

Wilmington Rowing Center News

June 2011

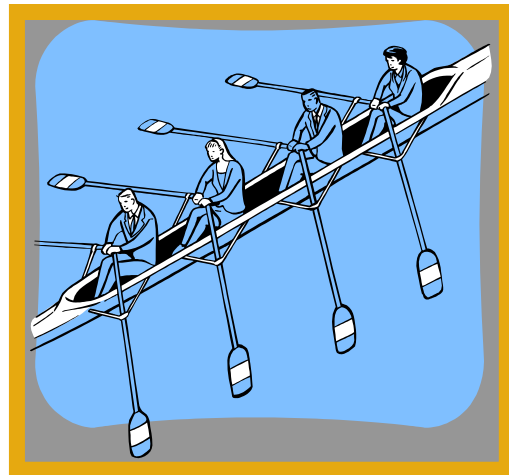
Vol. 1 Issue 2



The 2011 Diamond States Regatta is fast approaching. This will be a very exciting and challenging year as we expand to a two day format, July 23rd and 24th. The racing schedule is now available on the DSMR website: <http://www.diamondstatemasters.com/>.

A successful regatta depends on the efforts of our many volunteers. Please contact Karen Hancock at khancock99@comcast.net to sign up to assist with this event.

Also, there is still time to advertise in the DSMR Program. If you have a business or know business people who might be interested, please contact: Su Harty at skhcomcast.net or John Schoonover at studios@dca.net.



Racing

Ready, Set, Go...it's time for racing! All competitors are excited and looking forward to a winning season.



Coached Practice Schedule for the 2011							
	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday	Sunday
Morning 5:30am		Racing Men's Sweep	Racing Men's and Women's Sculling (advanced)	Racing Men's Sweep (advanced)		Racing Men's and Women's Sculling - *6am*	
Afternoon 5:45pm	Racing Women's Sweep and Scull		Racing Women Sweep	Racing Men's Sweep- 5:45pm Racing Men's Scull - 7pm			

Please make note of the following upcoming regattas as boats and equipment will be used by the WRC Racing teams for practice and regattas:

JUNE

- SAT, 18th - SCHUYLKILL NAVY REGATTA, Philadelphia, PA
- SAT, 25th - CATCH THE COOPER REGATTA, Cooper River, NJ

JULY

- SAT-SUN, 2nd & 3rd - INDEPENDENCE DAY REGATTA Philadelphia, PA

Located on the Wilmington Riverfront
Shipyards Shops

PO Box 3742, Wilmington, DE 19807
302.652.5339
www.wilmingtonrowing.org



Christina River Crossing Bridge (CRCB)

On Monday, May 16, 2011, a public meeting was sponsored by WILMAPCO to present the design concepts for the new CRCB and the favored concept. RK&K Engineers presented the concepts on behalf of DeIDOT to a "full house" of interested parties including several members of the WRC BOD and a couple of WRC members. The presentation centered on the favored concept which is effectively the option that will be built by 2015 with minor modifications to the plan. The schedule is as follows: 2011/2012 – completion of engineering work; 2012/2013 – acquisition of right-of-way; 2013/2014 – bridge construction; 2015 – opening/ribbon cutting.

The CRCB will extend at an angle across the river from the east bank to the west bank at a point closely adjacent to the southwest corner of the Shipyard Shops. The construction will necessitate the closing of the river to traffic from the construction point to the RR bridge for almost two (2) years – 2013 to 2015 but the bridge design is such that the river will remain navigable upon completion of construction its entire length as we know it today. Unfortunately, the location of the bridge will disrupt WRC operations during construction as we'll need to "swing" the boathouse ingress/egress from the south side to the east side (Riverwalk) and move our dock north of the construction. WRC has been assured of construction and economic assistance for these changes within the framework of the project. Any work that we'll need to do to ensure seasonal rowing will be done in the off-season and out of necessity we will be limited to only downriver access along with WYRA and UD.

