

Members Home
Organization
Officers & Duties

Members

>> **Meetings**

Read the **Secretary's Notes** at the bottom of this page for important username and password info to access the Members Only section of the web site. You only need this if you want to look at previous meeting minutes, since that's all that's in the MO section right now.

MEMBERS >> Meetings >> May 2004 Newsletter

MRRA May 2004 Newsletter

IN THIS ISSUE

- May Meeting Minutes
 1. Boathouse Agreement / Access
 2. NEW BOATHOUSE PROCEDURES -- REQUIRED READING
 3. Learn To Row Classes
 4. Festival Regatta
 5. Membership Update
 6. Policies Committee
 7. Scholarships
- Boat Captain Bob's Low Water Alert
- Secretary's Notes

MINUTES OF THE MAY MEETING

Date	11 May 2004, 7:00 pm
Place	Bellegarde Boathouse Lowell, MA
Attendees	BobB, PaulaK, Wilma, BobL, ShirleyJ, JoelM, ElizabethR, PaulM, BernadetteJ, RayS, LizA, BobSeng, MikeS, JohnW, JonR, MarkR, JayF, CarlP, Joel, GinnyL & Coxed Four
Item 1 Boathouse / Agreement / Access	Jay: We finally have a "Special Use Permit" from the State to access and use the boathouse. This temporary arrangement will be soon negotiated into a more permanent one-year agreement, and that agreement will be the foundation for a long term arrangement.

Highlights of the agreement:

- UML to manage the property, including maintenance

- Executive Director to schedule maintenance and be the point person for boathouse operations
- There will be a program fee for each use group, composed of a "usage" component based on how much use is required and a "storage" component based roughly on the square footage required to conduct business.

There are two main pieces of the above that affect all of us as members on a day-to-day basis:

- Access control. The club has received 6 sets of keys, and Jay has taken a survey of the membership rowing schedules to insure that someone is at the boathouse to open it each morning. The schedule of "key holders" and their arrival times will be finalized and posted on the web site soon. The new deadbolt/key arrangement is the result of the State's desire to clamp down on access to the boathouse by unauthorized users, or access by authorized users after acceptable hours. **In the meantime, it's relatively safe to assume that the boathouse is open for your rowing convenience every morning by 5:30 M-F and by 6:30 on Sat/Sun.**
- Cleaning. MRRA will be responsible for the overall appearance of the boathouse, including but not limited to cleaning the bathrooms for some period of the rowing season, on some schedule shared with the other user groups. Jay has suggested we might be responsible for July and August when we are the predominant user, but this may change in light of the recently announced sweep camp that will be rowing during the summer.

Don't rush up to the boathouse with your Swiffer just yet; the three user groups may subcontract the cleaning, or other solutions may develop. At the very least, our exact period of responsibility is not known yet. But please do feel free to pick up after yourself while at the boathouse, your fellow rowers and your landlord, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, appreciate it.

There is a strict process for locking up the boathouse if you are the last person using it during a given period of allowed access. And to make this process work, there is a strict process for what you should do before you go out on the water.

SEE ITEM 2 BELOW FOR BOATHOUSE PROCEDURES!

Item 2 BOATHOUSE PROCEDURES

NEW BOATHOUSE PROCEDURES:

1. When you go out for a row:
 - a. Check the bulletin board for notices and/or changes in procedure since last row.
 - b. make sure the orange flag is hung on the MRRA garage door latch.
 - c. Be precise with making a log book entry and out/expected/in times

d. Be precise in listing the boat that you are using.

e. Leave slings outside to use upon your return.

2. When you return from a row:

a. Make sure you check back in and fill in your return time.

b. If you are the last person perform 'lock up'.

** All rowers must be checked in. If for some reason you suspect someone did not check back in, look at the boat that they rowed, if that boat is sitting on the rack, and there are no other notes highlighted in the log book [e.g. "GONE FOR A RUN DON'T LOCK"] - assume they are in.***

3. Lockup

a. check all doors and windows of the boathouse to see if they have been opened - close and lock.

b. ensure all lights are shut off

c. If a key holder is NOT scheduled to row - deadbolt the front door [turn the knob].

* in this case there is a gap between two groups and a key holder will be there to lock up!

d. close the lobby-to-bay door.

**If you are a key holder and at the end of a scheduled row, lock this door.

e. close and lock the University bay door.

At this point, several club members attempted to fling themselves from the boathouse balcony onto the rocks below, but Jay assured everyone that this "key holder" method has worked fine in the past and can work very nicely for this year.

Item 3 Learn To Row

Learn To Row dates have been set. June session is Tue/Thu beginning June 1 for four weeks. The July session is Mon/Wed beginning July 12. As in the past, classes run from 6pm to 7:15pm. Through the generous provisions of the agreement with

**Item 4
FESTIVAL
REGATTA**

the State, the students will be allowed to use the bathrooms during and after class, as long as they raise their hand first.

A signup sheet went around for volunteers to coach and help. The Secretary is currently working with the 16 people who want to take the classes to try and get everyone into their preferred session.

All of the people who volunteered to coach and help can be reached via the email mailing list coaches@merrimackrowing.org and there's more info on our web site [here](#).

Mike Sivigny is The Man. July 10th is The Date. Amanda Watlington is going to be the Chief Referee.

