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**MRRA JULY 2004 Newsletter**

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**MINUTES OF THE JULY MEETING**

Date	13 July 2004, 7:00 pm
Place	Bellegarde Boathouse Lowell, MA
Attendees	JayF, JennL, GinnyL, AnnB, JohnB, WilmaB, ChurT, JohnW, BobB, ShirleyJ, MikeS.

Apparently, the overwhelming desire to see Clemens get shelled in the first inning of the MLB All-Star game resulted in a light turnout at the meeting.

**Item 1  
Festival  
Regatta  
Wrapup**

President Jay called the meeting to order remotely by way of a message to the Secretary's voice mail.

MikeS reported on the financials of the Festival, and the general good feedback received by the club for the way the regatta was run. We collected more money, and we spent more money. As is policy, the Secretary will not report exact financials here in the minutes since he is not keen with technical terms such as "gross", "net" and "oar". Instead, wait for the financial report from JohnB in his next update to the club.

Mike extended a very heartfelt thank you to all of the MRRA club members who made the Festival such a success. More harsh language was reserved for the members who did not show and did not make attempts to help in advance of the regatta. Fortunately for the no-shows, we are forming a new Porcelain and Broom Committee where those members who have not contributed to this point will have ample opportunity to do their fair share. See Item 3 below.

**[Read the wrap-up letter](#)** from Mike and several participant comments.

**Item 2**  
**Card Access**

Jay: Card Access for the boathouse is on the table. The State would love it, MRRA would love it, and we might be able to arm the front door for about \$1500 and a few hours of voluntary labor from the membership. Conservatives and minimalists alike will enjoy the simple system which would work as follows:

- Cards distributed to MRRA members, programmed only to restrict hours per State requirements.
- Card would operate the deadbolt *latch* on the front door. Other groups with rights to the boathouse would continue to use the keys to operate the deadbolt.
- Deadbolt on the lobby/bay door is to be removed -- and until it is removed, it should remain unlocked if you are the last one leaving the house.

Jay to pioneer this with occasional pressure applied by spouses of key holders who are getting wake-up calls at 5:30 in the morning. If your name isn't Ed McMahon, calling my house at 5:30am could result in a record fine, bodily harm, or both.

**Item 3**  
**Cleaning**  
**Committee**

AS WRITTEN IN THE DAILY NEWS UPDATE:

**OPPORTUNITY FOR EXCELLENCE:** For those members who were unavailable to work at the Festival Regatta this past weekend, a new Opportunity For Excellence has arisen --it involves championing the Boathouse Cleaning Committee. As you know, the MRRA is the responsible party for boathouse upkeep this summer, and we need someone to contact a prospective cleaning lady and organize a regular rotation of helpers. If you couldn't contribute to the Festival Regatta effort, this is one of the few final ways you will have to relieve your guilt and express your support for the MRRA. The next final way to relieve your guilt will involve putting the sponge to the porcelain, so act now. All of the regular club members in attendance (and also at the Friday Festival prep work session) are quickly reaching a consensus that failure to help with the regattas and other aspects of the membership will soon constitute grounds for dismissal from the club. Once dismissed, you will be able to appeal the dismissal by calling 1-800-TOO-LATE where you can talk to The Hand.

Here are some popular excuses and how they will be handled:

**EXCUSE:** I didn't know the Festival Regatta was coming up.

**RESPONSE:** Talk to The Hand

**EXCUSE:** I rowed everyday for two months in advance of the Regatta to test the course for the competitors, doesn't this count for anything?

**RESPONSE:** Talk to The Hand.

**EXCUSE:** I don't have Internet or Email, so I didn't see any of the email requests to help out.

**RESPONSE:** Talk to The Hand, then move to a new cave that has phone

service.

**EXCUSE:** I tried to volunteer to help, but all the committees were already full.

**RESPONSE:** Talk to The Hand, then go say 5 Hail Marys to cleanse your lying soul.

**EXCUSE:** I paid \$50 for a student membership, shouldn't I be exempt from the rule that requires actual physical labor?

**RESPONSE:** Dude, Talk to the Hand. Then, next year, find some other club on the Merrimack that will let you row all summer for \$50. And just for asking such a stupid question, you need to volunteer for TWO jobs now.

**EXCUSE:** I screwed up. Can I be redeemed?

**RESPONSE:** Yes, volunteer to head the Cleaning Committee before we cancel your membership and sell your boat. I'm already using the shampoo you left in the men's locker room, so act quickly, your boat might be next.

### Miscellaneous

- Jay advises that there will be an Accessibility Program rowing out of the boathouse soon, once the NYPS program is finished. Details to follow.
- KEEP RIGHT. Ginny The Smile has unofficially taken on the new role of *Capo di Sicurezza dell'Acqua*. That's **Water Safety Officer** to me and you, and she would like to remind all of us to review once again the proper rules of the river, especially the one about minding your position on the river and the new rule about staying clear of her boat. If you've never seen the USRA safety video, make a point of doing so -- it's a very educational piece, and watching teenagers being crabbed out of an eight is alone worth the price of admission. The tape is in the weight room -- please do not remove it, watch it on the VCR that's there.

Submitted by C. A. Popolo, MRRRA Secretary

### SECRETARY'S NOTES

- We're not kidding about the Cleaning Committee and your membership privileges and responsibilities.
- (repeat) 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](http://www.merrimackrowing.org/members) -- This is a PROTECTED FOLDER, you will need to sign in with a username and password: username = **mrra** 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.

- (repeat) The LINKS page on the web site is growing. Add your favorite rowing links to the site by sending them to [webmaster@merrimackrowing.org](mailto:webmaster@merrimackrowing.org).

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

-- Secretary Carl

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