



GDRA NEWS

Spring/Fall 1998

Fall Regatta

Race Directors: Charlie Doyle, Becky Doyle and Jim Wall

Our Five Rivers Metro Parks Regatta is scheduled for Saturday Oct 10.

Big Success Last Year

At last year's race we got a lot of very positive feedback from rowers and coaches. Our river is well sheltered and of moderate size, so we have exceptionally calm water. That makes it great for scullers (and sweep rowers) who are tired of battling the swells at some races. We also have a nice venue for a regatta. Our end of Island Park is a pleasant place to park, unload your boats and set up right next to your vehicle in clear sight of the docks. Our volunteers also did a great job running a smooth event last year.

Volunteers Needed!

We will need lots of volunteers again this year. Scoring, registration, parking, food and clothing sales. Plus all the emergencies that crop up during an event of this size. Call Jim Wall to let him know when you can help!



New Docks

by Doug Barker

The GDRA tackled a big project this summer when we decided to build a new set of docks. The old GDRA dock and the larger UD dock were rotting out from under us. We also wanted to get away from our old style docks that stuck out perpendicular to the river. They were hard to dock at in a strong current and were in danger of being swept away during spring floods.

The New Design

The new design is a 130' long dock that is parallel to the shore. That's long enough to handle two eights plus a double. The parallel dock will be easier to dock at in a strong current and is much more secure during floods. We also increased the width of the dock to a full 10'. That extra width makes it rock solid even when a heavyweight 8 crew steps to the edge. No more wet feet!!

Riverbank Work

The shoreline looks a lot better now. We took down the trees and limbs overhanging the dock area and cleared away a lot of brush and vines. We also got the Conservancy District to do some earthmoving to straighten out and regrade the riverbank along the new docks.

Sharing

In addition to GDRA and UD, we would like canoers and kayakers to feel free to use the new docks. Just remember that they may not realize how devastating an eight's oars can be when they sweep along a dock.

It Took a Team Effort

Jim Wall secured the grant from Five Rivers Metro Parks for the cost of the materials. Doug Barker designed the docks and directed the construction. The labor was done primarily by GDRA members with some much appreciated help from UD students and the women's Youth Rowing crew. We also had help from a couple of professional carpenters (Eric and Marty) who aren't club members but volunteered their time to help anyway.

A big *thank you* goes to all the dock workers: Jim Wall, Charlie Doyle, Vince Cameron, Jacque Henes, Eric Wall, Linda Clemens, Brian Weltge, Marty Meyer, Sean Coghlan, Laura Militello, Damien Rothermel, Rand Roosa, Susan Rudd, Rick Gordon, various UD crews, and the women's Youth crew. My apologies in advance if I missed anyone.

Support

Five Rivers Metro Parks covered the cost of the construction materials. Thanks to their generous support we were able to buy materials that should last a lot longer than the old docks. The Park also hauled away the old docks and all the trees and brush that we took out.

The Miami Valley Conservancy District helped out by bringing a backhoe over to do the earthmoving.

Dedication Ceremony

It took over 300 hours of volunteer labor and nearly \$10,000 of materials but we are finally finished. We will have a dock dedication ceremony in conjunction with Riverfest on Sunday, September 20.

From the President

by Jim Wall

We are having another exciting year for our GDRA rowing program.

The response to our one article in the Five River Metro Parks supplement to the Dayton Daily News overwhelmed us with learn-to-row candidates. We have been fortunate to have Valerie Wentling back who did such a good job last year with learn-to-row.

The youth program is progressing with two very dedicated coaches in Leah Glowacki and Damien Rothermel who are coaching men's and women's teams from many different high schools. They have already gone to two regattas in Grand Rapids, Michigan and Oakridge, Tennessee.

A real achievement this year is the Barker Dock. Our new launching dock is 130ft of pressure treated wood, galvanized hardware and stainless steel screws. This is probably the finest crew dock in this part of the country designed and construction managed by Doug Barker.

