

Members Home

Organization

Officers & Duties

Members>> **Meetings****Bulletin Board****MEMBERS >> Meetings >> November 2004 Newsletter****MRRA NOVEMBER 2004 Newsletter****IN THIS ISSUE**

- Party Notice
- Lost and Found
- Erg Urge?
- NOVEMBER Meeting Minutes

Fight for your right to Party: Tuesday December 14th - 7:00pm.

December Party Specifics: **TUESDAY Dec 14th, 7PM** --- Food will be out at 7:00, so don't delay or you'll be wrestling with Jay for that last chicken kabob... Menu is hearty appetizers (chicken and beef skewers, crab cakes, and a cheese and fruit tray). The location is in the Tap Room at the Brewhouse Cafe (directions on line at www.thebreweryexchange.com then click on Brewhouse Cafe & Grill for MapQuest directions.) Tentative Agenda: Elections, kudos to volunteers extraordinaire, next steps for the club, food, drinks, and mandatory fun.

LOST AND FOUND (mostly lost)

Secretary Carl left a CD of photos in the desk drawer, and when the owner (Ginny) went to retrieve it, it wasn't there! Did you accidentally pick up this CD? Please return it to the drawer -- these are the only evidence of HOCA participation for many club members, we need to get that CD back for posterity. Please [contact me](#) if you have any information about it's whereabouts.

Erg Party, Tuesdays at 5:45pm

That's right, MRRA is just one party after another. Join Rick Martin and *his* kind of party people every Tuesday for some healthy and entertaining indoor rowing. Warmups start at 5:45 **PM**. Rick is now the proud owner of a Front Door key and will open by 5:30. Plan for next Tues is Timed 6K.

MINUTES OF THE November MEETING

Date	09 November 2004, 7:00 pm
Place	Bellegarde Boathouse Lowell, MA
Attendees	JayF, AnnB, WilmaB, ShirleyJ, MikeS, BobS, MollyB, RayS, PaulaK, CarlP, MarkR, LizA, GinnyL, GinaM, PegL, EdP, RickM
Item 1 Financial & Miscellany	<p>TRR. Carl opened the meeting with a brief recap of the TRR meeting from the previous night. TRR made a modest profit, and we will be donating \$500 each to Lowell House of Hope and Cystic Fibrosis. Hauling docks down from Maine was not as much fun as originally proposed, and BobS has talked with ARC about jointly purchasing a set of floating docks that we would share.</p> <p>Agreement. Word in the hood is that UML has a signed agreement with the State. Jay thinks this should not affect the terms of our agreement, and he will be looking for a long-term contract in the off-season, just like Pedro. We do NOT want to be waiting each April to find out what the deal is for the coming year, so something in the 3-year range would be appealing.</p> <p>Docks: The docks will be coming out during the week of 15-Nov.</p> <p>Keys: The KEYS ARE TO BE TURNED IN TO AN OFFICER BY THIS WEEK -- NO FARTING AROUND ON THIS. We will pay cold cash to the State for every key not accounted for, so be advised -- if you're holding a boathouse key, roll it up to the nearest MRRA officer pronto. MRRA will have some number of keys during the winter months to support boathouse activities like the erg party.</p> <p>Card Access: Jay agreed to spearhead the installation of a card access control on the front door as our winter project. CarlP to assist.</p> <p>Corporate Shakedown: Joel is going to find us a corporate sponsor for the Festival and TRR. He thought it would be a good idea, and we agreed to make it his sole mission in life since he wasn't there to argue with us.</p>
Item 2 Membership Fees	<p>Always a crowd pleaser, the topic turned to membership fees. PaulaK surveyed several clubs in the area and found their memberships to be much higher, but then Secretary Carl pointed out that those clubs have hot running water, and the cost of hot running water has skyrocketed lately. In our case, the State spent \$50k to have icicles shoot out of the hot water taps, so we actually get a rebate to the club because we use no hot water, and this helps keep our membership fees down.</p> <p>LizA recommended that lacking any info about next year's agreement with the State, we should keep membership fees the same. This means \$175 for next year, \$225 for those who apply and didn't pay the '04 assessment. And this is all subject to approval by the officers at the February 2005 meeting when we will know the exact amount of the State assessment.</p>
Item 3 Boats	<p>MOTION: BobS motioned that we postpone the boat wash until the spring due to the cold weather. Seconded by GinnyL, passed unanimous.</p> <p>The new FD lightweight will be replaced with the midweight by Gord in the spring. This was supposed to happen before the TRR, but it doesn't seem like Gord Henry is in a big hurry.</p> <p>The shoes in the White FISA are new. BYO bunyon pads.</p>

AnnB suggested we think about overhauling the V1 and V2 doubles. MarkR said this was last done about 4 years ago. BobS is going to see if Charlie has availability, and also to do what it will take to make these boats stroke-coach-ready. (We all have to promise not to touch the impeller).

Boat and Rack Policy will be presented to the club officers at the January or February meeting for approval

BobS took a few minutes to go through the logbook statistics compiled by Paulak. (Full results can be found by looking at the Members [home page](#) in the 08-NOV section).

BobS moved to adjourn the meeting, seconded and passed unanimously.

Submitted by C. A. Popolo, MRRA Secretary

SECRETARY'S NOTES

- Meeting notices and LINKS to meeting minutes will continue to be distributed by email, but the minutes themselves are only on the web site. The index to meeting minutes 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 = **mr**ra 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.
- The MRRA [BULLETIN BOARD](#) -- It's fun and easy to use -- don't be left out.

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

-- Secretary Carl

>> [Back to Meetings index](#)

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