

GDRA NEWS

Summer 1999



Sculling Clinic a Success

by Linda Clemens

The spring weekend sculling clinic was held April 24-25 under beautiful, sunny skies. Seven GDRA scullers spent the weekend getting the same type of intensive coaching that we normally have to travel to Florida, Vermont or Colorado to experience. The visiting coach, Donald Weber-Plank, has years of full-time coaching experience and has been director of the Florida Rowing Center and Rocky Mountain Rowing Center.

By the end of the weekend, everyone was sore and tired, but excited about the improvements they had made. Jim and Charlie took Don's advice and are experimenting with switching positions in the double. Doug and Linda were so inspired that they decided their marriage could probably risk another year together in the double!

We would like to hold another of these weekend clinics this year. If you would be interested, contact Linda Clemens.

Club Colors Change

Order Team Clothing from SewSporty

This past winter, we decided to change the club's official colors from Blue & Teal to Blue & Red. In the past, the adult program and the youth program have used different colors. It's pretty important for us to have a consistent color pattern, so we had to go with one or the other. The old Teal color was uncomfortably similar to a Columbus youth team's color, so we went with the red and blue.

We have arranged with Sew Sporty to make club tops and unisuits on an individual basis. Sew Sporty is a rowing clothing supplier that specializes in custom team orders. Samples are on display in the boathouse.

Annual Members Meeting

The annual membership meeting was held February 16 at the Weghorst Center. Topics included plans for the coming year, the need for a written set of club rules, and a review of the club's financial situation.

- An overview of the club's history and purpose.
- A summary of how the club is structured in terms of trustees, officers, coaches.
- Status Reports by the various officers including a financial report by the treasurer.
- Open discussions of issues for upcoming year ranging from what type of new boat to buy (a racing single) to changing the club colors.
- Reviewing the appointment of club officers.
- Election of Trustees.

River Quality Monitoring

Miami Valley River Index

How high is the river today? Is it safe to row? You will soon be able to find out in the newspaper, on the radio and in real time on the Internet!

A network of six electronic monitoring stations is now being set up that will collect data on river water conditions. The data will be analyzed and then periodically sent to the media. Some raw data, like water flow, may be available in real time on the internet.

There will be two monitoring sites upriver from Island Park at Taylorsville Dam and at Englewood Dam. Those should tell us what is headed our way on the Stillwater and the Great Miami. Another station will be just downstream from us at Monument Street. This Fall is the target completion date.

The Watershed Enhancement Program (WEP) won a \$475,000 grant from the US EPA with their proposal for the Miami Valley River Index. It was one of only eight such awards out of 150 applications nationwide. The Miami Valley Regional Planning Commission is the leader of a team that includes key river organizations and other concerned participants.

If anyone would be interested in attending meetings of the WEP as the GDRA representative, please contact Doug Barker.

More information on the program can be found at: www.riverindex.org

From the President

Dear Members:

What an outstanding year is emerging with our GDRA endeavor to bring the sport of rowing to the Dayton area.

My reason for the good year, and a selfish one, is that other than very nice water with little or no flooding so far which means very good spring and summer rowing, is that the building blocks of our organization are by far the best in our history and it's all because of people.

Charlie Doyle, as director of youth rowing along with Damien Rothermel, head men's coach has had the men's team to some six regattas, bringing back medals from Cincinnati and Grand Rapids. The week of July 27th they will be on their way to the Canadian Henley. We have been to high schools doing recruiting and have had very good success in signing new students. Our women's team, coached once again by Leah Glowocki has many new members and they have visited Grand Rapids and Detroit for regattas.

Rebecca Doyle has taken charge of membership and what a difference it has made. Now letters go to all people interested in learn-to-row and youth rowing. Membership letters go in a timely manner, and all of this information is on a current data base. Becky has also compiled an extensive list of schools, clubs and individuals for our regatta mailing list and the first set of reminder post cards are in the mail.

Doug Barker has the title of VP Operations and has made a huge contribution in the operation of the boat house, GDRA in general, the dock, which is probably the finest in the mid west, and the myriad of forms beginning with the membership and waivers and safety rules and sign out forms and boat schedule forms etc,etc,etc. which is all very important to the efficiency of how we operate.