If you are interested In rowing in team boats whether for pleasure or for com-

petitive racing, be sure to call me or Elizabeth Larkins.

We want to make sure that all of our members and recent learn-to-row graduates are satisfied with being a member of GDRA. Please feel free to call me or any of the Trustees with comments, criticisms or suggestions for our programs.

GDRA Web Pages

by Linda Clemens

www.truesport.com/GDRA The club web site went online in the Fall of 1997. It has brought us lots of new membership inquires from new rowers and from experienced rowers who are new to Dayton. We update it periodically with the latest information on club activities. New material is always welcome.

www.truesport.com/dock The entire dock project is online with full details on design, budget and construction. It has been a popular feature at Truesport with over 600 visitors to the dock site in the first three months it was up.

Snags Removed

With a Duck's Help

Some of those big, nasty snags that we have been rowing around all summer were hauled out of the river in August. Snag removal has always been a tough problem. Neither motor boats nor jeeps have the power needed. One year we got the Conservancy District to help, but we don't like to call on them too often.

This time, Jim Wall teamed up a tow truck on shore with one of the Park District's ducks. The ducks are those WWII amphibious assault vehicles they have been using for tours this summer. The duck got the cable around the snags and the tow truck hauled away. Jim said it worked great.

Youth Rowing

Coaches: Leah Glowocki and Damien Rothermel

The Youth Rowing program kicked off in mid June. The program draws students from many area high schools including John Carroll, CJ, Miami Valley, Dayton Christian, Centerville, Oakwood and Piqua. The women's team had 23 rowers this summer, of whom 8 were returnees from last year. The men had 21 rowers with 4 returnees.

Leah and Damien were typically holding workouts 6 days a week during the summer and then 4 days a week during the Fall.

Their summer sprint races included the Grand Regatta (Michigan), Oakridge Sprints (Tennessee) and a scrimmage in Cleveland. Both the men and women snagged some victories at those events.

The team roster typically shrinks when school starts back up in the Fall, but this year many of the students have decided to keep rowing and are looking forward to doing some head races. Races being considered include Head of the Cuyahoga (Cleveland), Head of the Ohio (Pittsburgh), Head of the Eagle (Indianapolis) and Five Rivers Metro Parks Regatta (Dayton).

The men and women teamed up for two fund raisers this summer: a car wash at the boathouse and a mulch spreading job. Both events went well.

The men's squad took up a challenge from the Dayton Canoe Club to a race across the river in war canoes and chalked up yet another memorable victory.

Two of the women's team have now gone on to row at Dartmouth and Syracuse. On the men's team, students have gone on to row at Columbia and Miami. Our congratulations and best wishes go with them.

GDRA Officers

Trustees

Todd Sobol, chairman

Jim Wall

Charlie Doyle

Doug Barker

Steve Herbert

Barbara O'Hara

Treasurer

Linda Clemens

Club Boats Available

We now have a great fleet of boats available for GDRA members and programs to use. Five singles, three doubles, a pair, two fours and a quad. All of the GDRA club boats are in bay #3.

Singles

The singles range from the nice stable Alden to the Julien to two Maas 24s to the racing geometry Peinart. We bought a boat dolly this summer to help get the heavier boats to the dock when you are by yourself.

The red trimmed Maas was donated to the club last year by Jim Horlacher (thanks Jim!). The Peinart single was bought used from a rower in Massachusetts and transported to Dayton by Charlie Doyle. The Julien was recently repaired by Jim Barth. He fixed the splash board and repainted the deck; it looks like a different boat now!

Doubles

The wooden CruSader double is in good shape thanks to extensive repairs last year at the skilled hands of Bill Whalen. He is a canoe club member who has a keen interest in wooden boats. The honeycomb hull Kaschper double was bought new last year and is still looking good. It is a pretty delicate boat, so its use should be limited to experienced scullers training for competition.

Pair

An older yellow pair was acquired free from Michigan. It was located and transported to Dayton by Charlie Doyle. Our hope is that it will help some of the sweep rowers who are having trouble getting a 4+ or 8+ together.