We will have the display boards of the project exhibited at the upcoming WRC barbeque scheduled for Friday, June 24, 2011 at the boathouse and the WRC president and/or vice president will be able to discuss any questions from the members after they have had a chance to view the boards that evening.

The project is another positive step in the development of the Christina River Front and, while a bit disruptive for a short period of time, will yield the positive outcomes for WRC and its future plans to have a permanent boathouse around the time of our 30th anniversary.

More communication to come as the project rolls out and be prepared to volunteer your time and talents as we commence the transition of our current boathouse and firm plans for a permanent WRC home.

Scholastic Rowing

The Concord Crew team finished an outstanding season with a strong showing at the Stotesbury Cup Regatta. This is the largest youth regatta in the world and this year hosted 178 teams from the United States and Canada.

Both the varsity girls four and junior girls four made it out of time trials, finishing 18th and 13th overall. The boys junior four finished 24th and the boys senior double (who had just started sculling a month earlier!) finished 17th.

During the Manny Flicks, the team also did well, many times winning their races. During the second and third Flicks, the junior and senior girls' boats finished first overall (out of four heats). At the City Championships, the junior four and novice boats advanced to finals and the girls' novice four won the silver medal!

Three of our seniors intend to continue rowing in college. Danni Weader will be involved at the University of Delaware, Tyler Skibicki will join Washington College's squad, and Josh Kuzo will compete at Temple.

June Events

- Sat 4 - **National Learn to Row Day**
- Tue 14 - **Board Meeting**
- Fri 24 - **Boathouse BBQ**
- Sun 5 - **Learn to Row Session 2-** Intensive weeklong - Sunday through Friday; Sunday, June 5, 10:30AM to 12:30PM; Monday-Friday, June 6-10, 6PM to 8PM.
- Sun 12 - **Learn to Row Session 3-** Intensive weeklong - Sunday through Friday; Sunday, June 12, 10:30AM to 12:30 PM; Monday-Friday, June 13-17, 6AM to 8AM.
- Tue 14 - **Learn to Row Session 4-** Tuesday and Thursday Evenings - 6PM to 8PM; June 14, 16, 21, 23, 28, 30, July 5 & 7

***Please see the website for the complete WRC 2011 Calendar.**

Equipment

In each newsletter, Hans Mueller will utilize this column to provide our members a periodic update on the WRC equipment and to address equipment related topics that are:

- Helpful to you as a user of WRC owned boats, oars, ergs, etc.
- Explain the rules and policies related to WRC equipment
- Increase your proficiency and enjoyment of the sport of rowing

This issue will cover the Guiding Principles and Equipment Strategy. Hans plans to share his perspective, the view point of an engineer with 50 years of experience and a rower with 10 years of experience. Don't hesitate to contact Hans if you have any comments or concerns. He recognizes that many of our members are more experienced rowers and is open to feedback. Hans Mueller can be reached at hansmueller@hotmail.com.

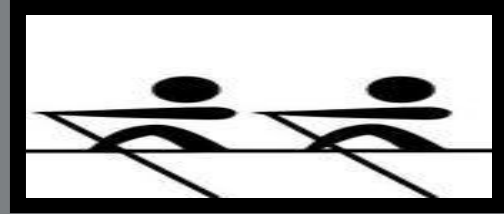
Membership

All eight graduates of Learn to Row Session I recently joined WRC. Please welcome Thomas Magarov, Marie Kusmierz, Craig Cochran, Simon Cranny, Sally Greenwood, Sarah Stafford, Cami Seward and Patti Nelson. Congratulations to you all!

Hats off to Harriett, Linda, Kathlyn and all volunteers for their excellent job in organizing and teaching LTR!

WRC has recently created a mentoring program. Per Don Verdiani, who is organizing the program, "the mentor's role is primarily to answer questions about the club and its processes/procedures. The mentor's goal is to help new members become comfortable within WRC, find their place, and help them begin participating in our activities."

So far, 22 members have offered to become mentors and 14 of them have already been assigned to new members this season. The next LTR class is not far away, so please consider signing up to help a new member transition into WRC and feel welcome.