Linda Clemens is in her second year as treasurer and does an outstanding job of keeping track of our financial planning and well being and is meticulous in formulating a budget for us to follow.

Thank you all,
Jim Wall

GDRA Club Rules

When the GDRA was formed in 1992, the incorporation papers included the set of regulations that define all the legalistic details on election of trustees, appointment of officers and such. Beginning last year, it has become increasingly obvious that we need an additional set of rules that will help guide our trustees and members on the more day to day issues.

Included with this newsletter mailing are the newly drawn up GDRA Club Rules. These rules are intended to answer a lot of the typical questions that come up. They cover such things as types of memberships and how to reserve boats.

Safety Rules

Safety Committee Members:

*Jim Wall, Doug Barker,
Charlie Doyle, Mike Miles*

The volume of rowing traffic on the river has now gotten to the point where we need to follow a stricter traffic pattern and a set of safety rules.

At a February meeting with UD, we proposed that a Joint UD/GDRA Safety Committee be formed to address this issue and to draw up a set of safety rules. The Joint Committee met in May and tentatively agreed to a set of joint safety rules, but UD has since requested some changes, especially to the centerline rule.

Rather than delay still further, we have gone ahead and included the current draft of the rules with this newsletter. Please be aware that there may be some changes if we can reach agreement with UD.

Every GDRA rower, coxswain and coach is expected to know these rules and to follow them.

Learn-to-Row

*Coach Derek Copeland
Director Charlie Doyle*

The 1999 GDRA LTR program has been a big success so far. This year, month-long classes are designed to teach the sculling skills which will enable graduates of the program to scull a single to the interstate bridge and back. The cost of the 16 hour course is \$75.00. Graduates can then join the GDRA club rowing program for an additional \$25.00, which will pay membership fees for the balance of the calendar year.

A LTR graduation picnic is being planned for the end of summer. Hopefully all of GDRA will join the fun of rowing with and meeting the 36 dedicated graduates/members. If you would like to help with the planning of this event, please call.

The August session of Learn-To-Row classes are progressing well. For more information, comments or questions, please call Charlie or Becky.

Dock Sealed

by Doug Barker

If you have noticed the green tint that the dock has taken on recently, it's not from your sunglasses. It's the newly applied preservative. The sealant we used is specially made for wood that is in water contact.

We will seal just the top surface now. After we pull the docks out of the water in the Fall, we will want to apply sealant to the edges that are currently in the water.

Last year's dock building project was a lot of fun, but we would sure like to avoid having to build a new dock anytime soon!

Youth Rowing

*Director: Charlie Doyle
Coaches: Damien Rothermel
and Leah Glowacki*

The men's novice sweep rowing program completed a successful Spring racing season competing at four regattas. Although gold medals have so far eluded coach Damian Rothermel's crews, silver and bronze medals were won at three of the four regattas where Dayton crews competed. With the addition of roughly 15 new recruits, competition for seats in the "first" boat should begin to heat up.

The Summer rowing season has been a success with the men's and women's crews participating in the Grand Regatta, Grand Rapids, MI and the 160th Annual DBC Regatta, Detroit, MI. The men's crews also competed at the Royal Canadian Henley Regatta in St. Catharines, Ontario and hopefully gained some very valuable race and regatta experience.

The Fall season kicks off with a head style race in Cincinnati on September 25th. Races in Indianapolis and Columbus are being planned, including our own Five Rivers MetroParks Fall Regatta in Dayton on October 9th. Both men and women's teams will be competing in the fall.

The Winter season is full of promise for the GDRA Youth Program, also. All crews look forward to off water training and indoor ergometer workouts to hone their rowing technique and work on cardiovascular training to be competitive.

The youth programs have been enhanced with new equipment this year, including:

- A 12' jon boat and 9.9 HP motor for coaching launch use.
- Four previously owned Concept II - B ergometers.
- A Vespoli 8+ purchased from UD Crew.
- A Kaschper 8+ purchased from UD Crew.
- A set of Concept II sweep oars purchased from Marietta College.
- The Hudson 8+ was refurbished after many long hours of work.
- The redesigned and refurbished GDRA boat trailer.