Quad

The beautiful wooden Hudson is currently rigged as a quad. Jim Wall keeps talking about getting a masters or a mixed quad together for some of the regattas.

Fours

The GDRA fours are the wooden Squatty and the honeycomb Kaschper. Their heaviest use so far this year is by Youth Rowing.

Eights

We desperately need eights. This year we borrowed and rented boats from UD. We may be repossessing a light-weight wooden eight soon, but even then, we will need additional boats for the Youth program.

Membership & Storage Fees

GDRA Memberships

Dues cover use of GDRA club boats and oars. Annual memberships run from Jan1 through Dec31:

\$125 annual adult membership*

\$60 annual student membership*

\$30 summer student membership, for students who will only be using GDRA boats for the summer months. Summer memberships expire on Labor Day.

Boat Storage

Annual fee for storing a private boat in in Bays 1 or 3. Membership dues are also required:

\$125 for rack space

\$75 for ceiling space

.....
* Annual memberships and boat storage fees may be pro-rated for new members joining late in the season.

* In cases of financial hardship, contact Jim Wall or Linda Clemens to discuss fee schedules.

Using Club Boats

Who can use GDRA boats?

GDRA members whose dues are paid can take out GDRA boats. Learn-To-Row students and Youth Program rowers can use the boats during coached sessions.

Boat Signout versus Reservation?

Everyone who uses a GDRA club boat must sign it out on the Signout Sheet in bay #3. The Signout Sheets are the only way we have of tracking what boats are being used when.

Using the reservation book is optional. It serves only to make sure the boat is available when you get there.

Boat Care?

At a minimum, wipe down the boat after rowing and note any problems on the signout sheet. It is even better to set out a pair of slings before you go rowing so that you can hose the boat down afterward.

Learn-To-Row

Coaches: Valerie Wentling and Chris Mucha

This year's Learn-to-Row program enjoyed continued success under Coach Valerie Wentling. This season, although hampered by more than the usual weather interruptions, was marked by greatly increased community interest due to a promotion in the Dayton Daily News.

With over forty interested adults by the beginning of June, the season was well under way when a flood halted all lessons for two weeks. Despite this interruption, and with the addition of Chris Mucha to the coaching staff, the program successfully taught all participants interested. This program continues to be integral to the growth and active participation of GDRA as evidenced by the increase of GDRA memberships by former LTR participants, some of whom are planning to compete!

Greater Dayton Rowing Association

c/o Doug Barker



Budget Tight

by Linda Clemens, Treasurer

Our budget this year has been pretty tight. It is not yet clear that we will finish the year in the black.

To make things easier to understand, we split the GDRA budget up into several categories: the Core, Youth Rowing, Learn-To-Row, and Fall Regatta.

Core

The Core is supported entirely by members' dues and boat storage fees. From this, we pay for new club boats, boathouse utilities, insurance, and all the random expenses needed to keep things going (like boat repairs and mailing this newsletter). The Core directly subsidizes the Learn-To-Row

program by covering part of the coaching expenses.

Learn-To-Row

The Learn-To-Row budget consists mainly of the \$30 fees coming in and the coach's salary going out

Youth Rowing

The Youth Rowing expenses are covered by a grant from Five Rivers Metro Parks and some additional fund raising by the students. The big expenses for the Youth are coaching, attending regattas and boat purchase/rental.

Regatta

The upcoming Fall Regatta is a scary event from a budget point of view. We do not have slack elsewhere in the budget to absorb any regatta losses, so we are going to have to really bring in

the entry fees to cover the costs of the event.

Dock

Materials for the new dock were reimbursed by Five Rivers Metro Parks.

Boats

Two new boats were paid off this year. The Kaschper 4+ and 2x were bought last year on a two year payment schedule. The cost of these boats was evenly split between the Core and the Youth program. This was a pretty good deal for the Youth program, since the 4+ is the more expensive boat, but we decided that it would be best to make it clear that these boats are available to all GDRA programs.