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MRRA Meeting Minutes

11-APR-06

MINUTES

Date	11 Apr, 2006, 7:00 pm
Place	Club Lafayette Lowell, MA
	Thanks again to BobB for letting us overstay our welcome for another meeting.
Attendees	RayS, MarkR, SMcKenna, MMcKenna, TimD, Chur, CarlP, PK, LizA, EdP, PaulM, JonR, JohnW, BobB, KentS, JimG, WilmaB, JoelL, BobS, MikeS, Bernadette, Molly, Ash, AaronW, JohnB, Ginny, Jay (27)
1. Coldwater Safety	RayS made a most excellent presentation on the many ways to die or do other permanent damage to yourself in cold water conditions. Ray to follow up with a copy of his document to Carl for posting on the web site.
2. DCR Update	Joe brought everyone up to date on the ongoing saga with DCR and the boathouse. He highlighted the events of the following meetings where MRRA made their presence known: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Pawtucketville residents meeting featuring Ray Faucher and LHS parents• Meeting with DCR, MRRA, UML, LHS and others at the Heritage Ice Cream stand• Apr 7 Boathouse tour by DCR and user groups, City of Lowell• Apr 10 Boathouse follow-up tour with Lowell and UML contractors

We have approval to use the boat bays at this point, with hopes that certain repairs can be made to the boathouse proper for access by May. Downstairs bathrooms and showers may be available then, but the upstairs locker rooms look like a larger problem. Once the all-clear has been given for rowing, assume that you will not be able to shower at the boathouse unless you hear otherwise.

At the Heritage meeting, the DCR passed out user

agreements for the user groups, but we were advised by Pangiotakas' office not to sign them until the full boathouse is available to us and we have approval to run regattas.

3. Financial

JohnB highlighted our financial state, including a projected budget based on an assumption of hiked membership fees. We can squeak by making our payments to the State as we have in the past, but would need to be creative if that assessment should increase.

MEMBERSHIP FEE. A spirited debate on membership fees degenerated into a **MOTION** by TimD to raise the membership fee (family and single) to \$200 from \$175, seconded by PaulM. Passed 24-3.

STUDENT FEE. There followed a brief discussion on Student Rate memberships, currently at \$50 with restrictions on when students may row and the equipment they can row with. A motion was not made to raise the rates. Rather than impose such cruel financial hardship on the indigent student population already strapped by the high cost of iPods, gas money and the on-campus parking permit, JoeL promised that he would personally see to it that each and every student contributes with some form of indentured servitude toward the good of the Club.

The Sergeant-At-Arms was then called to restore order because the chuckling from the crowd started to border on insubordination.

LTR. TimD made a **MOTION** to raise LTR rates from \$80 to \$100, with a conversion to full membership for an additional \$100 (regardless of LTR session). Something about LTR being the best bargain in town short of a Student Membership at the MRRRA. Seconded by MikeS, passed unanimous.

4. Safety Committee

Safety Witch Ginny made a brief presentation highlighting the new Safety Document. This document will be required reading for all membership applications, and it will be posted soon on the web site for your reading pleasure. In short, Break the rules, Lose your membership.

Also required is annual viewing of the USRA Safety Video.

Captain Bob made a **MOTION** to accept the Safety Document as a working document. Second by MikeS, approved 26-1. Secretary Carl to get the document into PDF and put up on the web site shortly.

[Ed. note - At the time of the meeting, we thought that rowing might be imminent. Captain Bob activated the "two boat" rule to take effect as soon as water temps were sufficient for the "okay to row" call. Shortly thereafter, we became aware of a new rule

5. Equipment

The Safety discussion led to the Equipment discussion, and it was made clear by BobS that a fully equipped launch with rescue equipment should be accessible at all times while rowers are on the river. Bob recommended that we buy a **Kippy Liddle Safety Kit** (or one for each launch) from USRA.

There has been ongoing discussion of motors and launches, this has been redirected to a forum on the MRRRA Bulletin Board.

6. Regatta Reports

FESTIVAL. MikeS reported that everything was under control with regard to the Festival. Co-chair JimG ran down the list of last year's committee chairs to determine if the same people would be returning. Apparently, last year's Festival is a faint memory because most people agreed to return for more abuse. JoeL asked MikeS to come up with a meeting calendar specifically for Festival discussion.

[Mike and Jim to tell CarlP how to organize email addresses, currently festival@ is a mail forward to just Mike]

TRR. CarlP reported that JimP called to reiterate that he will take care of permits, etc, but is otherwise relinquishing the highly coveted role of TRR Chair to Carl and Jay. Carl is to come up with a TRR calendar of meetings to commence the week after the Festival.

7. You've Got Work

Joe put out a plea for people to get a grip and take charge. The times are changing, and while we all long for the days when we could worry about whether or not we would have card access, the list of things on the MRRR plate is more than substantial.

In the spirit hiring, the following jobs were filled:

- BobB, Equipment Manager reporting to Boat Captain
- JimG, Regatta Co-Chair for the Festival Regatta
- TimD, Lordship of Marketing. Tim agreed to forego any salary for this position if we would agree to call him Your High Holiness Director of Marketing, or Your High for short.
- CarlP, Brand Manager, reporting to Lordship of Marketing
- Director of Vendor Relations, Bernadette.
- Director of Keys, LizA.
- Director of Insurance and Liability, JayF.

[Secretary to put out an org chart].

[Secretary to get vendor list to Dir VR].

[Secretary to mail out key call email from Liz].

[Brand Manager to make an MRRR sticker suitable for bumpers].

8. LTR

LTR Co-honcho TimD presented the LTR status.

- June session dates are M/W starting June 5 for 4 weeks.
- July session dates are M/W starting July 10 for 4 weeks
- US Rowing Learn To Row day is June 10th. MRRR will participate, TimD and DavidG to coordinate. Volunteers signed up (contact [TimD](#) to add your name).

The meeting was adjourned so the Secretary wouldn't have to count past 8.

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Merrimac River Rowing Association
PO Box 1909
Lowell, Massachusetts 01853 USA

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