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### **27 February 2004**

Greetings MRRA members and Friends!

This is the first edition of the Occasional Monthly Newsletter of the MRRA - it needs a catchy name, so send your ideas to me -- best name, if selected, gets a free medium coffee at DD on opening day. As your Club Secretary, I hope to publish this at least once a month coinciding with the publication of the meeting minutes for that month. And with some luck, the newsletter and minutes will be published and archived on the web site.

Send your comments, critiques, ideas, facts, fiction, questions and future newsletter ideas to me at [SecretaryCarl@merrimackrowing.org](mailto:SecretaryCarl@merrimackrowing.org)

**NEXT CLUB MEETING -- TUESDAY 16 MARCH 2004, 7PM --- LOCATION TBD.**

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### **MINUTES OF THE FEBRUARY MEETING**

Date	10 February 2004, 7:00 pm
Place	Ginny & Joe Janeiro's Kitchen 3 Stony Brook Rd West Chelmsford, MA
Attendees	Jay Feenan, President Carl Popolo, Secretary Shirley Janeiro Ginny Janeiro Joe Janeiro Enough Janeiro kids to fill an eight and two launches

ACTION ITEMS BELOW ARE IN **BOLD** AND FOLLOWED WITH A RESPONSIBLE PARTY. If no responsible party is named, then

consider that as a plea for anyone to step forward.

**Item 1**  
Hors d'Oeuvres

The Secretary goes on record to note that the snack foods provided by Ginny for tonight's meeting completely exceeds the standard of what we expect at a normal MRRRA meeting, when we're lucky to get a few crumbs from someone's misplaced Dunkin' Cruller. The Peking Duck appetizers were exquisite, and let that be a lesson to you all about missing future meetings.

**Item 2**  
Boathouse  
Renovation

None attending had any update on the status of the boathouse renovations. SJaneiro noted that she saw a painter's sign outside the boathouse but also noted the clear absence of any paint or painting-related activities. **We are hoping that MarkR might have an update by the 16 March meeting.**

**Item 3**  
Memberships

Memberships. Holy stern wake! No answers, just many questions:

- Should we entertain the notion of limiting new memberships this season, in light of the fact that space and access at the boathouse may be limiting factors?
- Could the renovation work have an effect on the membership fee if we are somehow obliged to pony up in some new and exciting way?
- **WHERE IS THE BOATHOUSE AGREEMENT?** JFeenan agreed to track down this document which should clarify the expectations and responsibilities of the MRRRA, UML and LHS.
- **WHO IS THE CARETAKER OF THE BOATHOUSE?** Maybe the Agreement answers this question.
- JFeenan agreed to do some calling around, maybe talk with MarkR to find out the status of the renovations and our situation.
- Membership renewals and new applications should be submitted by April 30th.
- Other membership considerations: Non-rowing memberships, short-term guest memberships.

Following the spirited debate, the crowd regained its composure and agreed that the discussion of memberships should be continued at the next meeting.

**Item 4**  
Tax Status

**What is the tax status of the club?** Does this need to be discussed or reviewed at the next meeting? (JBallantine)

**Item 5**  
Open VP Seat

Discussion and motions for PaulaK to become Vice President were tabled until the next meeting so that she has ample opportunity to amass a campaign war chest.

**Item 6**  
Next Meeting

The next meeting is scheduled for **TUESDAY 16 March 2004**, but we don't know where. So mark your calendar, just don't mark it in ink. **PLEASE HAVE YOUR AGENDA ITEMS IN AN EMAIL TO ME NO LATER THAN 15 MARCH.**

**Item 7**  
Future Meetings  
& Events  
Schedule

A schedule for future meetings was not proposed, but JFeenan would like to move the monthly meeting to a Monday or Thursday to accommodate his travel schedules. TBD. Also, did we schedule dates for the Festival and TRR? Learn To Row dates? Club Secretary Appreciation Day? Other key club dates?

Exhausted, the assembled members agreed to adjourn the meeting at 8:55.

## FACTS, FICTIONS and RUMORS

**Item -**  
Waterfront  
Property

JFeenan reported in an email that four waterfront lots (across from Tyng Island?) were sold at auction:

*"I went to the auction which ended up being two people bidding. It really was not a good time to approach the guy that won, but I was planning on figuring this out when the real estate changed hands which will be around march 1st. I would be interested in joining/forming a group to see what the plans are for the buildings/land. They are 4 separate lots that were sold as one.*

*The upstream building could be used as a boat house in it's current form for 4's and smaller boats. With some major renovation it could easily be made into a nice boathouse. Some of the problems is that there is no public sewer/water and the current septic system[s] as probably pretty bad and would have to be replaced. I believe that the lots are still considered separate and would not have to go in front of a planning board to be separated."*

At my erg class in Concord, Coach Tom (Bohrer) mentioned that Middlesex School in Concord was an unsuccessful bidder at the auction, but the manager at the school was trying to work out some kind of lease arrangement with the new owners in an attempt to find a place to put some boats on the water. I am trying to put Jay in touch with the guy from Middlesex to make sure that if there are options or implications on MRRRA/UML/LHS that we are in a loop. Tom reported to me on 23 Feb that in fact the Middlesex group had some arrangement with the new property owners.

**Item -**  
CRASH-B Sprints

Rick "La Vida Loco" Martin (photo below), Jim "The Hammer" Stockbridge and Secretary Carl all participated in the CRASH-B Sprints last Sunday. Rich and Jim represented the MRRRA proudly; Carl got a T-Shirt. [www.crash-b.org](http://www.crash-b.org)

*Ride 'em  
Cowboy.  
Rick  
Martin  
abused an  
erg to the  
tune of  
6:34 at  
the  
CRASH-B  
Sprints  
last  
Sunday,  
good for  
31st  
place.*



## SECRETARY'S NOTES

- I have last year's files from Chur. They are in perfect working condition and I thank her for getting me started on the good foot.
- Sometime soon I will be sending an email to all who need a new swimming test. My info is that your swim test is good for 5 years, so some will be expiring soon and I will notify you.
- I will be composing One Complete Official E-Mail List for use by all elected officials to eliminate some confusion with e-mail communications. This is not a control play -- the intent here is simply to make sure that one accurate list is always available for all Club communications so we don't have to wonder if everyone got an important message. From there, we'll play it by ear - if a member wishes to use the list to send out a communication, the current list will be provided or the member can ask the Secretary to originate the communication. Further, in order to curb the runaway "reply-all" emails that can get out of hand, we will look into the possibility of putting up bulletin-board software on the web site.
- AnitaC is anxious to turnover the keys to the web site to myself and AnneB.
- My current Members list from Chur probably has e-mail addresses as of last year at this time. If you know of a member who has changed e-mail addresses since then, kindly forward it to me on a reply to this email.
- The aforementioned Tom Bohrer is a two-time Olympic Silver medallist and runs fitness programs in Concord in addition to his role as head coach at the Union Boat Club. I am going to see if we have some funds available to have Tom come up to the boathouse for either a clinic or just to tell stories sometime during the summer.

**tea-bagging:** pejorative slang. Just dipping the blade in the water during the drive, applying little or no effort to move the boat forward. This is basically going through the motions of rowing without doing any work. The cox and others can tell if you're tea-bagging because there won't be a puddle left on the water after your blade leaves it. Rowers who pull hard will leave a large puddle behind their finish; tea-baggers are basically dead weight and better replaced with rowers who make an effort. -- from [Harvard's Dudley House Rowing](#)

-- Secretary Carl

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