

MRRA Monthly Meeting – Sept 10, 2013 at 7 pm at the Boathouse

Attendees (17): Wilma Breiland, Karen Scammell, Mark Romanowsky, Jay Feenan, Barbara Sherman, Kathy McGowan, Stephanie Birchenough, Jody DeCarolus, Linas Alinskas, Terry Freeman, Roland Meijer, Joe LaFreniere, Dennis McCarthy, Liz Albert, Carl Popolo, Mary Gay Jagers and Brad Vear.

- Safety message – from Mark R. – As the fall is approaching, the weather is cooler and the water is getting cooler...and it is getting darker. Safety prep is important. Clothing should be visible. Wearing a safety vest or PFD will be important. Start thinking about purchasing one. The fanny pack may be hard to put on in the cold water. Check the safety committee recommendations on the website. Also, watch out for the debris, especially the large leaf masses where there might be a large log. It is hard to see submerged logs. Be aware of the weather conditions and what can bring debris and flows in the river. If you bring a cellphone in your boat, put them in waterproof bag.

Minutes from last month were accepted as submitted in the attachment.

Erg proposal from Dave Cormier:

- Sell ergs to UML for \$200 each (3 ergs). UML maintains fleet of 12-15 ergs
- MRRA gets full use of ergs when UML not using them; when UML is using them, we are guaranteed 3 ergs for our use.
- \$400 per year added to the boat rental agreement (in past was free)
- Winter erging: required CRC (Campus Rec Center) membership @ \$125/3 months and entitles you to use of exercise equipment, not just the ergs. Rec center will be opened by Dave Cormier at 5:30 am; UML using them 4-5 days/week; again, we would have access to 3 at all times if paid CRC membership; other times possible with 2 ergs. Could not offer night sessions because CRC space fully booked.
- UML provides place for ergs.
- Masters sweep has used ergs quite often during the summer during bad weather.
- Carl – recommend having UML maintain docks and launches as well.
- Vote on proposal: one Nay vote and one Abstention – proposal accepted.
- Email Dave Cormier if interested in winter membership or just get online and sign up.

Equipment Committee:

- We have the new Vespoli HW 4X/-, rigged as 4X right now. Sweep riggers on the way.
- Proposal to name this Vespoli HW 4X/- after Paul Wenger. Paul Wenger instrumental in starting sweep program.
- Motion to name Vespoli 4X/- boat after Paul Wenger was accepted. Karen will check with Lori Wenger on the complete name. October meeting will be the dedication of the boat with a guest book and refreshments and champagne - to be held on Tuesday, October 15.
- Equipment committee and board recommended the Wintech HW Racing 1x @\$6K. Funds for boat is in the budget. It will be ordered this week.

- Going to rig new 4X, Hudson, Swifts and maybe Peinerts for stroke coaches. Looking for volunteers to help with this activity – Contact Roland, boatcaptain.
- Joe brought up getting new stroke coaches without the impellers but it was pointed out that they are too expensive.
- Roland shared incident of crashing Fluid 1x into log, causing damage to the hull. Tim Wheatley rowed back in his single to get the launch and rescue Roland and equipment. Then, about 500m down the river, the launch ran out of gas. Roland and Tim rowed the launch back.
- Coaches and others must be sure to leave at least a half tank of gas in the launches at all times!! This is important when in rescue mode...that the tank is not on empty.
- Carl pointed out that the Carolina launch ran out of gas and masters sweep could not find a tank that was full. Jay pointed out that we spent \$170 on gas! It is something to be resolved.
- Fluid 1X has been picked up by Fluid and will be returned before HOCR. No estimate yet for repair cost.

Safety Report – will be doing fall project on ratings.

- Karen recommended that safety look at the “sister Rock” and have it marked.

TRR Update - Jay Feenan/Carl Popolo

- Barbara will shadow Peg Landry
- Dottie is shadowing Jay on land coordination
- Entries – now at 250 boats - opened registration earlier.
- Have we addressed the needs of singles rowers in boat dropoff? Asked by Karen since we should have more single rowers since no conflict with Green Mountain Head.
- Official USRowing regatta – have three officials – one at the start, one at the finish and one at the boathouse.
- Portable toilets – same as last year.
- Dumpsters ordered.
- Recycling – signed up and being worked. Give them stipend/donation to the Green Team.
- Yacht club – Joe will contact them and see if they have boats.
- Docks – not set yet – Meeting with HOCR and Gentile Giant to pick up the docks for the TRR and then down to the HOCR and use half of our docks for singles launch at the HOCR. They will bring them back when the rowing season is just about over...a win-win.
- Dock that is dipping needs to be looked at since not safe for 8's.
- Terry – publicity
- Vendor info – all spelled out on the website.
- Tent sites – try some preferred sites for rental, \$100/site.
- Motor launches – at Festival – environmental police threatened to issue summons for boats not legally registered. LHS boats are un-registered. The police have a list of all the un-registered boats and know that we are working on getting them registered as well as keeping them informed on the progress if any boats are not yet registered. Some of the boats may be unsafe and should be equipped with a paddle, anchor, baler, line, etc.

- Website for TRR – updated with hotel info – going live with Twitter this year instead of the radio.
- Email campaign – Carl will handle and send to previous years’ participants.
- Medals – Terry – being worked and look good.
- T-shirts – outside company – will order staff shirts (150)
- Vendor relations – five have signed up but no payments yet.
- Radios – 15-18 radios and worked well last year as well as with the Festival.
- Announcers – Mary Gail – special tent or in work bay for calling the races and announcing.
- A/V equipment – Steve Hoff willing to direct/set up but needs help, perhaps the open sweep folks or UML students.
- Launches – John Welch will be in charge; gather all the safety stocking. Should have 10 launches and will need them.
- Course – Linas - good setup for the start with buoys last year – Joe will work with Linas to bring him on board. Need to mark some effective landing zones for evacuation or for boats that have problems during the race. These areas need to be marked on the course map on the TRR website. (Marked by pink tape.) Do we need to purchase more buoys? – Joe will check.
- Regatta Timing – John Breiland will contact Jason and let Carl know if there is a meeting.
- Registration – Wilma – all set
- Results – John – all set – and will contact Regatta Timing
- Start – Karen – still need some volunteers and shared with Barbara
- Launches – Dennis agreed to chair
- Lunches – will be done by LHS
- LHS liaison – Denise Bergeron
- Docks – good place to volunteer and about 40% launching down at the beach.

Propose to adjourn

Submitted by Wilma Breiland