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MRRA December 2004 Newsletter

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MINUTES OF THE DECEMBER MEETING & PARTY

Date	14 December 2004, 7:00 pm
Place	The Brewery Lowell, MA
Attendees	JayF, JohnB, CarlP, ShirleyJ, MikeS, MollyB, RayS, PaulaK, MarkR, LizA, GinnyL, JoeL, PegL, EdP, RickM, MarciaB, BobB, AnitaC, DavidG, BernadetteJ, BobL, JimStock, ChurT, JohnW.
Item 1 Open Bar	There was a two-drink minimum before any club business could be discussed. By 7:30, everyone had fulfilled the minimum requirement and the meeting commenced. JayF presided since CarlP was too busy scarfing down crabcakes to notice that the meeting had started.
Item 2 Agreement Review	<p>Jay spoke about the current state of affairs with the landlord. We are seeking a longer-term agreement, on the order of 3 to 5 years in an effort to freeze our annual assessment so that we can plan for it over the next few years. We have every reason to expect it will remain at \$4k/year.</p> <p>No mention of the boathouse being in lockdown for the winter. Although JoeL suggested that if we are on record as using the boathouse during the winter (e.g., erg parties), the State may want us to pay for the heat. Now since the State believes that it's normal for hot water to contain chunks of ice, we are reluctant to pay for "heat" if it means I still need to wear a parka while erging. The crowd agreed that we could erg a little harder and save some money on "heat".</p> <p>Card Access is coming before spring rowing.</p>
Item 3 National USRA Mtg	Fresh from the USRA meetings down in Florida, Jay reported on some progress toward reasonable regatta insurance coverage so that USRA members are covered and non-members could pay some nominal fee to obtain coverage for the day.

Jay assured us that all club officers and regatta chair people are indemnified against legal action should something bad happen at a regatta.

Other tidbits from the USRA convention:

- We have a direct connection to the guy from India that makes all the shoes for all makes and models of shells. Of particular interest are the neoprene shoes that are individually sized and fit into the larger shoe of the boat, thus avoiding the intimacy of sharing shoes with fellow club members. Chinese boats. Indian shoes. What's next? How about meeting minutes in French?
- Wheel-able racks. Needs study, but might hold promise for our rack space restrictions at a cost that is not too exorbitant. We assigned the task of looking deeper to PaulM and BobS since neither of them were there to put up a fuss.

Item 4 Financials

JohnB highlighted the financials for the year. The upshot is that despite a very successful Festival Regatta (kudos MikeS) and an up-tick on revenues from the TRR (kudos JimP), as usual we will end up scraping by due to the higher costs associated with the boathouse and a desperately needed new boat (FD single).

Item 5 Elections

Once the crowd was good and toasted, the incumbents felt safe in holding the annual Election of Officers. All positions were filled unanimously by a show of hands:

- President - JayF
- Vice President - MollyB
- Treasurer - JohnB
- Secretary - CarlP
- Boat Caps - PaulM and BobS
- Director - LizA

The unanimous election of the incumbents was seen by pundits as a clear mandate for a card access system, and being saavy politicians, Jay and Molly promised that this would get done.

Item 6 Kudos

Fresh from her election as club VP, MollyB made several presentations to the 2004 officers. A special recognition and handsome plaques went to RyanM and SteveG for their long contributions to the success of the TRR.

The meeting was adjourned, and drinking resumed as the raffle was conducted. 24 raffle prizes were given away -- nearly one prize for everyone in attendance (sorry Ginny).

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 = **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.

- (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

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