

# MRRA Meeting

May 12 2009

## Agenda

- Boathouse update
- Membership
- HS Scholarships
- LTS - Learn to Scull
- Experienced Rower
- Festival Regatta
- New Business
- Viewing of Safety Video

## Boathouse Update

- Docks
  - Water level low due to dam repair
  - dock placement - TRR funding has been retained until dock plan is fully completed.
- Rack changes
  - high level plan
  - Review
  - Implementation
- Alarm Orientation
  - Ongoing logistics
  - Problems?
- Downstairs Bath for the moment

## Membership

- Renewal target at approximately 30
  - Target is expected based on survey
  - List of “Active Members” will be posted at the logbook
- New Members - if interested contact Jay to join Membership Committee and/or help with National LTR Day -
  - National LTR Day - June 6, 2009 – will coordinate with Vee
- Payment Plan – discussed by the board and anyone with hardship in paying lumpsum should contact Wilma Breiland, MRRA secretary, to discuss payment plan options.
- “LTS memberships”
  - Fees will apply to yearly cost of membership
  - MOTION made by Carl Popolo and Approved: LTS membership after June LTS session will be \$150, after July LTS session \$100 and after LTR session \$200.
  - LTS folks will follow same online membership procedures as members, including volunteering.

- Guest Policy question/review
  - Currently have a policy in MRRA boat policies Rev 4/11/05, section 4, and can be found on the members website under forms/policies:  
[http://www.merrimackrowing.org/forms/MRRA\\_forms.html](http://www.merrimackrowing.org/forms/MRRA_forms.html)
- Out-of-town/reciprocity Policy
  - Being reviewed by the board. Will provide policy at the next meeting.

## Lowell HS

- Scholarship [2]
  - 7 applicants
  - Based on grades, essay, rowing, etc.
  - Awarded at the sports awards banquet
- 2 large regattas
  - Use of launches approved for these events
  - Past weekend - Lowell High School Invitational
  - Sunday, May 25 Massachusetts Public School State Championships

## LTS - Learn to Scull

- Enrollment good
  - June sessions filled
  - July sessions have some openings
- Volunteer Sign-up sheets are posted
  - M/W in June
- Teach the teachers
  - Logistics still have to be worked

### LTS Report from David Griggstone:

- Boats:
  - 4x: need 2, Jim has said he will rig them
  - 2x: will be needed later, unclear exactly what will be available .. would appreciate boat captain to respond
  - 1x: later in the course singles will be used, some of boats that would be used are on high racks and must be moved lower by latest mid-June
- Lead coach is still required for a) June b) July
  - Does not have to attend every session, but must attend first and minimum of 4 out of 8
  - Responsible for ensuring right equipment will be available for each session (boats, launches, safety gear)
  - Responsible for ensuring volunteers are available (generally not a problem .. volunteers are good about showing up or notifying in good time if they can't make a previously arranged date)
  - Responsible for canceling a session if inclement weather .. generally call is made

- up to 1 hour before
    - Email/phone participants
    - Email/phone volunteers
- Training the trainers
  - Discussion will be started on LTS focus group
  - Jay/Jim to coordinate train-the-trainers day before start of programs
- Current invitees are:
  - June: 9
  - July: 6
  - This means we still have some places for this year
- LTS students can take swim test at UML pool if needed (Wilma will check with V about her all-at-once test for her folks.)
- Ergs needed at boathouse for first session of June & July programs
  - Jay to work out location they can be placed
- Launches
  - Jay said will be available in the water for LTR
- Jay said covers will stop boats from filling with water.

## Experienced Rower

- From last meeting, discussed at the board –
- Revamp – “A Class Rower” as currently found in MRRA boat policies Rev 4/11/05 :
  - A Class Rower...
  - 1 full season of sculling experience or 3+ years of rowing experience and sufficient sculling experience to complete demonstration.
  - Active Club membership for 1 year.
  - Demonstrate to a boat captain or other club officer:
  - Display good rowing form
    - Row alternating feathered [off water] and square blade on demand for 1 mile
    - Complete 5 mile row displaying navigation capabilities and course knowledge without frequent head turning.
  - Emergency stop form 20spm at full pressure without flipping
  - 360 degree turn with backwater and stroke
  - launch and return from mid-dock without assistance.
  - Demonstrate how to take out a boat and return a boat to its rack without any banging of equipment
  - Demonstrate proficiency in specific boat
  - Explain club procedures/policies regarding equipment
- Club discussion: include Flip test and being able to get back in the boat
- Jay and Bob are in the process of reviewing the Class A definition and will send comments to the board before sharing with the MRRA members. For example, here is \*just\* a discussion point... the distances are exaggerated for discussion purposes, but not unrealistic for a A class rower.

## Festival Regatta

- No chair and more members needed to support full regatta
- Motion Approved: Cannot support full Festival Regatta in 2009.
- “need” a regatta in the master plan - There was agreement that a “fun” regatta with neighboring Lawrence should be discussed at next meeting.

## New Business

- Costello pool hours – contact pool before going for swim test
- MOTION APPROVED: Renew membership and donate \$100 to the Merrimac River Watershed Council
- Question: How did the Alden get out on the deck?
- Attendance: 20 members
- Letter from Veronika was read at the meeting:

“If you wouldn't mind sharing this with the membership as I cannot be there tonight due to schedule conflict:

Many of you asked about the teams' performance at Dad Vail's and so here is the report:□□ The men's pair (Stavros and Daniel Brooks) did an outstanding job representing UML at the prestigious Dad Vail's Regatta! The boys advanced into the semi finals (top 18) in an event that was loaded with talent and was the most subscribed event of the regatta-36 entries!□□

In the semi-finals, the boys raced aggressively and came through the first 700 meters in great form, jockeying with five other boats for one of the finals' slots. Unfortunately, they had a near collision with another boat and in their attempt to separate; they flipped out of the boat. They somehow managed to get back into the boat quickly and sprinted to the finish line. The packed grandstand cheered them on enthusiastically and appreciatively, knowing full well how hard it is to climb back into a boat that is so tippy. Furthermore, the head official sought me out to express his admiration for the courage and class that the boys displayed in climbing back into the boat and finishing the race. I thanked him and simply replied—“That's how we do it at Lowell!”

□□The Dad Vail's' scenario is somewhat typical of my first season with this program--absolutely crazy, chaotic, at times, impossible and yet, ultimately, we finished with dignity in tact and a glimmer of the brilliance that lies ahead if we get it together.□□

Through this all has been a tremendous show of support from the MRRA membership. We are deeply grateful to you for your generosity of resources, volunteerism at regattas and coaching, and ultimately, of the caring and kind spirit. Please know that it really does make a difference and for that, we thank you!!!

□□Sincerely, □□Veronika□□”

Minutes Respectfully Submitted by:  
Wilma Breiland, MRRA Secretary