College/Scholarship Youth Committee Formed

Charlie & Becky Doyle, youth parents Anne Hassoun, Steve Krivian, Jeff Patzer, and GDRA club president Jim Wall met the last week of July in order to establish objectives of this new committee. In addition to compiling and providing information about colleges and universities which provide rowing scholarships, it was decided that a listing of ALL schools offering rowing would be compiled to better meet the interest levels of our youth rowers. The list will be divided into categories of schools where there are:

- 1.) Major scholarships available
- 2.) Major non-scholarship varsity programs
- 3.) Schools offering rowing club programs for their students.

Hopefully our young people will want to continue to row in college, but some may not be interested in an INTENSE varsity scholarship program. Segmenting the list of rowing schools should prove beneficial for all in the decision making process. If you have an interest in this topic, or have any suggestions or information to share please call one of the people listed above.

GDRA Web Pages

Webmaster: Linda Clemens

www.truesport.com/GDRA The club web site underwent a major update with a new look and new information being added. Becky has been feeding Linda constant updates on Youth rowing and Learn-To-Row.

GDRA Rowers hit the Regatta Circuit

Several GDRA members have been active on the regatta circuit this spring and summer. Valerie Wentling and Lisa Kellermeyer are having a great season in the double. They have raced in Toledo, Cincinatti, Grand Rapids and Detroit, medaling in every race they have entered, including three first place medals. Jim Wall and Charlie Doyle are back in the double this year. They have raced in Toledo, Ecorse and Grand Rapids. Michelle Murphy, a graduate of Learn-To-Row just last year, has raced so far in Detroit, Ecorse and Grand Rapids, bringing a gold medal back from Detroit. Todd Sobol, finally bit the bullet and bought a new single and he felt good enough in it to head up to Ecorse

Boathouse Housekeeping

Clutter leads to Tragic Accident

Boathouse Manager: Doug Barker

A privately owned boat was badly damaged this spring while sitting innocently on its rack. A piece of lumber leaning against the wall was knocked over and punched a hole right through the hull.

Accidents happen, but in this particular case, it happened all too easily because of the amount of clutter that was crowding the area. Misplaced oars, roof racks, slings, old buoys and unused ergs.

We are now starting to run out of space in the boathouse. This is good, it means that our rowing community is growing, but it also means that we have to cut down on the optional stuff that we store in the boathouse. Reducing the excess clutter will help cut down on accidents.

The only private items that should be stored in the boathouse are boats, oars and slings. All other privately owned stuff should be stored at home. Especially roof racks!

Greater Dayton Rowing Association

c/o Doug Barker
6351 Adams Circle
Centerville, Ohio 45459



Club Boats Available

Our fleet of GDRA boats has grown again this year. We now own six singles, two doubles, a pair, a quad, two fours and two eights.

Singles

The singles range from very stable boats to racing hulls. They include, respectively, an Alden, a Julien, two Maas 24s, a Peinart and a Vespoli. We purchased the used Vespoli in April; its use should be limited to experienced scullers.

Doubles

The wooden CruSader double is in good shape and has been getting significant use this spring. The honeycomb hull Kaschper double was bought new two years ago and is still looking good. It is a pretty delicate boat, so its use should be limited to experienced scullers.

Quad

The beautiful wooden Hudson is currently rigged as a quad. It is being used heavily in the Learn-To-Row program this summer. It has also been taken out by some of the more experienced members for the thrill of all that extra speed!

Pair

An older yellow pair was acquired free from Michigan last year. It has not seen much use yet.

Fours

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

Eights

We can finally stop renting/borrowing eights this year. We purchased a racing quality Vespoli eight and a training eight from UD this spring. Jim Wall worked hard this spring to refurbish the lightweight wooden Hudson eight that we repossessed from a Columbus program last year.

Using Club Boats

Who can use GDRA boats?

GDRA members whose dues are paid can take out GDRA boats. There are only some limited circumstances in which a non-member may row a GDRA boat. See the GDRA Operating Rules for details.

Learn-To-Row students and Youth Program rowers can use the boats during coached sessions only.

Sign Boats Out!

Remember: All boats in bays 1 and 3 must be signed out before rowing. This includes club and private boats. Team boats should be signed out by their coaches.

Signing boats out is important for many reasons, including insurance requirements and as a courtesy to other club members.