Trail, a position she's held since 2011. In this role, she gained grant support for field trips for Baltimore City fourth-graders, created a living history employment program for youth and led a curriculum-based education and paddle program with partners.

"Tina has built successful teams and strong partnerships throughout her career," acting National Capital Area Director Lisa Mendelson-Ielmini said. "I admire the spirit of collaboration she brings to her relationships with National Park Service employees, partners, stakeholders and volunteers."

Cappetta has previously served as superintendent at Women's Rights National Historical Park where she led the rehabilitation of the Wesleyan Chapel. Earlier experience includes chief of interpretation and resources management at Booker T. Washington National Monument, education specialist at Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve and park ranger at Colonial National Historical Park and Gettysburg National Military Park.

"I look forward to returning to C&O Canal where I served as chief of resources management 15 years ago, Cappetta said. "Although a lot has changed, a lot has stayed the same — C&O Canal is a fascinating and beautiful park with exceptional staff, dedicated volunteers, committed partners and wonderful communities. I'm honored and eager to lead the team in the park's next chapter, including celebrating its 50th anniversary in 2021."

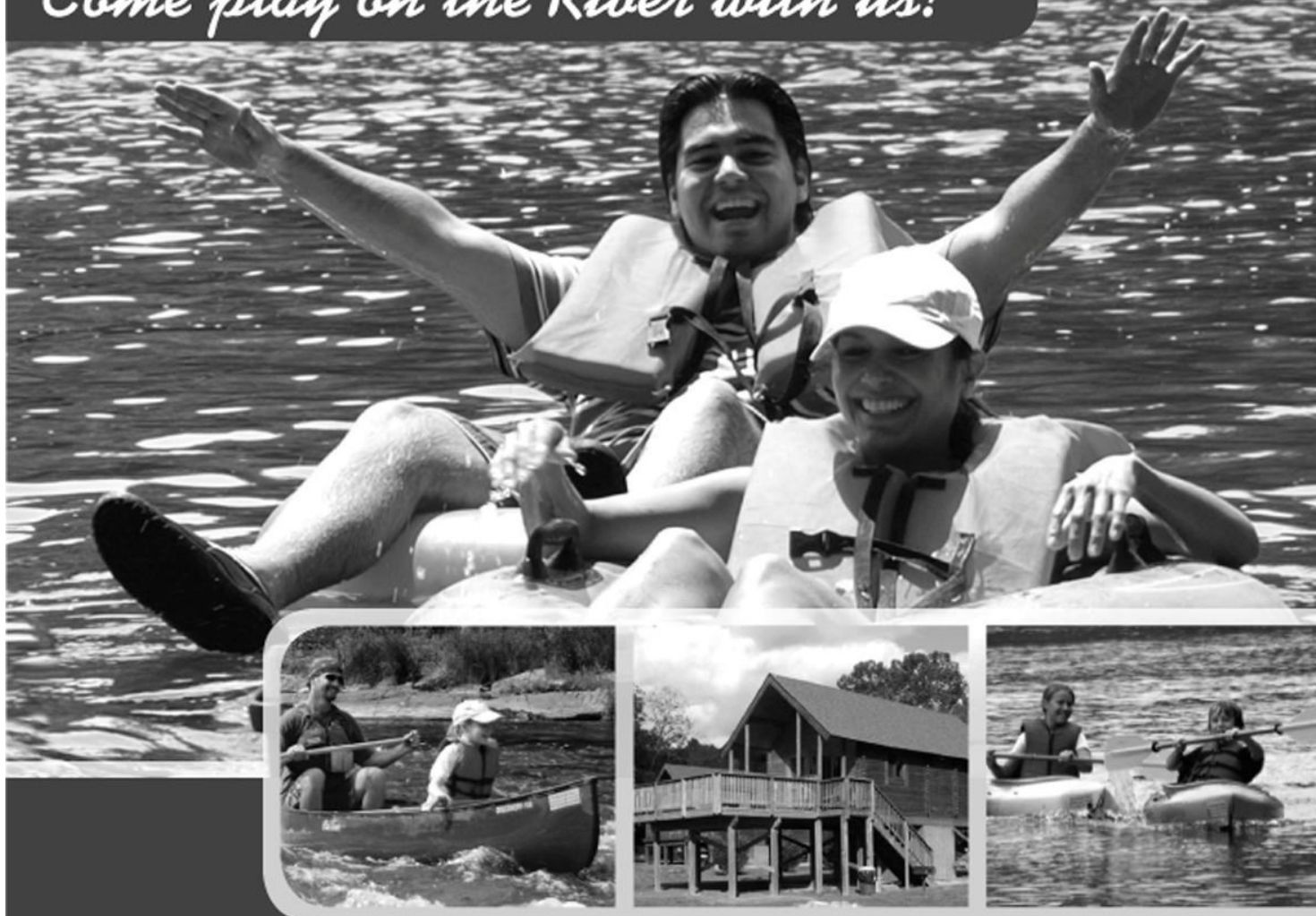
Cappetta earned a bachelor's degree in government and politics from the University of Maryland. She holds certificates in the context of environmental policy from George Washington University and legislative studies from the Government Affairs Institute at Georgetown University.



The Canoe Cruisers Association was thrilled and grateful when the C&O National Park filled the Canal between Violettes and Pennyfield, enabling paddlers to enjoy the Violettes Lock loop and circle back to their cars without running a shuttle. Please check to see if this section is navigable.



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Store hours - Tuesdays: 10 am - 8 pm
- Wednesday through Saturday: 10 am - 6 pm
- Closed Monday
- Closed Sunday until Rental Season,
then 10 am - 6 pm

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
Summer 2020
Friday June 5**

2020 CCA Officers Elected officers

Chair: Barbara Brown
Secretary: Jennifer Sass
Treasurer: Jim Landfield
Membership: Ginny DeSeau

Committees

Advertisement: Tijen Baydur & Alf Cooley
Archivist: Barbara Brown
Conservation: Kay Fulcomer & Kathleen Sengstock
River Access: Gordy Lang, John Snitzer,
Alf Cooley David Cottingham
Cruiser Editor: Joan Goodbody
Downriver Race: Jennifer Sass
Family Paddling: Miki Komlosh

Instruction: Gary Steinberg, Mark Wray
Pool Rolling: Ron Ray
Programs and Meetings: Ed Gertler
River Safety: Ron Ray
Roster: Gus Anderson
Social Events: Star Mitchell
Social Media: Jennifer Sass
Trip Schedule: Gary and Ginny Quam
Thursday Paddlers: Mark Brenneman
Webmaster: Susan Sherrod
Wednesday Paddlers: Michael Baummer

Steering Committee

Lisa Fallon 2019-2020
Daniel Mullins 2019-2020
Risa Shimoda 2019-2020
Janice Wolf 2019-2020
Marilyn Jones 2020-2021
Howard Morland 2020-2021