

The 65th Annual Potomac Downriver Race was a great success, with over 30 racers, ranging in age from 17 to 78 years young, gliding excitedly across the finish line at the Sycamore Island stairway on the canal-side bank. Beautiful weather, friendly river levels, and a dedicated volunteer staff came together to once again make it a fun event for all. While everyone enjoys a good race 'carnage' story, our only mishap this year was an open canoe that took on some water at Stubblefield rapid, which was especially 'spicy' at this level (2.9 on the Little Falls gauge).

We made some significant changes to the race this year to keep our racers and volunteers safe and healthy, including foregoing the much-loved post-race Sycamore Island picnic. Nonetheless, with a small crew of socially distanced and mask-wearing volunteers, we provided post-race snacks and a race t-shirt to everyone who crossed the finish line. While the race shirt always includes the Sycamore Island Canoe Club image, this year it is especially large and centrally placed in gratitude to the Club for inviting us to gather and celebrate the race in years past on the island.

Also new this year, thanks to Star Mitchell, we had some Marines from Quantico helping out, including carrying boats up the hill to the parking lot for the appreciative and weary racers.

Special shout out to all the racers that helped with shuttle, including Bob Bofinger and Lynn Miller who came with clean empty cars prepared to shuttle people and gear. Thanks so much!

Bravo to the Winners Circle:

- **The Women:** Cheryl Anne Woehr, Jill MacNeice, Pamela White, and Barb Brown.
- **The Men:** Bob Bofinger, Jon Zeidler, Howard Morland, and John Deitle
- **Personal first descents:** Gordy Lang, Sam Mazur, Marilyn Jones, Lisa Fallon, Geoff and Martin Witt
- **Long hard slog:** the SUP racers, Todd Brewley, Ayal Cohen, Chad Dear.

Huge thanks to our volunteers:

- **Susan Sherrod** for expertly putting everything online and making the whole online registration system run smooth as silk - nothing happens without Susan!
- **Joan Goodbody** for an excellent t-shirt design, and yummy snacks for racers and volunteers.
- **Ginny DeSeau** for taking the finish times for hours on end with no breaks.
- **Barb and Ron** for identifying an easier safer take-out place that avoided a lot of bumps and scrapes.
- **Howard** for expertly getting up the directional arrows and finish line sign, so no one got lost.
- **The Marines from Quantico:** Staff Sergeant Sebastian Sweeney; Staff Sergeant Ross Wigley; Sergeant Jacob Wolfe; Sergeant Jovaun Jackson; Sergeant Zachary Crane; Corporal Lawrence Carnes; Corporal Alan Hamilton. Thanks for carrying our heavy boats up that steep hill - See The Hill, Take The Hill! Thank you for your service, and your help.

This year the CCA Potomac Downriver Race moves up to 1st place as the Oldest Consecutively Run Canoe and Kayak Race in the US (since 1956; Westfield River had been oldest until this year when it was canceled).