

Team Saquish Rowing Education Society, Inc

Newsletter 1-2

24 March 2009

Board of directors: President Mike Jenness, VP Tim Snow, Treasurer Cathy Jenness, Secretary Tony Ruocco, Members Dennis Reddy, Lauren Chartier and Hilary Moll.

This is the second of a semi-regular plan to maintain a newsletter for the organization. There will hopefully be a regular schedule as time goes by. If you have any topics you would like added, feel free to contact the board of directors.

The dues were set and it has been stressed that waivers need to be signed each year. Paying dues and having the waiver are required for all members. New members please coordinate with Cathy Jenness to determine how dues are prorated.

We are continuing the pursuit of new canvasses for the boats. We purchased one for the Jenness Sr. When using the new canvass there are several things to be aware of. First, the canvass is not designed for use during transport. It has to be removed prior to towing the boats. The new canvass needs to be folded and then lifted off the gig. Our current practice of tugging until off is no longer and excepted method!!!. The same applies when recovering the gig: lift and unroll rather than simply tossing and dragging the covers around. We will need to do some major work on boats this spring. Details will be coming out as the weather warms up. The team will need all hands to assist in boat maintenance. If maintenance of a boat falls to a few, then the boat remains off the water all the longer.

The lot by the boat ramp reverts to a pay lot (\$5.00/day) beginning 1 April. There will be permits for two gig trailers and the Tucker. If we need a third gig, the person towing will have to pay the park fee (keep a receipt for possible reimbursement). To be better prepared for any given row, we ask people to meet at Cordage Park about 15 minutes BEFORE the announced launch time. This gives us the opportunity to judge how many boats we will need. It would then be possible to ride-share to the launch ramp. And, as long as you are at Cordage, you should consider helping to get the boats prepped for rowing, and then set up for storage after the rowing that day.

Upcoming Events

There is a possibility of expanding the Plymouth Row to a larger-scale event. Peter Smith is heading up the preliminary investigation to see if it would be feasible. Please support his efforts in information gathering so that the best possible decision can be made.

Hilary Moll and Lauren Chartier are developing plans for a "Learn to Row" day as a way to increase membership. Your assistance is also requested to help make that event a success as well.

There is a desire to participate in the Blackburn Challenge. This will require a significant commitment for training as the course is 23 miles. Several have expressed a desire to

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participate. Formalities of selection will be developed as there is also a desire to establish a new course record. So far there are 18 people signed up for the Blackburn!

There is a desire to participate in the Great River Race in early September in London England. There have been 8 people expressing interest so far.

Safety

The discussion on criteria for safety/liability indicated a need for general safety guidelines. The board will begin developing general safety guidelines, though there will be provisions based on rower experience, coxswain experience, as well as weather conditions. There is an idea to formally recognize and identify coxs'. The intent is for coxswains to have a firmer understanding of their roll in boat safety beyond simply steering the boat. There is also intent to develop a roster of qualified coxswains, and that only qualified coxswains will cox boats. Under the roster of coxswains will be a subset of those who desire to cox in a social venue and those who desire to cox in competitive venues. Once established, it is envisioned that coxswains will have a significant role in determining whether rowing takes place or not on any given day.

Discussion on boat usage in general raised questions concerning issues of leasing and insurance liabilities. The discussion was tabled until we could attain a legal decision on the actual issues. However, as an interim basis, it was decided that everyone in a boat should have signed a liability waiver. This interim also extends to events where boats may be used as part of larger community events (for example as part of a harbor heritage event sponsored Plymouth)

What else...

Lauren continues to head up the logo for the club. The decision for the logo will be made 1 May. Take the opportunity to be creative; there is no requirement to refurbish an old design!

If anyone has experience with requesting grants please contact the board – we are looking for grants to help support the organization in any way we can. Here are some possible sites:

foundationcenter.org/pnd/rfp/index.com

www.channing-bete.com/funding/

www.grants.gov/

The next Board meeting will be in April. Board meetings are open – organization members can express ideas, concerns, suggestions, but only board members can vote on decisions.

On behalf of the Board of Directors

Anthony S. Ruocco, Secretary