

# The Brittingham Bruit

The Official Periodical of Camp Randall Rowing Club, Inc.

“All the news that’s worth typing.”

2002 - 2003 Season in Review



## **A Note from the Editor**



**Kristopher Dressler**

Thank you for waiting so patiently for the quarterly, sometimes bi-annual, sometimes just annual Camp Randall Rowing Club (CRRC) newsletter. Compared to the old coaching days, I’m not quite so immersed in rowing and it’s a little harder to find the correct words for our newsletter. Lacking the proper inspiration, I went to the Badger State Games in search of the “rowing muses.” The races were just beginning and the competitors were launching their shells, so I took some photos. Through my lens, I saw a bunch of enthusiastic young rowers braving torrential rains and excitedly anticipating a test their mettle. A rowing muse whispered to me through the pouring rain.



Later that afternoon the weather cleared to a beautiful day, so I went for my usual run around Monona Bay. My jog took me right past the forgotten old boathouse that was kept upright only by the trees, upon which it rested. The trees seemed like the only thing keeping it from collapsing into a pile of broken memories.

I slowed my pace to inspect the condition of the building and decided to stop and sit for a moment and to catch my breath. As I rested, the rowing muses reappeared. When I looked at the boathouse, I didn’t see the lean, the sag or the weathered boards. I saw a coach arriving at 4:45 A.M., staring out over the dark water and calculating the best direction to row during the upcoming practice. I heard the first carload of sleepy-eyed rowers pulling into the

parking lot, as they walked along the path delicately lit by the streetlights. I saw the boathouse come to life as the first shells emerged from the bay doors. Next, I saw the first splash of blades accompanied by the early gray light of dawn overtaking the yellow glow from the boathouse windows. My daydream ended when a car door slammed and a fisherman announced his catch.

Sounds like a pipe dream? Thanks to the tireless efforts of President Steve Schaefer, the CRRC Board and the City of Madison Parks Department, we are getting closer and closer to meeting our fundraising goals. The Brittingham Boathouse Project needs nearly a million dollars and we are nearly there. Sound crazy? ... Read on.

## **CRRC Board Tirelessly Raises Funds for Boathouse Renovation**

Nobody ever said that the Brittingham Boathouse Project would be easy. In order to turn our saggy old leaning shed into the landmark boathouse that it was 90 years ago, we need cash - and a lot of it. To date, with quite a bit of help from the CRRC board members, from former Madison Mayor Joel Skornicka, from Jim Morgan, Madison Parks

Superintendent, from the Capitol Neighborhoods Association and many other supporters of the renovation project; CRRC has secured:

- ☛ \$15,000 from the University of Wisconsin Athletic Department in return for the crew teams' use of our boathouse racks and dock during the UW Crew Boathouse construction project.

- ☛ \$15,000 from City of Madison People for Parks Partnership as a matching contribution to our purchase of the dock system.

- ☛ \$20,000 from a Community Enhancement Program Grant to "...enhancement of aesthetics, beauty, and functioning of neighborhoods throughout the City." The Capitol Neighborhoods Association and CRRC jointly applied for this grant.

- ☛ \$100,000 (no, I didn't misplace the comma) from the Hollister Trust for boathouse restoration. The Hollister Fund has been around for over 70 years, under the jurisdiction of the Madison Parks Commission. The Hollister Family donated money to the city for park Improvements. No disbursements have been made from the trust and through the magic of compound interest the fund has a current balance over \$100,000. Jim Morgan, the Superintendent of the Madison Parks Department and the Madison Parks Commission committed this trust to the renovation project, as a challenge grant and contingent on us raising \$100k somewhere else.

- ☛ \$250,000 for Tax Incremental Financing (TIF) funds. This strange animal is usually used by developers to help with sewers, water connections, curb and gutter and other Infrastructure Improvements for commercial projects. Again, Jim Morgan spoke with the TIF folks in city hall and received a commitment for funding to extend the water pipes and sewer lines to the new boathouse and to make the curb cut for the new parking lot which all adds up to about \$50,000. But Mr. Morgan also put about \$200,000, in his proposed 2004 Capital Budget for additional TIF money for the project. CRRC is planning to meet with the Mayor about this proposed use of TIF money. If the political winds blow our way, we might get approval for this TIF money for the new boathouse. Stay tuned!!!!

