

MRRA February Meeting  
Tuesday February 11, 2014  
Chelmsford Police Station

Attendees: (15) Kathy McGowan, Denise Bergeron, Bob Bowen, Kristine Golihur, Terry Freeman, Daniel Ernst, Wilma Breiland, Jason Holden, Mary Theresa Freund, Anne Russell, Bronwyn Chapman, Carl Popolo, Jay Feenan, Karen Scammell, Dottie Semonian

**Agenda:**

6:15 - Safety Video

7:00 Regular meeting start

- Safety message
- Accept December Annual Meeting minutes and presentation; accept January minutes
- Update on USRowing Regional Masters Regatta (Karen/Jay)
- Board policy on paying for member "improvement or enrichment" programs
- Committee updates - Equipment, Membership/Programs, Safety, Social
- other new business as requested

**Safety Message:** Deferred with the above members viewing the US Rowing Safety Video

Meeting Start 7:20 PM

December Annual Meeting Minutes and January meeting minutes approved

**Program and Rack fees have not yet be determined:**

Membership is approved at \$100 early \$ 125 later

Other fees to be reviewed with budget

**UpDate on US Rowing Regional Masters Nationals:**

Karen Scammell and Jay Feenan spoke with US Rowing

Expect 300 entries, US Rowing will run finals.

Regatta expected to be about the same size as the Festival Regatta

Would like to have events finished by 4 pm, with finals suspect will be 5 PM

**Dates:**

Sat June 28th US Rowing Masters Region Regatta

Sun June 29th Festival Regatta

Have a core group of volunteers for the US Rowing Event

Won't need the Bathhouse

Have Permits

US Rowing will handle registration and schedule, timing.

Staff from US Rowing brings referees, (a dozen)

**US Rowing runs the regatta**

MRRA will drive launches, provide launches, and follow referee instruction  
US Rowing manages timing, MRRA needs to supply stake boat holders.

MRRA would Develop a Budget and submit to US Rowing  
MRRA will manage parking, tent reservations, course, facility (port o Johns, permits)

**Social Committee**, would like to provide some type of social event Saturday evening  
(Boat house deck not an option related to cost)  
Discussion about contacting JJ Boomers about holding a  
post regatta: drink/food event.

Jay Feenan meeting with Deb Belanger, Greater Merrimack Valley Convention and  
Visitors Bureau.  
Will discuss promoting the two day Regatta Event weekend.

**Festival Regatta:** To post on Regatta Central (Finals only).

US Rowing will close registration 2 weeks prior to maintain a manageable size for this  
regatta.  
Agreement with City of Lowell, Police, Parking, permits, etc are determined by whether  
we host a small, medium or large regatta.  
Need to know what category this Regatta will fit, will help to determine police, traffic  
etc. (Again suspect Festival Regatta size.)

Need to make sure Environmental Police are present all day

### **BOD Meeting:**

Carl Popolo sent a request to have 4 MRRA members attend the Mary Whipple  
Coxswain program at \$85 each. The BOD reviewed the program and found it was  
geared toward racing.  
Board unanimously decided the club would continue to pay for things that are safety  
related, or programs that would benefit all club members. (Have run CPR programs, pay  
for coaches to be certified, have offered discounts to members).  
Discussion about hiring a coach/coxswain to run a series of coaching sessions that  
would benefit all MRRA members. Would encourage Sweep rowers, those that toe the  
4X, etc.

Discussion about approaching Eddie Bruce for possible Coxswain coaching, possibly  
Sara Paret  
Jay Feenan: Coaching a coxswain, very difficult, would encourage input on what sweep  
rowers looking for when arranging this program.  
Karen will try to arrange for a weekend early in the season

### **Committee Updates:**

Membership: Karen Scammell reviewed suggestions from Jody DeCarolis, Terry Freeman and Barbara Sherman  
How to get Sweep program going? "Bring a Buddy?"  
Suspect Masters rowing has not grown related to cost, time of day it has been offered.  
Perhaps offer a Saturday only option? Discounted cost for the first sessions

**Swim Test:** Several MRRRA Members are due for recertification this year

Denise Bergeron verified pool schedule

### **Costello Pool Hours - UMass Lowell**

Monday - Friday

7:30 to 9:00 AM

Noon to 1:30 PM

4 p.m. to 6 PM

Saturday 1:30-4:00 PM

Sunday closed

The pool will be closed during spring break week (3/14 - 3/22).

The pool will be closed on President's Day and Patriot's Day (2/17 and 4/21).

If you go to Costello Pool for your swim test you need to bring a lifejacket as one is not available there.

### **Family YMCA**

Aquatic director's name is Kat - contact her to make arrangements for test

Fee is \$10.00 for non-Y members.

On Saturday's the test can be given after 2:00 pm as there are swim classes all morning.

During the week the best time is 6-8pm, especially on Tuesdays

**\*\*Bring the MRRRA swim test paperwork.**

### **Program Managers:**

Learn to Scull: Chur Masors

Learn to Sweep : ? Joe Bernard

Advanced Coached Sculling: Linas Alinskas

Open Sweep: Jason Holden

Plan to UpDate the Junior Sweep page on the web site, directed those interested back to UML Page (UML resuming the Junior Sweep program.)

Would a Saturday Morning Learn to Sweep for 2 hours, draw any interest?

Cost to run Masters Sweep is \$50 for the coach and \$3 per head for the rental for the UML 8+.

The Club is not looking to make money on programs.

**Need Coaches** - reaching out to Past Coaches, David Cormier, Vee Platzer, Colleen Iby for recommendations, to get the word out.  
Jason Holden putting an add on Row 2K.

**Membership committee** will get updated information on days the programs will run  
"Info at MRRA" has been getting e-mails from interested individuals, looking for more details, requesting days and times programs will be run.

**Rack Policy:** Wilma Breiland to Chair  
Need to update the old Rack Policy, should be a short time commitment for volunteers.  
Likely can complete the work with conference calls and brief meetings to complete the update.

**Equipment Committee:** Karen asking for a Chair for this committee  
No one at the meeting is volunteering  
Club needs recommendations for purchases for 2014:  
Oars, Boats, suspect some members may be asking for Wakeless launch?  
Jay Feenan: Review for new members: MRRA has an updated fleet, impressive to see purchases and up date of equipment in boat house. Has taken years to build.  
\*\* BOD will make recommendations for purchase if no member/ members willing to volunteer.

**Textile River Regatta disbursement:** MRRA awaiting the amount to be disbursed  
TRR growing, will need docks, have borrowed from the Head of the Charles Regatta, not sure this practice will continue.  
TRR will likely need to purchase docks in the future, capacity is limited. Expect Regatta to grow.  
Would like to add remote launches at the DCR launch site, upstream for 1 X to launch

Connect a Dock: Discount if purchased before March 1st.

**MRRA Clothing:**  
Denise Bergeron will coordinate this year  
Have a few items left from last year, hats, bumper stickers, shirts  
Members will have an opportunity to review and order items, make suggestions regarding clothing

**National Learn to Row Day**  
Saturday June 7th  
Intend to limit to Morning Hours only this year.  
Those attending last year agree the barge worked well.  
Need members to work on program and advertise the event.

Meeting Adjourned 8:15 PM