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Organization

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Hello Club Members!

THANK YOU!

Please accept my sincerest thanks for the help each one of you provided leading up to and on day of the 2004 Festival Regatta. Without each one of you, it without question would not have been possible. Hats off to the committee chairs who volunteered not knowing what they were getting into and making things happen. This regatta was absolutely the largest regatta we've had, (at least in the last 4 years), so we can all be proud of the early leg work we did to publicize throughout the rowing community. Special thanks to Carl and Paula for managing the email and snail mail lists, and double thanks to Carl for all of his web updating efforts prior to race day. We all did a great job as a fairly organized MRRA team and hosted a "VERY popular summer regatta" - Mal Watlington, US Rowing Referee.

NEW ITEMS FOR THIS YEAR:

We overcame a few out of the ordinary situations this year. I've already taken steps to prevent the same conflict with the Khmer group by already reserving Saturday July 9th, 2005 with the Parks commission as next years regatta day. Although a little late, we made progress with planning initiatives by posting MOST of the documents necessary for the committee chairs on the club members section of our site. These will remain and continue to be working documents for the future.

REGATTA REVIEW:

The following are most comments from the referee officials in a post race day meeting:

- 1.) lack of communication on scratches, need better "command control" at the dock with communication to the start line
- 2.) commented to have 2 dock masters who are not racing, so to have a seamless transition from AM to PM and keep dock organized and efficient
- 3.) need to cutoff registration before race time, people were registering all day, need set cutoff time at 11:00 am as recommended
- 4.) because of wide range of rowers capability, starts were not smooth, recommend lengthier center time between races
- 5.) consider adding a M/W Junior 2X race since many younger rowers are learning sculling be rowing in 2x's
- 6.) need to cap schedule or block off certain races as first come first serve and that's it, would help reduce heats which lengthen schedule
- 7.) need to shorten race day and end before 5, suggestion #6 will help here
- 8.) radios will likely need a jumpstart for next year, seemed to have multiple comms issues throughout day
- 9.) needed more launch drivers in the morning to get referees on the water quicker, some complained
- 10.) refs though launches could have been better fueled with extra tanks
- 11.) refs may consider putting another ref on the dock to assist and keep the dock "in check"
- 12.) great efforts were made with starting marshals with checking boats and priming races with full fleets
- 13.) for launch drivers, we should have a pre-regatta driver training class to make sure that everyone driving a launch understands the ins and outs of operation
- 14.) need to consider new lane markers for both sides of bridge abutments for better lane identification
- 15.) need more buoys to mark lanes for whole course but especially leading into bridge arches
- 16.) generally a very good day considering the last minute scheduling changes, referees thanked the MRRA volunteers for all their great help!

REQUESTS:

All committee chairs please make notes of your experiences and send them to me so we can enhance the support documents for next year. This will be greatly appreciated since this will help you also.

NO SHOWS FOR HELP WHEN NEEDED:

Maybe some have legitimate excuses why you were not there to help on race day, but the least would have

been to communicate with me regarding your situation. The MRRA membership application clearly states that each member must participate/assist with each regatta. Carl already gave you the number to call if you have complaints regarding this obligation. So, since I was there all day and recognize most members, I took attendance of who showed and fulfilled their responsibility. This includes those who notified me that they would not be able to attend. Please find your name below and if I am mistaken, I am sorry, but you will be required to assist at the Textile in early October. If you should not be on this list, please email me (msivigny@eagle-eyed-one.com) and let me know how you helped on race day. Just trying to keep it fair for everyone in the club. Thanks for your cooperation.

In alphabetical order from member list:

John Anctil
Scott Doyle
Sean Dubois
Anne Farina
Liz Gabel
Bob Gabel
Ashley Griffeth
Roland Hoch
Andrew Larocque
Paul Martin
Rick Martin
Killian McAnaney
Matthew Pilotte
Robert Pitkin
Evelyn Raymond
Karen Scammell
Dirk Schmiederer
Steve Stelmash
Aaron Wall

Take care and look forward to another great regatta next year.

Thanks!
Mike Sivigny

PARTICIPANT COMMENTS

Unsolicited comments from some of the competitors.

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Thanks again Mike,
We had a great time up in Lowell. Thanks for putting the name of the regatta and date on the back of the Festival medals. That was a nice touch.

See you at the next one.

Catherine McConnell
Sagamore Rowing Association

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Mike,

Had hoped to track you down race day to say thanks for everything but forgot—thought the regatta was great—thank your officials for me for not waking any of my crews—I knew we'd be slow since we're mostly 6-week novices or returning intermediates but I wanted kids to experience a race in hope they'll continue through fall. Hope my trailer was parked okay; I know it was out in the middle and took up too much space but there were cars in other spots and I had no alternative.

Take care, Brian from Riverfront

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Mike - thanks for a great race as usual - our teams had a great time and we actually were able to leave earlier than we ever have before!

Thanks again,

Tracy Mauer
Hudson River Rowing Association

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MRRA - Thanks for a great day of rowing, you pulled off a great regatta, parking be damned!

Cheers,

Eric Larson

Niantic River Sculling Warthogs

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"This regatta is great - every year we come it's a great race!"

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"This regatta is really well organized"

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"This regatta is fun!"

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"This regatta has a great boathouse - too bad it's not kept up"

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"Every year we have come, this regatta has run AHEAD of schedule - how great is that?!?"

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"This is the best regatta north of Boston"

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Kudos to Michael Sivigny on a job over-the-top well done. He has proven himself a superior regatta director - willing to stay awake for the ENTIRE week before the regatta to get things done; delegate to responsible people; be diplomatic and consciensious (sp?) of the athletes/coaches/judges needs and demands; and on top of it all, BE NICE TO EVERYONE ON THE DAY OF THE REGATTA.

He should get PAID for what he does :)

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