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MRRA UPDATE

April 25, 2006

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Thank you all for your support and work to save the boathouse. Due to the combined effort the boathouse is being repaired and I expect that we will soon have the use of most of it. Likewise, the docks have been a challenge; now the (very near) future looks bright!

We are continuing to work to improve the organizational structure of the club in the hope that this will help us to get more accomplished.

I look forward to seeing the MRRA expand our community rowing programs and to see more more new faces, along with the usual suspects, working at club activities, as well as on the water!

See you on the water!
Joe

[Editor's Note: At a meeting this morning at the docks, the following tentative schedule seems to be falling into place. Dock repairs (welding) should happen before May 10, and then Jay is arranging for a crane to insert the docks on May 12. Portions of the boathouse should be available for our use shortly after that.]

FROM THE BOAT CAPTAIN

As the water is getting warmer, (a tropical 56 degrees), I would like to allow the club boats to be used by members with a few stipulations:

1. Experienced rowers only -- it's not easy getting the boat into the water and keeping it from drifting onto the rocks while you get your oars.
2. Use common sense -- It's still very early in the season, go out when the water is relatively calm.
3. Remember -- you MUST use the buddy system!
4. Wear footwear into the water, there may be glass in the mud.
5. Clean any mud from your shoes outside of the boat when you're done.

We should have a dock solution soon so we can all more easily launch from the dock.

Thanks,
Bob

FROM THE SECRETARY

For those that haven't been in the loop lately, be advised that the docks are not yet in place and this is why Captain Bob is talking about beach launching. Also, the main portion of the boathouse is also still inaccessible, so if you plan on rowing, plan on going home for your morning bubble bath because the lockers and bathrooms of the boathouse are off limits while certain repairs are being made. There are Porta-Potties

conveniently located outside of the boathouse, or if you prefer you can pee in your uni-suit. (The Board hasn't yet formed a policy on this issue yet).

It goes without saying that the Boat Captain's clearance to row is only for those members in good standing. Here's how to determine if you are a member in good standing:

1. You were a member in good standing at the end of last year.
2. Your \$200 check for 2006 membership should be in the mail to the PO Box. Rack Fees too -- \$200 for 1X and \$300 for 2X.
3. **The online application system is ready for use**, so if you're in a hurry to row and meet the boat captain's conditions, register now and get your paperwork flowing. NOTE: If you applied on-line last year, then your information from last year is already on file -- follow the directions to retrieve your username and password from last year's application. It's worth the extra effort since you'll avoid a lot of re-typing. [Start here](#). Enter your E-Mail Address and click the link that will send you the info you need to edit your info and apply.

SPEAKING OF SAFETY

The new [2006 MRRA Safety Document](#) is now on the web site. This is REQUIRED reading for all current and new members along with a viewing of the 2006 edition of the USRA Safety Video. (This is an updated video -- having seen the video last year does NOT get you a waiver from this requirement).

Safety Officer Ginny has graciously converted her home into a Drive-In Theater where the Safety DVD will be shown. Stay tuned to the Members homepage for viewing times. Here's the upcoming schedule from Ginny:

- Thursday I will show the DVD on the half hour starting at 6pm and go through 8:30.
- Viewers please call (978) 251-9786 if you are planning to come and designate a time slot to help me figure when to open/close the theatre. I will plan another showing next week. [Email](#) if you are interested and if possible times and days that work for you this is no guarantee I can fulfill the requests.

Stay tuned for other show times coming to a boathouse near you, but in the meantime start reading the [Safety Document](#). The document will always be available in the [Forms and Policies](#) section of the web site.

KEY CALL

This from LizA, the newly appointed Commissioner of Keys:

CALLING ALL KEYS

Your newly appointed Key Master is "calling in" all keys to the boathouse. If you have a Bay door key, a Front door key or an Office (MRRA) key, I need to hear from you ASAP. email: ecalbert@juno.com or Elizabeth_Albert@uml.edu. Cell # 603-305-9117

As you may or may not be aware, all groups still only have access to the Bays, but I wish to enumerate all of our KEYS and identify all our KEY HOLDERS now for future use.

All current Bay Door key holders, please indicate what schedule you REGULARLY row and when you would be willing to be responsible for unlocking the Bay Doors. It may be necessary to rotate some keys to other people this year so we ALL can have access to our boats at times when we are ABLE to row.

ALL RENEWING MEMBERS: If you usually row in the 5:30 AM-7:30 AM weekday (M-T-W-T-F) group, there will probably be little difficulty in boathouse access. Also, the Learn-to-Row classes will be on Monday and Wednesday evenings BOTH from June

5th-28th and July 10th-Aug 2nd. Boathouse will be open then, your help with the classes will be appreciated and you'll have access to the boathouse. I do not know the schedules for UML and LHS, but I will pass that info along when I have it. These will be other times that you will have access.

IF YOU WISH TO ROW AT ANY OTHER TIMES THAN THESE, PLEASE EMAIL ME WITH YOUR REQUESTS SO I CAN SCHEDULE A KEY HOLDER TO UNLOCK THE BAY DOORS WHEN IT IS DESIRED.

CALL FOR BODIES - LHS REGATTA - MAY 21

To: All MRRA Members, Crew Coaches, and friends:

As you may know, Lowell High School is hosting the Massachusetts State Championships at Lowell on Sunday May 21, 2006.

Jen Campbell, Head Coach at Lowell High School, jen@lhsrowing.com, has requested the assistance and support of any of our members available and I urge you to volunteer to help LHS to make this a great event. As you can imagine, this is a large undertaking and it will not be made easier by the fact that the Lowell season for all rowing programs is off to a late start.

We have just made arrangements that will see the docks repaired by May 10 and hopefully in the water by May 12 if all goes as planned.

Please contact jen@lhsrowing.com to let her know that you will be available to assist.

Thank you,
Joe

APRIL MEETING MINUTES ARE UP

Read all about it. [Meeting minutes from the 11-April meeting.](#)

BULLETIN BOARD

All discussions about boathouse status and dock repairs have been diverted to the [MRRA Bulletin Board](#). All members are encouraged to use the BB as a way to keep a dialog going on important matters for all to see. If you have a particular need for a new forum, write to the Secretary to get one. Registration on the BB is required to post and reply to postings, but is not necessary for just reading what's out there. All members are urged to register and add value.

<< [Secretary Carl](#) >>

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