Millville – the put-in for paddling the Staircase section of the Shenandoah. The campground operated by River & Trails Outfitters continues to be the site of choice. The parking fee is $5 per vehicle, reasonable for the convenient river access and the vehicle security provided by their on-site staff.

Bakerton – the put-in for paddling the Needles section of the Potomac. River Riders took over the dreary campground in 2009, cleaned up the property, and offered season parking passes. After further enhancements, they are now offering daily parking rates of $5. A special $10 season rate is available to MCC members. To purchase the parking sticker, go to the River Riders' base on Alstads Hill Road on the hill behind the flea market at the intersection of Rt. 340 and Millville Road and mention that you are an MCC member to get the club rate. They have a copy of our roster. Problem? Ask for Liz or Amber.

Take-outs on the Potomac below Harpers Ferry, used for both the Staircase and the Needles, have become increasingly difficult. Potoma Wayside on the Virginia shore has very limited parking, hordes of rafters on summer weekends, and a path culminating in a climb to the top that “builds character”, as the late Roger Corbett would say. Across the river at Sandy Hook, it is necessary to cross the railroad tracks. Always prohibited, it is now being enforced by RR police. Paddling an additional 5 miles to Brunswick, with the last 3 miles consisting of flatwater, is anathema to many paddlers, especially kayakers. However, the boat ramp offers the convenience of easy access and close parking. There are two lesser used access points in between Sandy Hook and Brunswick. The Weverton take-out requires a long walk through the woods and down the tow-path, but it does have an authorized RR crossing. Knoxville is just below Weverton, and requires a long walk through the woods. However, like Sandy Hook, the RR crossing here is prohibited. Also, parking is very limited.

Harpers Ferry Adventure Center (HFAC) has built a private takeout at their new base just downstream of Potoma Wayside, beyond the Rt. 340 bridge. HFAC offers parking at their base on the top of the bluff. The access road is directly across Rt. 340 from the Potoma Wayside exit. A climb from the river to the parking area would make the one at Potoma Wayside seem like a cakewalk, however HFAC provides the transportation with their vehicles. Club members are offered this service for a reasonable fee of $5 per boat. Advanced notice to HFAC is recommended, especially on the busy weekends: 540 668-9007. (If there is any confusion regarding the special club rate, request Sonia Domarasky, Sales Manager.) After paddling, a cell phone call as you approach the take-out might save time for the HFACdriver to move the shuttle vehicle down from the top to meet you at the landing.

Also, it is permissible to park at HFAC to use the Potoma Wayside access, i.e., take out at Potoma, walk across Rt. 340 and up the drive to the parking area to retrieve vehicles, and then drive back down to Potoma Wayside to load boats. However, caution is required crossing Rt. 340 by foot, and upon return with vehicles, avoid an illegal left turn into Potoma Wayside. (The alternative: cross the bridge, turn around, and return.)

Additionally, HFAC can provide shuttle service to a put-in for the Staircase. Discuss fees with HFAC.