Our Strategy

The WRC Equipment Strategy has to further the principal purposes of the WRC organization, namely "to promote and support an interest in amateur rowing, be it recreational or competitive." In other words, we need to have equipment available that is appropriate to cover the range from "Learn-to-row" programs, to recreational rowing, to competitive rowing. Another fact to consider is the character of our rowing venue, the Christina River. We are very fortunate to have a river with roughly 20,000 m of rowable water at our doorstep, but it is a tidal waterway with many turns, bridges, obstacles, floating debris, and other traffic. The potential for boat damage resulting from collisions with debris and obstacles is high. Based on these requirements and circumstances, coupled with the obvious financial limitations of the organization, our WRC Equipment Strategy can be summarized by the following four elements:

- A) Maintain all rowing equipment in a safe and excellent state of repair, regardless of equipment age or type.
- B) Establish a good balance of rowing equipment appropriate for LTR programs, recreational rowing and competitive rowing. This balance will shift with changes in membership demographics and use patterns. It is analyzed annually based on boat sign-out data.
- C) Restrictions on the use of some boats may be imposed to minimize the risk of damage and to assure their availability for competition. This will only apply to very few boats, typically the newest or one-of-a-kind boats. Currently restrictions apply to WRC10 (2xLW), WRC27 (4xLW), WRC34 (4+MW), and WRC14 (8+MW Racer). These boats will be identified in the Boat Reservation Book and by a sign on their storage rack, as requiring approval of the Equipment Chair or Racing Chair prior to use.
- D) Establishing equipment policies and procedures for the use of WRC equipment. Every user of WRC equipment is responsible for its safe use and proper care.

Recreational Rowing

The rowing season for 2011 is off to a great start with a lot of collective activity and specific programs. The biggest news is the introduction of our new head coach, Jeff Cutler. Jeff is already working with the people who want to race, including both scullers and sweep rowers. We also have a coached boat every Tuesday evening aligned with the Recreational Rowing that is available to the general membership for a fee of \$10 per seat. Generally, Jeff will be available to work with anyone who wants to improve their rowing skills. We will schedule sessions based on expressed interest but you can also schedule personal coaching sessions with Jeff for you as an individual or for your boat.

We have continued the Recreational Rowing program on Tuesday and Thursday evenings in order to provide the following:

- The opportunity for anyone to row regardless of whether they have become networked or without having to be part of an established boat
- Highly flexible rowing opportunities to accommodate personal schedules
- Excellent development opportunity for new rowers
- Social network and a generally good time

There seems to be a lot of interest among sweep rowers to learn how to scull. We will be organizing some novice sculling training sessions in quads with our new coach. We will provide three training sessions for \$100 and this will prepare people to row in quads. Watch for announcements and training dates. If you want to skillfully row a single, the best advice is to attend one of the sculling schools where the water is much more conducive to novice training than the swirls in the Christina.

Coxswain Constraint

The challenge we continually have with sweep rowing is finding dedicated people to serve as coxswains. We only have a few adult coxswain members – not enough to support all of the rowing programs we have. Fortunately, some of the student coxswains we had supporting us last year returned to help out now that their scholastic seasons are over. And we have recruited a few more that are new to WRC.

It is really important that our members respect the time and effort our coxswains are willing to devote to us at WRC. We appreciate what they do for us and their value is immeasurable. In the past, to express our gratitude the Recreational Rowing program has collected funds and distributed gifts at the end of the season. In other cases, members have collected a small monetary gift to give to the coxswain at the time of each row. In either case, we are showing that the coxswains are valued at WRC. If you ask any of these students to cox a boat for you, please be equally considerate. Don't assume that coxing is its own reward.

One alternative that some other clubs have used to address the challenge of coxswain availability is to require all sweep rowers to get cross qualified as coxswains, so that they can support themselves on a rotating basis. This requirement would need to be discussed further by our membership, but it is something we might want to promote further on a voluntary basis.

Please contact Ed Burns if you have any concerns or questions at Edward.H.Burns@usa.dupont.com.

