

20130115-MRRA-Safety

MRRA Safety Committee Agenda and *Notes* from Meeting held on January 15, 2013

In attendance: Joseph LaFreniere, Mark Romanowski, Bob Lynch

1. Prepare a bulleted list of “key” safety reminders to be incorporated into a sign that will be placed nearby the dock entry area. We could present this to the board club for their approval and then ask Peter to have the sign prepared.
 - a. Items to be included in that list:
 - i. Detailed course map showing traffic pattern and known hazards (rocks, etc.)
 - ii. In Case of Emergency instructions including boathouse address as 500 Pawtucket Ave., Lowell MA.
 - iii. Reminder to all rowers that they check for rowing restrictions posted in the logbook area before they launch.
 - iv. Note: while the sign will be useful to all rowing programs it will also be seen by and instructive to others.
 - b. Dimensions and display of the sign:
 - i. To be determined via discussions between Safety Committee and Peter after content is finalized.
 - ii. Sign to be prominently displayed on posts embedded in the ground beside boat ramp where it can be clearly seen passersby and rowers as they approach the dock.
 - iii. Target date to get proposed list to the Boardclub? ASAP - hopefully by the February General Meeting.
2. Propose a system for classification of MRRA rower's.
 - a. All present agreed that our goal is to devise a fair system that would clarify some of the language used by the Boat Capt. and Safety Committee when posting rowing restrictions and safety advisories. While some of what we propose might be useful in helping The Club to determine who is approved to row newer or more elite competitive racing boats we agreed that the focus is on safety uses.
 - b. To start we suggest four categories (Note: with regards to

safety, assignment to a category depends on proficiency of a rower with skills and knowledge associated with that category and has nothing to do with racing prowess.)

- i. Beginner - learning to row, but has not yet passed Capt.'s Test.
- ii. Novice - rower with limited skills who has passed Capt.'s Test.
- iii. Intermediate-this was discussed at meeting see Joe L.'s proposal
- iv. Advanced - rower with a more expansive set of skills and knowledge

- c. Joe LaFreniere agreed to work further on a draft for each category including the skills and knowledge of rowing that might be expected of an individual in that category. He will submit those to Safety for review and revision as needed. (Some of the skills under consideration are: ability to launch from either side of the dock, "back" to the dock, , demonstrate navigation skills - e.g. ability to get a team boat away from and back to the dock safely. Knowledge of the course and its hazards, ability to assist a rower in distress, years of rowing experience.)
- d. Once Safety agrees with what skills belong with which categories, we will submit them to The Club for review. Once approved, we might begin the process of categorizing by providing all members with a table showing which skills need to be mastered to be in each category and ask them to self-categorize. We expect most people will show good judgment. A committee (composition TBA) will review the results of the self-categorization. If there is some question about how a particular individual self categorizes, they may be reassigned and can appeal if they strongly disagree with the reassignment. Obviously, with time a rower's proficiency will increase and they can request re-assignment to another category

3. Safety Committee's budget for 2013

- a. Joe LaFreniere has agreed to compile a preliminary list of safety - equipment for Safety to review at our February 12 meeting. The final budget request will be submitted at the March Board meeting by Mark Romanowsky.

4. The club's new Boat Captain, Roland Meijer, who is an ex officio member (with voting privileges) of the Safety Committee, was briefed on the issues discussed and invited to participate at all Safety meetings.
5. The Safety Committee's next meeting will be held at 6 PM on February 12, 2013, just prior to the MRRA General Meeting. Unless stated otherwise, when needed, Safety Committee meetings will be scheduled for the second Tuesday of each month, prior to the General Meeting.