Remember folks, this is one of the two events where membership participation is REQUIRED in some way. To that end, many of the members in attendance volunteered in a hurry for the plum positions, leaving the dregs to the rest of us. So here below is Mike's assessment of what he needs, and you should feel free to volunteer for any OPEN position that you see below. Send an email to festival@merrimackrowing.org to fulfill your obligation.. MOST CATEGORIES REQUIRE MORE THAN TWO PEOPLE -- SIGN UP FOR ANY CATEGORY EVEN IF IT DOESN'T SHOW AN OPEN POSITION.

1.) Regatta Director:

Chair: Mike Sivigny
Help: Jim Stockbridge

2.) Start Line:

Chair: Ray Spiecker
Help: Ginny LaFrennier
Help: Mark Romanowski (launch driver)

3.) Course:

Chair: Molly Botelho
Help: Steve Stelmash
Help: Joel Marchand

4.) Finish Line:

Chair: **OPEN**
Help: Liz Albert

5.) Public Relations:

Chair: Bernadette Johnson
Help: **OPEN**

6.) Dock Master:

Chair: Bob Sengstaken
Help: Carl Popolo

7.) Concessions:

Chair: **OPEN**
Help: **OPEN**

8.) Medals:

Chair: Shirley Janiero
Help: Paula Kosewski

9.) Boathouse/Docks/Cleanup:

Chair: **OPEN**
Help: **OPEN**

10.) Registration:

Chair: Wilma Breiland
Help: **OPEN**

11.) Communications:

- Chair: **OPEN**
Help: **OPEN**
- 12.) Launches:**
Chair: John Welch
Help: Mark Romanowski (launch driver)
Help: Joe LaFrennier (launch driver)
- 13.) Entries/Scheduling:**
Chair: Jay Feenan
Help: Mike Sivigny
- 14.) Results:**
Chair: **OPEN**
Help: **OPEN**
- 15.) Permits/Insurance:**
Chair: **OPEN**
Help: **OPEN**

**Item 5
Membership
Update**

The latest tally is that we have 41 members this year. Welcome to new members John Anctil, Amy Arnold, Stephen O'Brien and Killian McAnaney. There are still a few regulars who haven't shown the love yet, but I expect them to be forthcoming shortly or else we sell their boats in a perverse form of fundraising.

We are still short a few swim certificates. If you saw your name on a list or received an email regarding the renewal of your certificate, please take care of that IMMEDIATELY. No certificate = no insurance = no water.

**Item 6
Policies
Committee**

The policy committee is in the process of distilling the crucial points of what we need in terms of club Policies, Procedures and maybe even a handbook.

**Item 7
Scholarships**

ShirleyJ reports that 8 applicants responded to the MRRR scholarships. If someone wants a free dinner, talk to Shirley about representing the MRRR at the presentation.

Just then, several large mosquitoes flew off with Paul Martin and a brand new pair of Concept2 oars, so it was decided that maybe the meeting should come to a close lest we lose any more equipment. Moved, seconded, and unanimous.

Submitted by Carl Popolo, MRRR Secretary

Bob's Low Water Alert

From Boat Captain Bob Sengstaken:

I've put a notice on the bulletin board closing the river above the big rock at Tyng I. to club boats due to the low water exposing rocks & eddies. This does not apply to private boats.

This restriction is for safety reasons and to protect club boats from possible damage with submerged rocks. Once the river is back up, this restriction will be lifted. It looks like they will be repairing the dam.

[Editor's Note: PaulaK reports on May 16th that water levels have returned to normal. Just the same, use caution.]

SECRETARY'S NOTES

- The State may THINK they own the docks, but the rest of us know that the docks truly belong to the ducks. PaulaK, fresh from an encounter with the prolific laxations of our feathered friends, is fed up with duck stuff all over her nattily pressed rowing attire. She has volunteered to donate a broom and has agreed to fill the unofficial role of Dock Mom / Duck Slayer. So if duck droppings are getting between you and your boat, drop Paula an email and she'll run right down to sweep a path for you. [NOTE: Duck hunting with an oar is illegal in Massachusetts without a permit.]
- Meeting notices and minutes will continue to be distributed by email but are now also available on the website. The index is on a hidden page not available to the general public. Bookmark www.merrimackrowing.org/members -- This is a PROTECTED FOLDER, you will need to sign in with a username and password: username = **mrta** and password = **renovate** -- both username and password are entered lowercase. PLEASE NOTE that the password will probably change in June after the 2004 memberships have been processed. Members in 2004 will receive an email with the new password.
- JohnR is trying to get Amanda Watlington to do a referee's clinic at the boathouse some night soon. Stay tuned for details.
- The LINKS page on the web site is growing. Add your favorite rowing links to the site by sending them to webmaster@merrimackrowing.org.
- I will be putting the full list of members up on the web site in the protected members area. I will include your name, address, home phone, work phone, mobile phone, email address and emergency contact info. If you would rather certain information didn't appear, please let me know. Your information will only be visible to other members, and the information we show is intended solely so that you can be reached for reasons related to rowing or for hassling key holders when they decide to sleep in on any given morning.

Send your comments, critiques, ideas, facts, fiction, questions and future newsletter ideas to me at SecretaryCarl@merrimackrowing.org.

-- Secretary Carl

>> [Back to Meetings index](#)

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