- ☛ \$350,000 tentative commitment from local donors, contingent upon CRRC securing the remaining moneys for the construction budget. The checks aren't even in the mail on these grants, but we have strong verbal commitments from the donors', so long as the above grants come through.

## CRRC Successes

### *Royal Canadian Henley Regatta*



As part of our obligation to national and international competition, several CRRC crews competed at the 2003 Royal Canadian Henley Regatta (RCHR). Although there were no women representing CRRC at the RCHR, many of the men that did crossed back over the 49<sup>th</sup> parallel with gold medals around their necks.

The highlight of the regatta was the Senior Men's Eight victory over Boston's Riverside Boat Club. The Camp Randall eight was stroked by Micah Boyd, followed by Tom Velarde, Anders Boyd, Matt Hughes, Alex Cockerill, Mike Tupek, John Dyerby and Peter Turney and coxed by MRC Junior alum Dana Nadler. Camp Randall took an early lead and controlled the race through its entirety, beating 2<sup>nd</sup> place Riverside and the rest of the tightly packed field by over 5 seconds. The same group of athletes shuffled around to win this under-24 Senior "B" eight in a final only race. They won

these one by 5 seconds as well, this time over the Ridley School Graduate Boat Club, a respectable group of alumni from a very respectable rowing intensive Canadian Prep School.

Other notable finishes were a Silver medal in the men's eight dash (500m) and Bronze in the Championship Men's Eight. The Champ Eight is open to any athletes, including those who have recently competed at the international level including World Championships and Olympics. It is a much more competitive field than the Senior and Senior "B" events and a Bronze medal is a very respectable finish indeed.

### *Head of the Charles Regatta*

Competing in Boston's Head of the Charles Regatta (HOCR), CRRC was represented by Tim Storm and Greg Myhr in the Championship Single category. Storm finished the race 13<sup>th</sup> in 19:03.461 followed by 15<sup>th</sup> place Myhr in 19:17.482. Storm earned a guaranteed berth in next year's HOCR by coming in within 5% of the winning time. When asked about the race, Storm replied, "Dude, that was six months ago." With further questioning, Storm called it his "worst head race ever" and said conditions were "really rough, really heavy." Myhr and the 15<sup>th</sup> place Champ Four just missed a guaranteed entry and will have to play the lotto for berths this year.

Nine women with their roots in Wisconsin represented CRRC in the Club Eight event at "the Head." The sixth place boat included Erin Buchanan, Jenny Pofahl, Alyssa Elver, Tara Gedman, Kiley Fredrickson, Rachel "Rogo" Rogozinsky, Erin Brye, and Carie Davis. The stern pair was made up of former Mendota Rowing Club, Junior, (MRC Junior) rowers.

## MSCR Learn-to-Row Sessions A Pouring Success



CRRC Coach MB Blanding organized two learn-to-row camps this summer in conjunction with Madison School Community Recreation Program (MSCR). The first class ran for two weeks in June and ended with the new rowers boating with experienced MRC Junior rowers and competing at the Badger State Games on Lake Wingra. The CRRC/MSCR boys' boat placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the novice eight and the girls boat placed third in the same event. With all of participants bringing home medals from their first regatta, they just may be hooked. A total of 13 rowers participated in the first session.

The second session ran for two weeks in July and finished up with a scrimmage regatta on Lake Monona. (The scrimmage regatta and this newsletters press time were too close to publish results.) The highlight of the two-week training camp for the second group was a long row straight across Lake Monona and back. Always looking out for the health and well being of her athletes, Coach Blanding took them to Monona Bait and Tackle for a calorie re-charge (ice-cream) for the return trip.



The first session CRRC/MSCR rowers demonstrate the selfless dedication of rowing while the second session "athletes" ham it up in the sun.

### Congratulations!

CRRC would like to congratulate dedicated members and single scullers Tim Storm and Greg Myhr. Tim married UW rower Eileen Ruzicka while Greg married Wisconsin alum and fellow coach Kitty Shonk. Perhaps it's time to focus on the mixed double events?

### Note regarding future issues of the Brittingham Bruit

To make this publication a little timelier, if there are any notable events that should make the Brittingham Bruit, please email the details to [newsletter@camprandallrc.org](mailto:newsletter@camprandallrc.org). Thanks.

Kris Dressler, Editor